

# The Peoples of the World Foundation

## *Education for and about Indigenous Peoples*

### Annual Report 2017



*Mali, West Africa. Indigenous Bozo women look across the river that supports their community. In 2017 it was reported that dozens of indigenous people around the world had been murdered the previous year while trying to defend their natural resources.*

#### **Indigenous Peoples: 2017 in Review**

Toward the end of 2017 Joko Widodo, the president of Indonesia, granted land rights to some of his country's indigenous people – but in doing so fell short of his previous promises to them. Around the same time, and in its second year, *Indigenous Comic Con* celebrated the contribution of indigenous North Americans to popular culture.

Indigenous North Americans in Canada, whose rights are protected constitutionally, were the victims of rights violations at a

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time when Prime Minister Trudeau's popularity there is soaring.

Indigenous Austronesian peoples were welcomed in Taiwan at the International Austronesian Conference where that country's first indigenous museum will soon be established. Meanwhile in Colombia construction began on that country's largest indigenous library, helping to preserve the country's rich indigenous peoples' legacy.

The Whanganui in New Zealand and the Ganges and Yamuna in India are rivers that have been important to indigenous people

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for centuries. In 2017 they became the first rivers to ever be given their own legal status making further pollution unlawful. Yet we also learned last year that in the previous year a record number of activists, including environmental activists, were murdered – over 40% of them were indigenous people.

In Asia, the Rohingya people of Burma continued to be, perhaps, the most persecuted of all indigenous people in 2017.

## Highlights

In 2017 our field assignments took us to Central and South Asia and East and West Africa. We re-designed our Web portal. We added new content to our Web portal. We supported indigenous education projects in The Gambia, West Africa.

## Assignments

In 2017 we undertook assignments in Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia and Mali.



*Dogon Masked Dancers, Mali, 2017.*



*A Kazakh Eagle Hunter, Mongolia, 2017.*



*An Afar Salt Camel Caravan, Ethiopia, 2017.*



*Museum of Veddas, Sri Lanka, 2017.*

## Web Portal

In 2017 we continued our “tic-tac-toe” strategy for our Web portal. “Tic” involves keeping our portal up to date with information technology trends. “Tac” refers to the content on our portal. “Toe” is design — the user interface to, and user experience of, our Web portal.

*Tic.* We performed a minor technology update to our Web portal. This involved a migration of content to a responsive presentation framework.

*Tac.* We continued to publish monthly opinion editorials about current, global events that affect indigenous people, with an accompanying photograph from our archives. Opinion editorials are published on the first day of each month and are linked from our Web portal home page at:

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<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/>

We also published our ninth, annual Indigenous Peoples Calendar. The calendar is available for free download from our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/calendar.jsp>

Each month the author updates their opinion editorial from twelve months prior, to include relevant news from the intervening time. It then becomes the article for that month’s calendar page. Beginning the following year it is permanently archived on our Web portal.

We published new travel stories: *Skirting Panama’s Ngäbe-Bugle Comarca, The Three Chocolatiers* and *Kazakh Tours*. They are available on our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/individuals/ngabebugle>

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/individuals/chocolatiers>

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/individuals/kazakhtours>



*A Marching Band in the Ngäbe-Bugle Comarca, Panama, 2016.*

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*A Bribri Chocolatier, Costa Rica, 2016.*



*Altai Mountains, Home of the Mongolian Kazakh People, Mongolia, 2017.*

*Toe.* 2017 was a “toe” year. We successfully completed a major re-design of our Web portal’s user interface. This re-design dramatically improved the layout and navigation as well as making the content more responsive, dynamic and interactive across legacy (traditional) and mobile devices.

## Social Networking

Throughout 2017 we continued to regularly update our Facebook page with announcements and news stories about, or affecting, indigenous people at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Peoples-of-the-World-Foundation/243657765700765>

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## Resources

Our Web portal continued to help fulfill the second part of our mission — “education about indigenous peoples.” It was visited about as frequently in 2017 as in 2016.

The resources on our Web portal continued to be used extensively by Non-Governmental Organizations, non-profit and media organizations, journalists, students and educators around the world.

## Programs

In 2017 we awarded the first installment (\$500) of a \$1,000 grant under our *Institutional Education Grants* program to *Help for Education and Local Projects IN The Gambia* in the United Kingdom. This grant will help to fund that organization’s educational projects that benefit indigenous people in The Gambia, West Africa.

## Finances<sup>1</sup>

Donations in 2017 were up compared to 2016, rising by 220%.

Table 1 below shows a summary of our 2017 balance sheet (amounts are in US\$).

Income	1,100
Expenses	(898)
Balance	202

Table 1. 2017 balance sheet.

We acknowledge the contributions of our donors, our directors – who personally

<sup>1</sup> Financial data appearing in this report have not been audited by a Certified Public Accountant.

funded our operating costs – our advisors, interns and others who contributed their expertise, time, energy and resources in 2017.

## **Plans for 2018**

2018 will be a “Tac” year. We will publish extensive new content from our 2017 assignments. This content will include a new feature-length documentary.

We will continue our field assignment work in West Africa and Central America.