



# INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL

## Administration Office

456 N. Alaska Street  
Palmer, AK 99645  
Phone (907) 745-4482  
Fax (907) 745-4484  
Email: iitcak@ak.net

## Information Office

2390 Mission St. Suite 301  
San Francisco CA 94110  
Phone (415) 641-4482  
Fax (415) 641-1298  
Email: iitc@igc.apc.org



## INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL

*"Working for the Rights and Recognition of Indigenous Peoples Internationally"*

### ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2001

#### A. INTRODUCTION

In 2001, Indigenous Peoples around the world continued to suffer flagrant human rights and environmental justice violations as a result of imposed non-sustainable development by states and corporations in which they had no voice or input. Impacted and threatened Indigenous communities, too often voiceless and disenfranchised in policy debates at the national levels, had an opportunity for their voices to be effectively and powerfully heard in the international arena through the work of IITC.

In 2001, and for more than 27 years, the IITC has been a unique link and a voice by and for grass roots Peoples, tribal, organizations and communities in the international arena. In 2001, the IITC continued to work in close coordination with Indigenous communities, tribes and organizations, assisting them and strengthening their capacity to assert their rights, present critical concerns in national and international fora, and participate in the development of policies and practices that take their perspectives into consideration.

IITC's program work in 2001 focused on key issue areas impacting Indigenous Peoples: Treaties and Land Rights; Environmental Justice, Biological Diversity, Biological Ethics and Sustainable Development; Youth and Children's Rights; Cultural rights and Freedom of Religion; Prisoners' rights; Health of Indigenous Peoples and Racial Discrimination.

IITC's work on these issues continued to be based upon the principle of the sacredness of life and the indivisible relationship between human rights and the protection of the Natural World. IITC worked for full recognition by states and international bodies of the need to protect lands, waters, habitats and sacred sites and to insure the safeguarding of Indigenous Peoples' cultures, health, traditional subsistence practices, racial equality and self-determination.

IITC's ongoing record of credibility and long-standing ties within the UN as well as with communities, Indigenous Nations and organizations are an essential component of its ongoing record of concrete accomplishments.

**B. The following programmatic objectives were designated for IITC in 2001, with key accomplishments summarized as follows:**

**1) Urgent Response and Crisis Intervention:** IITC continued to actively redress human rights violations resulting from impacts of environmental destruction, imposed development, and repressive responses to peaceful resistance on behalf of and upon request by Indigenous communities utilizing UN complaint procedures and other international and regional mechanisms from Columbia to Arizona.

IITC provided ongoing support and assistance to grass roots communities facing crisis situations upon their request as on-site observers, and through information, consultation and technical assistance, submission of complaints, "urgent actions" and interventions to government officials and to UN bodies, fora, agencies and Rapporteurs.

At the request of impacted communities, IITC submitted interventions and formal complaints addressing a wide range of critical cases pertaining to environmental justice to international bodies at the request of impacted communities, including the UN Commission on Human Rights and its Special Rapporteurs.

Impacted communities make direct requests to IITC to address critical situations in international human rights bodies, and submit their testimony and documentation for inclusion in IITC's interventions, formal human rights complaints, communications, and position statements presented at international gatherings and UN fora. IITC also provides consultation, legal and technical assistance, and mentoring upon request to impacted Indigenous communities.

a. 25 Indigenous communities and organizations had direct input into IITC's 14 oral and written interventions to the 2001 **United Nations Commission on Human Rights** and the written interventions (submitted in December 2001) for the 2002 session, which will meet in March and April of 2002. Eight Indigenous representatives from five countries were credentialed by IITC to attend the session and present their concerns directly during the session pertaining to right to development, racial discrimination, self determination, health impacts of toxic contamination, rights of women and children, and cultural rights.

b. Specific serious human rights violations and threats which the IITC has addressed in the past 24 months include: proposed thermal energy development threatening Medicine Lake Mt. Shasta and tourism development of sacred rocks near Lake Tahoe, California; clear cutting impacting Dine and Cree communities in Canada; denial of water rights and subsistence farming for Yaqui Indian communities as a result of damming, governmental finance policies, and high-pesticide agribusiness development in Sonora Mexico including cross border imports from the US; Kickapoo Indians in Oklahoma opposing destruction of sacred sites and burial grounds by proposed construction of a Mexico to Canada superhighway mandated under provisions of NAFTA; forced relocation and killings of U'wa Indians, including children, in Colombia as a response to legal protests against expanding petroleum exploration in their territories; serious health impacts on subsistence fishing, hunting and farming communities, especially women and children, caused by toxic contaminants and industrial emissions (including POPs), in particular on fishing communities in the Great Lakes area; killings of U'wa Indians, including children, in Colombia as a response to legal protests against expansion by a US based petroleum company in their territories; biopiracy of traditional plant medicines in Alaska; impacts of climate change on traditional farming and gathering communities; nuclear dumping threats to sacred lands of the Western Shoshone in Nevada; and the imminent cultural and environmental destruction, including forced relocations, by mining and petroleum

companies impacting US Indian communities including the Dineh in Arizona, Gros Ventre in Montana, Mole Lake Chippewa in Wisconsin and the Gwich' in Alaska.

c. In 2001 **IITC was instrumental in the development of two new international mechanisms** which will provide historic opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to redress human rights violations and impacts of imposed development in the international arena. In December 2000 the UN General Assembly approved by consensus the Establishment of a **Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues within the UN system** in 2002, with a broad mandate and the direct, full and real participation of Indigenous Peoples, resulting from years of concerted efforts by IITC and other Indigenous NGO's. The Permanent Forum will enable Indigenous Peoples to more effectively and directly monitor critical situations and threats to the human rights, lands, ecosystems, cultures, health and survival of our communities around the world, and to make recommendations to UN bodies and member states for effective and timely solutions.

d. On April 24, 2001, the 57th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights passed by consensus a resolution to appoint a **Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Indigenous Issues**. This represents another historic achievement for IITC and for the world's Indigenous Peoples in the international arena. This resolution (E/CN.4/2001/L.63) "Human rights and Indigenous Issues" took into account the absence of a mechanism of the Commission on Human Rights with a specific mandate to protect and monitor the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous Peoples in areas such as right to development, health, land rights and impacts of environmental contamination, in particular the impacts on health of Indigenous Children.

## **2) International Policy Development and Standard Setting:**

In 2001, IITC continued its efforts to build the direct and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in development and implementation of international standards, policies and structures. In recent years concrete gains have recently been made which provide new opportunities for participation and the development of policies reflecting Indigenous Peoples' perspectives and traditional understandings.

The IITC affirms that the rights of Indigenous Peoples are inherent and inalienable. These rights are held in trust by Indigenous Peoples for their future generations. IITC's standard setting work seeks full recognition for these inherent rights by the international community and the UN member states.

IITC has a long history of bridging gaps and making links between inter-related areas of concern, in particular Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection, which are too often addressed as separate and distinct concerns in both international and domestic policy-making arenas. In 2001, at every international body in which IITC participated, we continued to call for universal and non-discriminatory implementation and broader applicability of existing international norms and standards in recognition of Indigenous rights and perspectives as well as the fundamental link between human rights and the environment.

IITC has succeeded in introducing new international terminology, redefining and expanding previous human rights concepts to include "environmental racism", and "bio-piracy", which reflect human rights and environmental principles as inextricably linked concerns. The current international dialogues addressing "sustainable development" as

encompassing a wide range of cultural, spiritual and environmental relationships, rather than being limited solely to “economic” concerns, directly reflects this input as well.

The IITC also challenges UN Human Rights bodies to formally recognize the glaring inconsistencies in the current application of existing standards. Forced removal, for example, is defined as a crime in Protocol II of the Geneva Conventions and prohibited in time of war and civil conflict, but is carried out with impunity by states and corporations in the process of mining, drilling and deforestation activities.

a. IITC was the first Indigenous NGO selected to serve as a member of the **international steering committee** for the NGO Conference which immediately preceded the **World Conference Against Racism** in Durban, South Africa, enabling IITC to represent the concerns of international NGO's as well as Indigenous Peoples in key decisions regarding this process. As a member of the steering committee, IITC was able to fight for and achieve the seating of two additional Indigenous representatives from Nicaragua and Nepal on the Steering Committee.

IITC credentialed a total of 11 Indigenous delegates from four countries to the Durban Conference in August 2001, including four indigenous youth delegates. Equality and non discriminatory application of international rights, Environmental Racism, denial of cultural rights and religious freedom, ongoing impacts of colonization, resource extraction, treaty violations and land appropriation as well as the rights and perspectives of Indigenous youth, were key focuses of IITC's participation in the 2001 World Conference Against Racism and its ongoing preparatory events. IITC delegates made keynote presentations at both the NGO and the UN conference in Durban highlighting issues such as religious and cultural discrimination and the impact of militarism on Indigenous communities. The renewed focus on the issue of racism generated nationally and internationally by this process provided new opportunities to raise key issues both nationally and internationally.

Disseminating information and providing training about the international standards insuring equal rights and condemning racial discrimination, including the Convention for the Elimination of Racism Discrimination (CERD), the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, as well as their relevancy to local racial justice organizing and issues including environmental justice, was also a key component of IITC's efforts to build national and international solidarity and alliances.

IITC was disappointed that the WCAR did little to contribute to unified anti-racism strategies within the states and on the international level. The frustrations of Indigenous delegates who confront racism regularly in their day to day lives at home was if anything intensified at the WCAR, as many states (including the US) took a position against the full recognition of equal international rights for Indigenous Peoples in the text of the Declaration. However, the importance and effectiveness of the historic opportunities presented through the WCAR process to turn the international and national spotlight on critical issues including Environmental Racism and youth, cannot be minimized.

b. A key priority for the IITC and Indigenous Peoples around the world continued to be the adoption of the current text, as adopted by the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the UN Subcommission for the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and endorsed by Indigenous Peoples and organizations around the world, of the **UN Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**. IITC

delegates from the U.S., Panama, Ecuador and Guatemala participated in U.N. Commission on Human Rights Sixth Inter-Sessional Open-Ended Working Group on the Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples October , and the preparatory sessions of the Indigenous caucus, November 20 – December 1, 2000 Geneva, Switzerland. Over 150 Indigenous representatives from around the world met with states, successfully maintained the current text and built increased support among states for its eventual adoption by the UN General Assembly. IITC representatives were selected to serve as co-president of the caucus and chair of the report committee. Land and resources, culture and language rights, and Self-determination were focus issues of discussion this year. IITC continued to disseminate the results to build awareness and activism among Indigenous Peoples and tribal governments as well as non Indigenous NGOs, in preparation for the 7th session of the Working Group in January 2002.

IITC also supported and encouraged Indigenous People to begin using existing text and specific articles of the Draft Declaration to assert their rights, support their negotiations and advance the adoption of new policies on the local and national levels.

**3) Training, Networking and Capacity-Building:** As an integral aspect of self-determination, IITC builds the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, tribes, organizations and communities in addressing situations and developing policies that affect their rights and survival. Education, consultation and training provided by IITC at conferences and gatherings assist communities, organization and tribes to understand the impact of international policies on local struggles as well as opportunities for their direct involvement.

IITC is firmly committed to the guiding principle that “Indigenous Peoples speak for themselves before the world arena”. IITC builds the direct and informed participation of Native tribes and communities to insure that the potential of the current historic international advances can be fully realized to effectively defend rights and create policies which reflect the needs of Indigenous Peoples.

IITC's affiliates include over 100 organizations, tribes and communities. Affiliated Indigenous communities have direct input into the planning, implementation and evaluation of IITC's programs, priorities, policies and positions by participating in IITC's conferences and serving on the IITC Board of Directors, which consists of affiliated Indigenous community representatives from the Americas and the Pacific Islands. The Board meets in person once or twice a year, and more often via teleconference.

IITC's affiliates also have direct input into the planning, implementation and evaluation of organizational programs and at annual International Treaty Conferences, where resolutions and position statements are adopted by consensus and provide direction for IITC's positions and interventions at UN for a throughout the year.

a. The resolutions made by more than 900 Indigenous representatives at the July 2000 Treaty Conference in Xela (Quetzaltenango) Guatemala continued to form the basis for IITC's positions and programs in 2001. At the same time planning was underway for the next IITC Conference in Aotearoa (New Zealand), to be hosted by Maori tribal communities for the first time, in February 2002.

b. Indigenous community representatives were encouraged and empowered to be directly involved and active in IITC's international work as representatives for their

communities. In 2001, more than 30 grass roots representatives, including Indigenous youth mentees, actively participated in IITC's delegations to international gatherings, speaking on behalf of their communities' concerns.

c. In 2001, IITC mentees continued to work side by side with highly experienced IITC Indigenous "mentors" at UN fora such as the UN Commission on Human Rights, the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Bio-Diversity. In 1999, the first group of IITC mentees from Alaska, Guatemala, Panama, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Hawaii, New York, California and Minnesota began to participate "solo" in UN fora to effectively address concerns such as Human Rights, Intellectual Property issues Environmental justice, Children and Youth rights, Persistent Organic Pollutants, climate change, health, sustainable Development, Cultural Rights, Racial Discrimination, Bio-Ethics and Bio-Diversity. IITC provided technical support, consultation and UN credentials to insure the continued effective participation of these dynamic former-mentees.

The next phase of the program will focus on Indigenous youth between the ages of 17 and 30. New mentees have been accepted from Panama and Guatemala, and candidates are being considered from North America and the Pacific.

d. **IITC's Bay Area "Native Youth For Human Rights" Mentorship Program**, implemented in 1997, has provided educational, activism and community-based organizing opportunities to over 50 high school and college-age Indian youth in the Bay Area and Northern California, including 8 in 2001. Youth mentees address human rights and environmental justice in the context of local community concerns. Training and organizing experiences for IITC Youth Mentees in 2001 focused on the exciting and groundbreaking work, in coordination with Project Underground in Berkeley, to become the lead organization for dissemination of the "**Gold, Greed and Genocide**" video and accompanying classroom curriculum for Jr. and Sr. high schools and colleges in California. It addresses the historical and ongoing impacts of the California Gold Rush on California Indian Peoples, and was developed in direct in response to the 1998 - 2000 State Gold Rush "celebration" and lack of racially and historically unbiased educational materials in both public and private schools.

In 2001, Bay Area youth mentees also exchanged information with the international indigenous youth representatives participating in the youth caucuses at the preparatory and conference events relating to the World Conference Against Racism (IITC youth delegates to the Americas prepcom in Chile and the world conference in Durban were key participants in developing general and the indigenous youth declarations.

In 2001, Youth mentees also were directly involved in key local organizing efforts in the Bay Area. These included the Tamal and Sequoia High School Indian mascot issues, the Berkeley coalition to protect local shell mounds (cultural sites) and local organizing to stop industrial dioxin emissions in poor urban communities.

e. In August 2001, IITC launched a new human rights, sustainable development and environmental justice **capacity building project** to provide outreach, training, technical assistance and education focusing on 4 key objectives 1) informing Indigenous communities about their recognized rights under international law; 2) empowering them to effectively utilize the mechanisms currently in place to defend the natural world and redress their rights; 3) enabling communities to understand the direct links between

international decision-making and policies and local concerns for community health and environmental protection, and; 4) encouraging Indigenous grass roots Peoples to become informed, direct and effective participants in ongoing standard setting and policy debates at the international level, both as representatives of adversely impacted and threatened communities and as traditional experts with key contributions to offer international discussions addressing environmental protection and global sustainability.

A first of its kind training and capacity building handbook on these concerns, linking local issues to international mechanisms, with “how to” instructions for documenting and presenting cases on specific violations and threats, was begun in late 2001 by IITC General Council Alberto Saldamando. It will be available in both Spanish and English, and will be completed by mid-2002, and will be available both in print and electronically

f. IITC continued to **build and participate in strategic alliances** with Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations, networks, tribal governments and coalitions to build support, share information, advance dialogue, strategize and organize to address common concerns. Examples include: Eyak Preservation Council, Rethinking Tourism Project; Rainforest Action Network, Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Military Toxics Network, Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Indigenous Environmental Network, Project Underground, North American Indigenous Peoples Bio-Diversity Project, American Indian Law Alliance, Alaska Intertribal Council, Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Network, Gwich' in Steering Committee, International Subcommittee of the EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, Calvert Investment Group Advisory Council, Alliance of Indigenous Peoples of the Tropical Rainforests, World Council of Churches, National Congress of American Indians, 7th Generation Fund, Tebtebba Foundation, International Indigenous Health Commission, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the First Nations Development Institute, National Lawyers Guild, Inter-Tribal Bison Cooperative, Amnesty International, Nordic Saami Council, Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations, , the American Civil Liberties Union, Inter-Tribal Bison Cooperative, American Indian Law Alliance, Sinte Gleska University and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Amnesty International, Indigenous Initiative for Peace, the Amazon Alliance, DANA ( a Mexican NGO providing consultation to Indigenous communities in social and economic Development) and the Asesoría Técnica de Cultivos Orgánicos (ATCO, Chiapas Mexico) and Land O' Lakes international development and Farmer to Farmer Programs and a wide range of tribal and traditional governments in and outside the US.

g. Active working relationships with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations and agencies contributed to the development of **coordinated national and international strategies and positions** in response to common concerns. IITC played a key role in drafting, co-drafting and organizing participation in gatherings that produced key declarations on the interrelated issues of imposed development, globalization, environmental protection, human rights and self-determination, including: the Indigenous Peoples' Seattle Declaration on the WTO (1999); the No Patenting of Life Declaration to the World Intellectual Property Organization (1999); the Albuquerque Declaration on Climate Change (1998); the Heart of the Peoples Declaration on Biological Diversity (1997); and the UN Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (beginning in 1982, with discussion ongoing). IITC continued to distribute these documents in 2001, and to promote their use in education, organizing and international policy development.

#### **4) Creating Mechanisms for Access to Decision-Making:**

As a result of its consistent and active representation of Indigenous Peoples, IITC was increasingly successful in framing discussions in international bodies on impacts of imposed development and environmental contamination in the clear context of human rights violations, right to lands and resources, self-determination, racism, cultural rights, global sustainability. The IITC carried out this work based on the traditional Indigenous world view which recognizes the inextricable link between human survival and the natural world, and the profound responsibility of human communities to uphold the sacredness of this relationship.

IITC's direct participation continued to build awareness, pressured countries to resolve critical situations, influenced decision-making, and insured that Indigenous Peoples' vital contributions and perspectives are taken into account in ongoing policy debates and standard setting activities

Major, even historic strides continued to be made by IITC working in coordination with other Indigenous organizations, in building informed participation through the creation of formal mechanisms for participation in policy discussions at the UN Commission on Human Rights, World Intellectual Property Organization, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the World Bank the Subcommission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Working Group on Indigenous Populations, US Environmental Protection Agency Advisory Council on Environmental Justice, UNESCO, the UN Environmental Program Treaty negotiation bodies for Climate Change, Biological Diversity and Persistent Organic Pollutants, Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, UN Development Program and the World Health Organization

IITC's central role in the bodies such as UN Commission on Sustainable Development, FAO and the treaty negotiating processes for POPs elimination, biological diversity and climate change have resulted in growing international recognition of Indigenous expertise in these vital areas affecting the survival of all Peoples and the planet herself. We have also seen increased interest by grass roots Indigenous Peoples for participation in these and other bodies where the direct links between international policy development and the concerns of grass roots communities can be used to call attention to and build support for local struggles,

a. 11 delegates from four countries, including 4 Indigenous youth, were credentialed by IITC to attend the **World Conference Against Racism**. They addressed concerns directly impacting their communities in areas such as environmental racism, impacts of imposed development and militarism, effects of racial discrimination on Indigenous youth, women and children, and cultural and religious discrimination.

b. IITC continued to have a key leadership role for Indigenous Peoples at the **UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)**, a 53-member commission which meets each April in New York to build on the 1992 Earth Summit policy recommendations toward achieving socially, environmentally and economically just sustainable development throughout the world in the 21st century.

IITC's role at the CSD includes advocacy for development policies that promote global sustainability, protect the environment and socio-cultural integrity of Indigenous Peoples, and also foster economic well-being of their communities. At CSD sessions, IITC

coordinates participation by Indigenous community representatives to present positive community-based sustainability models in forestry, land management, tourism, agriculture, sustainable energy and culturally appropriate animal husbandry (i.e. bison, salmon hatcheries, etc.), as well as to discuss the detrimental impacts of imposed non-sustainable practices in their communities (mining, drilling, pesticides, alien species introduction and wild habitat destruction).

As Co-coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus at the UN CSD for the past four years, IITC's representative based in New York, Ms. Carol Kalafatic, once again coordinated the participation of representatives of Indigenous tribes, grassroots organizations and communities at the CSD in 2001 to directly present their concerns relating to imposed development as well as models for sustainable practices. As a member of the **CSD NGO Steering Committee representing Indigenous Peoples**, IITC continued to present a holistic understanding of global sustainability encompassing cultural, environmental and social, as well as economic factors. IITC worked with states and "major groups" including labor, farmers, environmentalists, industry and Indigenous Peoples to strengthen international agreements for environmental protection as basis for long term global environmental sustainability as well as human social, spiritual and physical health.

In 2001, IITC also continued to co-facilitate the "multi-stakeholder" process adopted by the 2000 CSD as a means for discussing, among other things, the results of consultations with communities that practice sustainable agriculture. IITC has taken a lead role for insuring meaningful policy level input of Indigenous communities at the **World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio + 10) in September, 2002 and its preparatory sessions throughout the year.**

c. IITC was instrumental in creating unprecedented opportunities in the past year for the perspectives and concerns of Indigenous Peoples to be included in international policy discussions addressing **Sustainable food systems, food sovereignty and key related issues of ecosystem protection**. These include the preservation and re-establishment of traditional agricultural practices; subsistence rights (hunting, fishing and gathering); impacts of imposed development and ecosystem destruction; land and treaty rights; traditional spiritual and cultural relationships; protecting biological diversity (integrity, diversity and use of traditional seed knowledge, opposition to patenting and genetic modification, etc.); health effects of food system disruption; support and recognition for local food system and sustainability models; environmental and habitat protection; impacts of economic globalization and trade policies.

In 1999 IITC became the "Indigenous focal point" in the CSD's newly created **Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Caucus**, providing unprecedented opportunities for input in international policy discussions on sustainable local food systems and food security at the CSD and the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). IITC role is to insure that Indigenous input will be included at **FAO's World Food Summit + 5 (June 10 – 13 )** and the **World Summit on Sustainable Development (August September 2002)**.

The NGO/CSO ("Non-Governmental Organizations/ Civil Society Organizations") Core Planning Group for FAO's "World Food Summit: five years later" met in November, 2001 in Rome. IITC's representative Carol Kalafatic continued to serve there as the "indigenous focal point", on this body. She was able to achieve key agreements at this

session which will insure a much greater level of meaningful input and recognition for Indigenous Peoples in the Summit than was previously anticipated.

An historic step was made when a contact was signed between IITC and FAO in December 2001, in which FAO agreed to contribute approximately half of the funding needed for the organization of a **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD in Panajachel, Solola, Guatemala, April 17 - 19, 2002**. This is the first time that a UN agency has partnered in this way with an Indigenous NGO in response to our ongoing insistence that achieving broad and effective input by Indigenous Peoples necessitates both political will and financial support by international and UN bodies, not just recognition in principle. The IITC, with Defensoria Maya and other Mayan organizations, is coordinating and hosting this event. It will provide an opportunity for representatives of Indigenous Peoples and their organizations from different regions of the world to gather and exchange points of view, and to develop proposals for strategies regarding food security and related policies in preparation for the World Food Summit + Five in Rome (June 2002).

d. IITC coordinated at the UN's request, in December 2001 of Indigenous representatives with Mme. Ouhachi-Vesely, nee Ksentini, the **United Nations Special Rapporteur on the illicit dumping of toxic wastes** in her fact finding visit to the US. The Rapporteur visited the United States for the first time to study *in situ* the situation regarding illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes and the enjoyment of human rights. The IITC coordinated the presentation of testimony and documentation by Indigenous representatives of impacted communities and tribes focusing on impacts of toxics contamination resulting from waste dumping, pesticide use, industrial and military emissions and waste incineration on Indigenous communities, ecosystems, health and subsistence practices in Alaska, the Great Lakes, Montana, and along the Mexico-US border. The Rapporteurs' findings will be presented to the UN Commission on Human Rights at its next session in March-April 2002.

In addition to the effective input into a UN process that occurred, a very significant development resulted from this meeting. After hearing each other's testimony, the Indigenous representatives from Alaska, Mexico and Guatemala decided to form a coalition to provide education to their communities on the links between their communities regarding this critical issue, as well to develop coordinated strategies for creating political and public pressure to combat the ongoing export and use of prohibited substances such as banned pesticides by the US which have dire health and environmental effects on Indigenous communities in the south, and then travel through water and food chain to contaminate Arctic subsistence food sources.

#### **5) Communications and Information-Dissemination:**

In 2001, IITC made major strides in the effectiveness and consistency of its information and technical assistance dissemination to communities as a central strategy for capacity building.

In 2001, IITC continued to provide education the general public through print, broadcast media and electronic information dissemination and public speaking about issues and concerns of Indigenous Peoples through presentations at international, national and local conferences, outreach and networking with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations and issue-based coalitions. IITC is committed to information sharing and

utilized print, broadcast media and electronic information dissemination methods IITC firmly believes that advancing the international understanding of human rights to include the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples, and broadening the equal and on discriminatory application of human rights principles and standards advances the enjoyment of human rights and environmental justice for all Peoples. .

a. IITC continued to provide education, outreach, consultation, technical assistance and training to Indigenous tribes, communities, organizations, networks and gatherings to build understanding of impacts of international policies on local struggles and concerns, mechanisms for redressing violations of their rights, and opportunities for their direct involvement in effective solutions.

b. IITC staff and representatives were speakers and presenters in a variety of community and organizational conferences and events at the invitation of Indigenous Peoples and other supportive organizations. Overall, an **estimated 8000 participants** were reached directly by IITC's presentations at various gatherings and conferences, and many thousands more were reached through regular information dissemination via Indigenous and non-indigenous print, radio, video and electronic media.

c. A key objective in 2001 was the very successful completion of construction of our **World Wide Web Page ([www.treatycouncil.org](http://www.treatycouncil.org))**, as well as the providing of regular upkeep and ongoing input, including urgent updates and actions, submitted by IITC offices, staff, community representatives and affiliated organizations.

d. In November 2001, the **Gold, Greed and Genocide video** was completed with the direct input (and narration) of the 6 summer 2001 IITC high school and college age youth mentees. It was debuted at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco (November) as well as at the Community Technology Foundation of California's grantee gathering in Los Angeles (December). The video tells for the first time, in the words of the decedents of the massacres and the mercury poisoning, the actual devastating impacts, both historical and ongoing, of the Gold Rush on tribal communities as well as the environment in Northern California.

IITC's goal for 2002 is to work with California Indian tribes, teachers, schools and educators to distribute the video and accompanying written curriculum for use in 100 or more high school classrooms throughout California. An initial presentation to the California Indian Educators conference in 2001 will be followed up by a more formal presentation to this origination's 25<sup>th</sup> annual conference in February 2002.

## **6. Key Organizational Developments**

a. In February 2001, an internal capacity building **strategic planning** proposal was presented and adopted by the IITC Board of Directors at their annual meeting, which includes training and strategic panning focusing on broad based resource development as well and long term strategic planning for the organization as a whole. IITC has never participated in a comprehensive organizational strategic planning process in its 27 years, and the entire organization in looking forward to a very intense, interesting and productive experience. The first 2 day session is currently scheduled for the summer of 2002 with outside consultants to be hired to facilitate.

As a result of these developments, the organization is placed as never before to begin a long term strategic planning process for long range organizational as well as programmatic sustainability. In 2001, IITC moved away from its former model of "crisis to crisis" financial "planning" to a new and most welcome phase of organizational and financial development. However much we have improved, there is still a recognition among both staff and Board that our long term sustainability will depend on the outcomes of the strategic planning process, which will no doubt shed new light of priorities and help to reinforce the positive work and direction in which IITC is moving.

b. A related process of strategic planning related specifically to communications and technology, but which also addresses management, financial and programmatic concerns, was initiated in December 2001 through a capacity building grant from the Community Technology Foundation of California. Board members, staff, consultants and community members began to meet in December with CTFC consultants to assess IITC's needs in the areas **of communication, outreach and technology**. The grant will include the purchase of equipment (computers, new phone system with voice mail, a digital camera for documentation, etc.) by mid 2002, and will also provide for consultation and training for staff in the use of new technology, especially in IITC's San Francisco Office. There is a strong possibility for long term impel mention funding from CTFC as well, focusing on IITC's outreach, communications, training and human rights capacity building programs in 2002 and 2003.

c. To continue its commitment to building **Native youth leadership**, in February 2001, the IITC Board of Directors formally created a Youth Board seat, and seated Martina Movescamp, a 20 year old Oglala Lakota, from the Wanblee community of Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

***" ... Somewhere in this world I want my Indian People to be heard, no matter how small a group they are. Everyone has a right to be who they are ... "***

***Phillip Deere  
Muskogee Creek Spiritual Leader***