

The Peoples of the World Foundation

Indigenous Education, Knowledge and Science

Annual Report 2020



An Akha woman wearing a face mask sorts coffee beans at a plantation in northern Thailand in February, 2020. Covid-19 has affected the world's indigenous people disproportionately.

Highlights

In 2020 we had to postpone our planned field assignments due to the global coronavirus pandemic. However, we were able to continue our work in Thailand and Laos instead. In 2020 we also revised our mission and added new content to our Web portal. We awarded an institutional education grant to

support indigenous education in Thailand. We were active on social media.

Mission Change

In 2020 we made a small but significant change to our Mission Statement. Our mission continues to focus on education for

and about indigenous people. However, we re-stated this mission to incorporate the spread of indigenous education, knowledge and science. This change was made in acknowledgement of the role that traditional, indigenous knowledge and science can and should play in informing policy to tackle the enormous challenges that face the world today.

Assignments

In early 2020 we had planned to begin our field assignment work in Taiwan. It was during a stopover in Southeast Asia – *en route* to Taiwan – that the world began to lock down due to the spread of coronavirus. We were forced to change those plans and, instead, made the most of the situation by continuing our work in Thailand and Laos.



An Akha Farmer, Thailand, 2020.



A Lanten Woman Spinning Yarn, Laos, 2020.

Web Portal

In 2020 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 portal.

Tic. 2020 was a “tic” year. We upgraded our Web portal’s responsive design framework technology. We also made minor systems updates to our hosting platform.

Tac. We continued to publish monthly opinion editorials about current, global events that affect indigenous people, with an accompanying photograph from our

extensive 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/>

Our opinion editorials are archived on the first of January each following year at:

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

We also published two new photo-ethnographic articles about the Mandinka and Tz'utujil peoples. They are available on our Web portal at:

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

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/text?people=Tz%27utujil>

We also created a new YouTube channel for our short documentary films about indigenous people, knowledge and science. They are available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCud7xda-NeHbFRJo2Tfs8ig>

We also published a new travel narrative story, *Loss of Indigenous Knowledge in the Omo Valley, Ethiopia*. It is available on our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/travelStory.jsp?travelStory=om%20valley>



A Mandinka Musician, The Gambia, 2018.



A Tz'utujil Girl, Guatemala, 2013.



A Hamar Woman, Ethiopia, 2017.

Toe. We re-designed the user interface of the listing of photo-ethnographic articles by languages spoken and by geographic region in those sections of our Web portal.

Social Media

Throughout 2020 we continued to update our Facebook page with announcements and links to news stories about and affecting indigenous people at:

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

Resources

The resources on our Web portal continued to be used extensively by non-governmental organizations, non-profit and media organizations, interns, government agencies,

¹ Financial data appearing in this report have not been audited by a Certified Public Accountant.
Annual Report 2020

publishing companies, journalists, students and educators around the world.

Programs

In 2020 we awarded the first installment (\$500) of a \$1,000 grant under our *Institutional Education Grants* program to *The Karen Hilltribes Trust* in Thailand. This grant will help to fund that organization's educational programs that benefit indigenous Karen people in northwest Thailand.

Finances¹

Donations decreased in 2020 compared to 2019.

Table 1 below shows a summary of our 2020 balance sheet (amounts are in US\$).

Income	124
Expenses	(1096)
Balance	(972)

Table 1. 2020 balance sheet.

We acknowledge the contributions of our donors, directors, advisors and others who contributed their expertise, time, energy and resources in 2020.

Plans for 2021

Plans for 2021 are not yet finalized because of the continuing coronavirus pandemic. Besides publishing new content, we hope to resume our field assignment work, but that will depend largely on the progress of the global distribution of Covid-19 vaccines.