

# The Peoples of the World Foundation

## *Education for and about Indigenous Peoples*

### Annual Report 2018



*The Gambia, West Africa. The isolated village of Jufureh has a female, indigenous Mandinka chief, Tako Taal. In 2018 some countries began to catch up with this form of democracy as indigenous women entered politics for the first time.*

#### **Indigenous Peoples: 2018 in Review**

The political climate in Brazil has been somewhat a farce in recent years. But last October, Joenia Wapichana became that country's first indigenous woman (and only the second indigenous person ever) to be elected to its Congress. She will represent a million indigenous Brazilians in the struggle for their rights. But the broadening of democracy in democratic nations did not stop there. A month later, midterm elections were held in the United States. Deb Haaland and Sharice Davids, also indigenous women, were elected to that country's Congress.

*The Peoples of the World Foundation*

On the other side of the world in Burma (Myanmar), a woman who has been in politics for some time, Aung San Suu Kyi, demonstrated her contempt for indigenous people, democracy and journalism. In stating that the imprisonment of journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo had nothing to do with freedom of expression, she sent a clear message that reporting of the Rohingya crisis in her country will be silenced.

Whereas in Africa the Gerewol Festival includes a beauty pageant for indigenous men, in Panama Rosa Montezuma became the first ever indigenous *Señorita Panamá*.

*Annual Report 2018*

Elsewhere, combatting the plight suffered by indigenous females did not make as much progress. Canada's National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls found that the country still has a long way to go in recognizing and dealing with abuse, violence and trafficking of its indigenous female population. Separately, a class-action lawsuit was filed in Canada alleging that indigenous populations were used over many years, without their knowledge, for medical experimentation.

In Indonesian Borneo, we learned that figurative art by modern humans was practiced at least between 40 and 50 thousand years ago. Meanwhile in Mexico, Maya remains were discovered and dated to seven thousand years ago. Brazil's National Museum had housed collections from similar discoveries for 200 years. Many of them were lost to a fire in September.

## Highlights

In 2018 our field assignments took us back to West Africa. We added a significant amount of new content to our Web portal. We supported indigenous education projects in The Gambia, West Africa under our *Institutional Education Grants* program. We were active on social networking sites. We released our third feature-length documentary.

## Assignments

In 2018 we undertook field assignments in The Gambia and Senegal, West Africa, where we worked primarily with the Mandinka and Jola peoples.



*A Young Mandinka Girl, The Gambia, 2018.*



*Jola Women, Senegal, 2018.*

## Web Portal

In 2018 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 integrated our Web portal with our image stock and personal use licensing partner, Alamy.

*Tac*. 2018 was a “tac” year. 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:

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

We also published our tenth (and final), annual Indigenous Peoples Calendar. The articles and photographs from all ten years are now archived on our Web portal at:

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

We also published a new travel story by Teodora C. Hasegan: *In their Own Words: Lessons from 'Wariga Mahagedara', the Indigenous Heritage Museum of the Veddas in Sri Lanka*. It is available on our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/individuals/veddas%20museum>

We also published a new article under our *Publish your Work* program. *The Tattooed Ladies of Myanmar (Burma)* is about a disappearing custom of the Chin people. It was written by and features the photography of Larry Miyamura. It is available on our Web portal at:

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

We also published new photo-ethnographic articles about the Afar and Dogon peoples. They are available on our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/text?people=Afar>

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/text?people=Dogon>

We also released the final feature-length documentary in our “Peoples of the World” trilogy. *Peoples of the World: The Altai*

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*Kazakh*, a film by our president, Ray Waddington, is available on our Web portal at:

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



*A Vedda Man, Sri Lanka, 2017.*





*A Tattooed Chin Lady, Burma (Myanmar), 2014. Copyright © Larry Miyamura.*



*A Dogon Masked Dancer, Mali, 2017.*



*Peoples of the World: The Altai Kazakh. Released in 2018.*



*A Young Afar Girl, Ethiopia, 2017.*

*Toe.* We re-designed the photo-ethnographic articles section of our Web portal’s user interface. This re-design streamlines the process of sequencing through the photographs and their captions individually and links them directly to our stock licensing portal, which is now hosted on Alamy.

## **Social Networking**

Throughout 2018 we continued to regularly update our Facebook page with announcements and news stories about and affecting indigenous people at:

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

## Resources

Our Web portal continued to help fulfill the second part of our mission — “education about indigenous peoples.” It was visited 2% more in 2018 than in 2017.

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 2018 we awarded the second installment (\$500) of a \$1,000 grant under our *Institutional Education Grants* program to *Help for Education and Local Projects in The Gambia*, a registered charity based in the United Kingdom. This grant helped to fund that organization’s educational projects for the benefit of indigenous people in The Gambia, West Africa.

## Finances<sup>1</sup>

Donations increased in 2018 compared to 2017, rising by 23%.

Table 1 below shows a summary of our 2018 balance sheet (amounts are in US\$).

Income	1,353
Expenses	(931)
Balance	422

Table 1. 2018 balance sheet.

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

We acknowledge the contributions of our donors, our directors – who personally funded our operating costs – our advisors and others who contributed their expertise, time, energy and resources in 2018.

## Plans for 2019

2019 will be a “Toe” year. We will re-design major sections of our Web portal. We will also publish new content from our recent and upcoming assignments.

We will begin new field assignment work in India and continue our work in Central America.