

AIPP Foundation ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Introduction

This Annual Report 2007 covers activities of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) for the period 1st January – 31st December, 2007. It provides a brief description of the work of the AIPP Secretariat staff, Secretary General, Committees, Executive Council and Board together with AIPP members and contacts; and the audited financial report. More detailed description of activities is available from the Secretariat upon request. AIPP mainly implements activities through its seven programmes, namely Advocacy and Networking, Education and Organisation, Research and Information Dissemination, Regional Capacity Building, Campaign and Policy Advocacy, Youth, AIPP Organisational Strengthening.

In 2007, AIPP continued to put emphasis on building greater collective leadership within AIPP through the Executive Council and the different Committees; coordinated various activities that could involve both AIPP members as well as other organisations within its network; improved inter-programme coordination and intergrated its activities to maximize resources; and improved internal monitoring and consultation mechanism.

Abbreviations

SG – Secretary General
PM – Project Manager
CPAC – Campaign and Policy Advocacy Coordinator
RCBC – Regional Capacity Building Coordinator
IDM – Information and Dissemination Manager
AM – Administrative Manager
FM – Finance Manager
EC – Executive Council
IKBC – Indigenous Knowledge and Biodiversity Committee
HRAC – Human Rights and Advocacy Committee
IEC – Indigenous Economics Committee
GC – Gender Committee
YPC – Youth Programme Committee
AC – Advisory Committee
CC – Coordinating Committee
CMLN – Collaborative Management Learning Network
ICOLT – Indigenous Community Organisers and Leadership Training
UNDRIP – UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNPFII – UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
HRC – UN Human Rights Council
CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity
SSNC - Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

1. Advocacy and Networking

Activities under this Programme includes advocacy that involves coordinating with AIPP members and contacts to ensure the preparation and presence of indigenous representatives in relevant UN fora. The Programme also involves organising Conferences/Workshops and facilitating learning networks to discuss issues of importance to indigenous peoples in the region, and to promote networking among AIPP members and contacts with the objectives of recognizing their rights within the national and international policy framework.

1.1 Networking

1.1.1 *Regional Workshop on Communal Land*

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AIPP and NGO Forum organized this Regional Workshop held in Kompong Cham, Cambodia from 14 – 16 February 2007, where about 40 local participants and 47 participants from other countries in Asia participated. The objectives of the Workshop were to discuss and come up with strategies on the shared concern over the lack of recognition of communal land rights in many Asian countries and the rapid erosion of traditional communal land tenure; the use and management systems in the wake of market integration; and the imposition of state laws on indigenous peoples that gives priority on individual over communal ownership of land. A one-day field visit was also organized for participants to have a better understanding of issues faced by local indigenous peoples.

The Workshop presented a regional overview of the pertinent issues related to communal lands of indigenous peoples in the form of country presentations; identified common issues problems, approaches and strategies to address; and came up with a joint declaration on indigenous peoples' rights and communal land in Asia that was sent to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) meeting in New York in May 2007. All the representatives from 14 countries spoke of the serious situation they face with regards to communal land rights, while another 10 resource persons also presented specific cases. Small group workshops also helped participants to further elaborate and strategise on issues that were identified. The Workshop was held along with other events including the Cambodia national land workshop, Consultation with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples and the Prepremeeting on the UN Human Rights Fora.

1.1.2 *Regional Prepremeeting on UN Human Rights Fora*

The preparatory meeting was held in Kompong Cham, Cambodia from 17-18 February, 2007 and about 65 representatives from 13 countries from Asia participated. The meeting was supported by the International Workgroup for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and the European Commission through AIPP. The objectives were to enable indigenous peoples' representatives from the region to prepare for the forthcoming session of the UNPFII, to discuss key issues and concerns and how these can be raised more effectively before the Forum and to come up with common positions on various issues which can be presented as regional caucus statements. The discussions also included developments in other UN bodies which are relevant for indigenous people such as the Human Rights Council (HRC); the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the UN General Assembly.

The 2007 preparatory meeting was coordinated by the organising committee composed of Joan Carling, Famark Hlawning, Rukka Sombolinggi, AIPP Secretariat represented by Jannie Lasimbang, local host (NGO Forum) represented by Graeme Brown, and the

members of the PFII from Asia – Vicky Tauli-Corpuz and Parshuram Tamang. The committee developed the programme, materials and coordinated the participation of indigenous representatives. Participants were selected by national focal points, a selection process established in 2005.

The first day programme included a presentation on the overview of UNPFII, the Human Rights Council and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; discussion on the theme of the UNPFII 2007 session on Territories, Lands and Natural Resources; and three workshops on the topics - Urban Indigenous Peoples and Migration; Implementation of recommendations on six mandated areas and Millennium Development Goals; and the Future work of the UNPFII, Second Decade and side events. The second day was dedicated to an open discussion on the selection process for UNPFII Asia Indigenous Experts, strategy for the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the half-day session on Asia, funding to attend the UNPFII and a review of the National Focal Points.

1.1.3 Third Indigenous Knowledge and Biodiversity (IKB) Conference

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Having seen the effective interventions at CBD-related meetings and the active promotion of indigenous knowledge and biodiversity issues among indigenous organizations following previous regional Conferences, it was decided that the 3rd IKB Conference should be convened in June 27–30 2007 in Lijiang, China for the same purpose. The Conference, which was attended by 50 participants was organized by the AIPP, the Indigenous Knowledge and Peoples Network, the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests and hosted by the Dongba Cultural Academy. It was supported by the European Commission, IWGIA, Misereor and SwedBio.

The Conference successfully achieved its main aims to serve as a group sharing and analysis on the developments at the CBD; select indigenous participants to significant CBD-related fora and 9th Conference of Parties (COP9) and plan for the coordination and preparations for these participants; define concrete plans of intervention at significant CBD-related fora and COP9; and define action plans at regional, national and local levels. The programme also included field trips to experience and learn from the Naxi people; a traditional opening ceremony; sharing from the organizers; evaluation the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) process and a cultural evening.

1.1.4 Third Indigenous Development Conference (Nepal, 12 – 15 September)

The venue of the 3rd Indigenous Development (ID) Conference held from 12 – 15 September, 2007 was Pokhara, Nepal with the theme “Governance”. A team comprising of five core people and the AIPP Secretary General (SG) was responsible for the preparation of the Conference. The theme indigenous governance covered political/institutional development and juridical development. Because of the difficult political situation in Nepal, the Conference had to be held at a hotel in Pokhara, which was disappointing to the organizers as all the past ID conferences have shown that interaction with communities have enriched the process. Nevertheless, the local host, the Nepal Indigenous Women Federation, tried its best to include two community visits where participants could interact actively with the community on the issue of Governance. The process of selection participation was handled by the AIPP SG who contacted past participants to identify representatives who were well-versed in the theme, ensuring both youth and elders were included and adhering to AIPP’s gender balance policy. Also included in the invitations were resource persons, members of the AIPP Indigenous Economics Committee and documenters. The participants came from twelve countries namely: Taiwan, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Timor Leste, Thailand, Burma,

Cambodia, Vietnam, India, Bangladesh and Nepal. Thirty six official representatives, resource persons and documenters participated in the 3rd ID Conference.

One picture here on ID Conf in Nepal

It included a colourful inauguration ceremony at the city hall by the Speaker of the House of Parliament on the first day, followed by a community visit. The visit was delayed due to the inauguration and because the location of the Magar community was rather far, it unfortunately did not allow much discussion. Nevertheless, the visit demonstrated living traditional leadership in the community through its leadership structure and in particular, natural resource management by the traditional leaders in the community which was a well-endowed village. On the subsequent three days, the participants shared and reflected on issues faced with respect to political/institutional system and juridical system, particularly on the interface between the traditional and statutory system. These then helped to facilitate the discussion on the kind of development the representatives wanted for indigenous communities as a whole. Different methodologies were used including plenary discussions, workshops and discussion with another Magar community but this time focusing on juridical system. In between, the participants also had a number of cultural exchanges in the evenings. To ensure that women's perspective is also examined, a full workshop was dedicated to examine roles of women in both the traditional political/institutional and juridical systems.

There was active participation from everyone, particularly youths, and the presence of experienced village heads and elders made the discussion very fruitful. Some strategies to promote and strengthen these indigenous systems and recommendations to address challenges faced were concrete outcomes of the Conference. The Conference also provided opportunities to some participants to share about what they have done as a follow-up from the last thematic discussions on "cultural integrity". The 3rd ID Conference as in the two previous conferences was hailed by participants as extremely important reflections, providing guidance and direction on development of their communities. It boosted the knowledge and strengthened resolve among many to return and share with their organizations and communities. The next conference would also provide opportunities to share such developments on their communities in relation to these two themes. Most participants understood English and were able to participate directly but there were some language barriers that had to be overcome through translations, although those unfamiliar with the themes like participants from Vietnam were unfortunately unable to grasp the rich discussions.

1.1.5 Workshop on Extractive Industries, Agribusiness and Hydropower

The Mekong Regional workshop on Extractive Industries, Agribusiness and Hydropower was successfully organized in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 27-28 September 2007. More than 60 participants, documenters and interpreters attended the workshop – 37 from outside Thailand and about 25 local participants. Among the activities of the workshop were the formal opening of the workshop; presentation of resource papers, country reports, and case studies; sharing of experiences; country group work; panel discussions; plenary discussions to define strategies and action plans; formation of committees; adaptation of follow up plans; networking sessions; and holding of a cultural evening. The main aims of the workshop were to serve as a group sharing and analysis on the of extractive industries, agribusiness and hydropower projects in the region; to provide a venue to share experiences of its activities and impacts; to form committees on various issues; and define action plans at the Mekong sub-region, national and local levels. AIPP, as the local host, coordinated the events and participants particularly appreciated the panel discussions, formation of committees and strategies and future action plans. For

AIPP, it was another opportunity to network and learn about organizing sub-regional workshops that allowed several organizations and the AIPP to have a closer relationship.

There was a balanced participation of women and men, as well as youth and elders and those who are new and experienced in advocating for the rights of indigenous and communities related to large-scale mining, plantations and hydropower projects. As a result, the qualities of the presentations were good, with detailed data on some of the industries in the region. Judging from the number of participants who signed their name up to attend the workshop, the action plans that were made, formation of various committees and sub regional network, the workshop appeared to have created a lot of interest on extractive industries, agribusiness and hydropower projects and related issues.

1.1.6 CMLN 3rd Regional Workshop (Philippines, December 10 – 20)

One picture here – Tina has given pictures

The main activities during this period were the finalization of the narrative and financial report for the period July to December 2006; the CMLN website and database by the CMLN Regional Coordinator (RC), and the organizing of the Advisory Committee meeting and the 3rd CMLN Regional Workshop in the Philippines. The full-time co-coordinator, Nang Noon, resigned and it took about eight months to secure the position of Assistant Coordinator. Ms. Mrinalini Rai started work at the AIPP Secretariat in October 2007. Funding was also secured for the Thai site from Misereor, while both SwedBio and McKnight Foundation continued to support the project.

The 3rd Regional CMLN which took place in Subic Bay, Philippines saw representation from 6 sites (Thailand, Lao, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Philippines) comprising of the resource people, CMLN local coordinators, representatives of indigenous peoples, government agencies and NGOs, with the exception of Indonesia. The focus of the workshop was on the negotiation of management agreements, with a particular attention to the management of conflict among stakeholders and rights holders, tools and methods for negotiation were put to practice during a role-play exercise during the workshop. The Learning Network supports co-management practices and organize exchange visits towards a mutual learning process. The project seeks to give support to the sites for any technical assistance required and through these various meeting and visits is working towards enhancing awareness and recognition in the selected sites and beyond.

Field visits during the workshop included a four days trip prior to the workshop to Sibuyan Island where WWF Philippines/ CMLN are implementing co-management activities. The visit was limited to a few network members only, including Thailand (2), Malaysia (2) and Lao (1) due to security concerns and transport difficulties. They presented their trip experience to the rest of the participants during the workshop. Three visits to the Aeta community was also organized for all the participants. The participants got an opportunity to interact with the villagers, village elders and also made a visit to an Aeta eco-tourism project. The Aeta, have been able to secure CADT (land titled area) but they are still struggling to get their rights recognized and respected. The closing of the workshop was a grand celebration in the forest, where the Aetas prepared food in the traditional way in bamboos, which was followed by shared music and dance.

1.2 Advocacy at the UN

1.2.1 Regional Consultation with Special Rapporteur (Cambodia, 10 – 12 Feb)

A Regional Consultation with the Special Rapporteur (SR) on the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples was organized by Tebtebba and NGO Forum, Cambodia with logistical support from the AIPP Secretariat. Participation to the Regional Consultation was maximized by holding it immediately prior to the Regional Conference on Communal Land organized by AIPP. About 50 indigenous representatives and observers attended the Consultation. The Secretary General (SG) made a presentation along with all the country representatives. Among the recommendations by the SR to regional organization like AIPP and Tebtebba were to hold further consultations on indigenous development including review of large-scale development projects in the region, to network with other NGOs, governments and indigenous organizations in other regions and to follow-up on peace processes in the region.

1.2.2 Sub-Regional Protected Areas Meetings (India & Malaysia April 2007)

Two sub-regional meetings on Protected Areas (PAs) were held during this period, where the SG was involved in facilitating/organising. These meetings are meant to be part of the CBD's capacity building efforts to help in the implementation of the Programme of Work on PAs. For the South Asia PA meeting held from 2 – 4 April, AIPP as part of the Indigenous Peoples Committee on Conservation (IPCC), identified and facilitated the participation of three indigenous participants. For the South East Asia PA meeting from 22 – 25 April, AIPP identified 15 participants to a parallel meeting by a number of international organizations, organized a one-day indigenous preparatory meeting and also assisted participants, together with the local host, PACOS Trust.

1.2.3 UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (New York, May 2007)

The AIPP Secretariat facilitated the participation of three representatives from Asia at the 6th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) – Famark Hlawning, Shankar Limbu and Sukhendu Debbarma. The representatives, together with the AIPP representative to the PFII (Joan Carling) played an active role in organizing the Asia Caucus, where the statements agreed upon at the Prepmeeting in Cambodia were refined; and where side events such as the Asia reception and the workshop with UNDP-RIPP were finalized. The theme of this year's PFII session was on Lands, Territories and Resources. The Asia Caucus also organized meetings with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples and helped new representatives by providing an overview of the PFII. This year, the Asia caucus faced some challenges when a number of representatives from Asia questioned the report on the Asia Regional Communal Land Workshop submitted to the PFII and representation at the Regional Prepmeeting, both held in Cambodia. It had addressed this by improving its information dissemination and also to challenge these representatives to be more constructive in its critiques.

1.2.4 Sixth Session of UN Human Rights Council (Geneva, September 2007)

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Two indigenous representatives (Mr. Ratnaker Bhengra and Mr. Famark Hlawning) were selected to attend the HRC with support of the European Commission through AIPP when it was confirmed that UNWGIP will not take place. Unfortunately Mr. Bhengra was not granted a visa. The Secretariat provided logistical support such transfer of money for tickets and per diems, reporting format and invitation letters. The representative made an intervention on behalf of indigenous peoples in Asia calling on the HRC to include indigenous peoples issues in the Universal Periodical Review (UPR) by adding this in the UPR guidelines as one of the meaningful ways of implementing the UN Declaration on the

Rights of Indigenous Peoples; to establish an Indigenous Expert Body under Human Rights Council to succeed the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations in order to provide special advice to the Human Rights Council regarding indigenous peoples' rights; to retain and strengthen the mandate of Special Rapporteur on situation of human rights and fundamental freedom of indigenous peoples; and to include indigenous representative/s in the Advisory Committee of Human Council.

The HRC at the conclusion of the 6th Session in December, adopted a resolution establishing the expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples, Council decides to establish a mechanism to provide the Council with thematic expertise on the human rights of indigenous peoples. The mandate of the of the Special Rapporteur on situation of human rights and fundamental freedom of indigenous peoples was also extended.

1.2.5 Natural Resource Management Regional Dialogue (Thailand, November 2007)

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The Natural Resource Management Regional Dialogue organized in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 10 - 14 November, 2007 was AIPP, Inter Mountain Peoples Education and Culture in Thailand (IMPECT) Association, and International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forest (IA), with collaboration with the UNDP-Regional Indigenous Peoples Programme (RIPP). 118 participants, documenters and interpreters attended the Regional Dialogue, out of which 45 were female. 21 were from Government sector, 13 from UNDP country offices and 6 from UNDP-RCB. The list also included 5 resource persons, 4 advisory members of UNDP-RIPP, 5 Community Dialogue facilitators and 9 interpreters. Among the activities of the five-day Regional Dialogue were the meeting of facilitators; preparatory meeting of indigenous representatives; official opening ceremony; keynote address by UNPFII Chair Victoria Tauli Corpuz; presentation of key issues and challenges; book launch; plenary presentations on Good Practices; thematic workshops; field trips; presentations on NRM and corruption, and Indigenous Women and NRM; country discussions; adoption of joint action plan; official closing and cultural evening. The main aims of the Regional Dialogue were to create both the space and the opportunity to highlight practices of indigenous in protecting and promoting their cultural diversity; and present good practices and challenges faced by government and indigenous communities with respect to policies on natural resources management led action.

In the thematic groups, five papers on good practice themes were presented apart from the seven presentations during plenary session. Throughout the five-day programme of the Regional Dialogue, an exhibition was organized as a corner of knowledge- and resource-sharing. The colourful exhibition attracted a lot of interests and was an effective way of sharing about various natural resource management activities in the different countries. Most of the participants actively participated in the programme. The participants found the field trips thought provoking, and provided important examples of good practices of natural resource management during the workshops. An open atmosphere of sharing from the government, UNDP officers and indigenous participants created learning for all. The exhibition and cultural evening were apparently successful tools for exchange and facilitated mutual respect and fun. Skilled facilitation helped the workshop groups to bring out the expected results from the Regional Dialogue. The joint organizing of the Regional Dialogue was also an important opportunity for all the organizers concerned to have a better understanding of each other and the role that each can do to promote indigenous peoples rights with respect to natural resource management.

1.3 Other Advocacy and Networking Activities

AIPP staff and EC members also attended a number of meetings including:

- *International Coordinating Committee Meeting of IIFB Indicators Project* (Chiang Mai, 8 to 11 Jan) – As a member of the CC, AIPP attended to provide an analysis of the Asia regional meetings and provide input for the International Experts Seminar.
- *Meeting with IA and SEARCO* (Chiang Mai, 14 Jan) – The SG represented AIPP at this meeting to discuss strategies for Thailand and the region on the various Environmental Agreements such as the CBD and the UNFCCC.
- *Meeting with Burma Environmental Groups* (Chiang Mai, 18 Jan) – The SG provided input on the CBD and advice on the preparation of the Burma National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to 15 Burma environmental groups based in Thailand.
- *National Land Workshop* (Cambodia 8 – 9 Feb) – The SG presented a paper entitled “Protection of Indigenous Rights to Land: Regional and International Experiences” at the workshop.
- *IIFB International Expert Meeting on Indicators* – The SG and two other AIPP Executive Council members, as part of the International Coordinating Committee, participated in the International Experts Meeting held in Banuae, Philippines from 5 – 9 March, participants selected, amended and refined the indicators which were then ranked and commented on by regional groupings. She also worked with other members of the International Coordinating Committee to further synthesized it to 24 indicators that were then submitted to the CBD in June (to be discussed at the WG8(j) in October 2007).
- *UNDP-RIPP Advisory Committee and Annual Planning* (Bogor 24 – 26 April) - The SG attended both meetings to provide advise on the proposed activities by UNDP-RIPP 2007-2008 and subsequently helped in the planning meeting in the Bogor, Indonesia. She also presented two papers relating to proposed activities to promote a Policy on Indigenous Women and on Natural Resources Management. (**One picture here**)
- *Steering Committee, Workshop on Extractive Industries and Agribusiness* (Phnom Penh, 11 June) – The Information Dissemination Manager and the SG represented AIPP as one of the organizers of the Workshop which AIPP will be hosting in Chiang Mai from 27 – 28 September, 2007.
- *HRBA training* (Philippines, November 2007) – The SG acted as resource trainer for the UNDP-RIPP sub-regional training.
- *IKAP Regional Meeting* (Chiang Mai, November 30) – The SG attended the meeting and also presented at paper during the regional meeting
- **Media training, Cambodia (Muan and Ben)**
- *International Training on Social Research and Indigenous Peoples, Philippines*
The Training was held in Baguio City, Philippines on 25 October to 6 November 2007 and organized by Tebtebba Foundation in cooperation with the Social Science Research Institute (SSRI), College of Social Science, University of the Philippines Baguio. The training was intended to enhance the capacities of indigenous peoples to do social research relevant on the participants’ areas of work in their organizations; to better articulate issues and perspectives; promote indigenous perspectives on research; initiate the development of training modules on ‘Social Research and Indigenous Peoples’; and strengthen and expand the current pool of indigenous researchers. The training was attended by 28 Indigenous trainees from different organizations, backgrounds and countries of Asia. The Information and Dissemination Manager of AIPP also attended this training with support from Tebtebba Foundation.

2. Organisation and Education

This Programme involves human rights trainings, aimed at enhancing awareness of community representatives on their rights as indigenous peoples, recognized in both international and national instruments, and training for indigenous women in decision-making in different countries aimed at providing women with a broader comprehension of their rights and build capability to protect and obtain recognition of such rights within their community and in general. The Programme is also aimed at building understanding of the work of AIPP and other organization through internship at the AIPP Secretariat and attachment in other organisations.

2.1 Training on Indigenous Women in Decision-Making (TIWDM)

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Preparation activities by the AIPP Secretariat included identification of local hosts from both Nepal and Northeast India/India; and the submission of the proposal for the Training to UNDP-RIPP. During this period, 1000 copies of the TIWDM Manual which was printed by UNDP-RIPP were distributed to indigenous organizations. The main challenge faced in preparing for the two TIWDMs this year was changes in the Project Manager which happened twice in February and September and considerably slowed the process.

For Nepal, the Nepal Indigenous Women Federation organized the Training, who wanted to design their own training programme to reflect the current needs of women in the country. The training held from 4 – 10 September (10 days) focused on constitutional assembly, women in politics and other topics found in the AIPP curriculum. The SG also participated as a trainer while two women from Bangladesh also participated as part of the exchange that was started in 2005. For Northeast India, the Naga Women's Union of Manipur organized the training from 4 – 6 September (3 days). The training in Northeast India will follow the modules that were designed by AIPP but were compressed to three instead of five days. Communication with NWUM was hampered by poor telecommunication services in Northeast India. A total of 44 participants attended the two training. Specifically, the training in the Northeast India had 16 participants including student leaders, students, women activists, church leaders, organization leaders and lawyers, from five states of Northeast India. 28 participants attended the Nepal training from 18 indigenous communities, with three local facilitators and four resource persons. The financial support from UNDP-RIPP for the training included a budget of USD 2,000 to select HerStories from the past and 2007 trainings. It was decided by the AIPP Gender Committee at its meeting on 25 September 2005 to request for five stories and pictures each from the training held in Malaysia, the Philippines, Burma, Nepal and Northeast India.

2.2 Human Rights Training (HRT)

The HRT is aimed not only to build awareness but also to impart skills in highlighting the human rights violations through information gathering, reporting and understanding peace-building and consensus-building principles and processes. Two HRTs were conducted in Vietnam and Yunnan in 2007. Due to the sensitivity of China government, the title of the training was changed to "International Instruments Training" in Yunnan, although this was essentially the content of the HRT anyway. In the same way, the training was called "Grassroots Democracy Ordinance (GDO) Training" in Vietnam. The GDO in Vietnam is a legal framework and instrument for democratization process at the community level. Funding for the HRTs was allocated from the leftover funds from Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva and the European Commission. One HRT was planned for Timor Leste but poor communication with local organizations in Timor Leste forced AIPP to shift the training to

Yunnan, China. Apart from the fact that the Project Manager is new to his post, another challenge faced in organising the HRTs was that the remaining countries earmarked to hold the HRT (Vietnam, Timor Leste – 2007, Laos, Yunnan – 2008) are sensitive to holding activities related to human rights.

For Vietnam, the agreement to hold the training with the Centre for Sustainable Development in Mountainous Areas (CSDM) was made as early as April 2007 and was linked to the preparation of the Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Report. The training was held from July 16 – 20, 2007. For the training in China, it was co-organised with the Dongba Cultural Academy based in Lijiang, Yunnan province. 36 indigenous leaders in Yunnan and 48 indigenous representatives in Vietnam, representing eight indigenous communities in China and five indigenous communities in North provinces of Vietnam were trained. The training materials, which were localized to fit the local contexts were also translated into Vietnamese and Chinese languages. One of the AIPP trainers participated in the Yunnan training.

2.2 Training on National Implementation of the CBD (TNI-CBD)

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In 2005, the AIPP Indigenous Knowledge and Biodiversity Committee (IKBC) recommended starting a training programme on national implementation of the CBD. This was because Parties to the CBD were observed to be lacking the inertia to seek the participation of indigenous peoples in the preparation of national reports and the development of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Indigenous representatives attending CBD processes also identified the need to learn skills in negotiation and lobbying. A request to the SSNC to use some of the leftover funding allocated to the HRT for curriculum development and a pilot training was approved and thus a core group of 4 people decided to meet and develop the training curriculum from 17– 18 August 2007. The pilot training was also decided to be held in Thailand.

AIPP developed the curriculum for the TNI-CBD by involving people who have been working on the issues for a long time both at the international and regional level. Their experience ensured that a generic training programme and resource materials can be developed that is relevant to the needs of indigenous peoples in the different countries. The curriculum and materials are easy to adapt to the local situation and translate into the national language. If the preparation starts at least 6 months in advance, the training is assured of success. Recommendations for a process to select the local host and local trainers who will conduct the training in their own national language were also made. The local trainers will divide the sessions among them so that they can concentrate on the preparations and do a good training session. Linking the training to other activities would also help internalize and practice what was imparted during the TNI-CBD and linking the training with the preparation of the national reports was thus recommended. It would be important to also ensure that participants are encouraged to participate in CBD fora.

The pilot TNI-CBD was held in Thailand from December 16 – 19. The pilot training in was conducted in 4 days instead of 5, based on request by participants because at present very few laws relates to indigenous peoples and also, Thailand only ratified the CBD in 2006. It is too early to know whether the long term objective of achieving effective CBD implementation at the national level since only one training was held. But the project objectives of testing the curriculum and holding a pilot TNI-CBD were successfully achieved. AIPP is now preparing a proposal to conduct training in several countries using the same curriculum that was developed under this project. The TNI-CBD is well-received by organizations to host further training and there is a good team of experts ready.

2.3 Internship

One picture here with interns from Taiwan

It was decided that for 2007, interns will be asked to focus on credit union based on the recommendations of the AIPP Indigenous Economics Committee. The host organization, Pancur Kasih from Indonesia was willing to share its experiences in successfully raising economic status of indigenous communities through savings and credit management. Several organizations were approached and one intern each from the PACOS Trust, Malaysia and the Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association were selected. The internship programme involved a 3-month stay in Kalimantan, Indonesia from October - December. The AIPP Secretariat also accepted five indigenous interns from Taiwan sponsored by the Council of Indigenous Peoples in Taiwan in August.

3. Research and Information Dissemination

This Programme is aimed at encouraging indigenous peoples to research on topics relevant to debates at the local, national and international level. The research reports and other relevant documents are then packaged either into publications (book or CD) and disseminated to members. Where relevant and where funds are available, documents are also translated to different major Asian languages. Information is also regularly disseminated to indigenous organizations through email and AIPP website.

3.1 Information Dissemination

The AIPP Executive Council decided in October 2006 to create a new position to cater for the call from members and contacts for more active dissemination of information. Thus, information dissemination became more regular after the Information Dissemination Manager (IDM) assumed this new position in March 2007. Information was disseminated both through the email list of AIPP members and contacts, distribution of printed materials and through the AIPP regularly-updated website.

3.1.1 Summary of Information/Translation

The main task of the IDM is to summarise reports/documents to 3-4 pages and distribute to AIPP members and contacts through its email distribution list and through the AIPP website. A schedule and topics to be summarized were made and assistance sought by the persons in charge of providing the necessary information. Most of these information are reports/activities of AIPP. Funds were also secured to translate documents into 12 major Asian languages. This was accomplished by identifying organizations/individuals and for AIPP to enter into a one-year Translation Agreement with these respective organizations/individuals. Payments were made on a 6-monthly basis, and monitored through brief reports from the organization, which would include a list of the documents and the organizations who were sent the translated document. Eight indigenous organizations agreed to translate namely The Other Media (Tamil); BIRSA (Hindi); Nationalities Youth Forum (Burmese); SPERI (Vietnamese); PACOS Trust (Malay); AMAN (Indonesian); TARA-Ping Pu (Taiwanese/Chinese); CPA (Tagalog); and Shimin Gaikou Centre (Japanese), and four by individuals (Nepali, Tamil, Thai, Bengali) during this period. AIPP continue to secure agreements from an organization in Cambodia.

In 2007, twenty information were translated into these twelve major Asian languages. To date, only two organizations have reported that they have distributed the information widely – in Bangladesh, they were distributed to 107 people on the internet, 12 political organizations and 19 government officials, while in Japan, they were distributed to about 60 people on the net and 60-80 organisations.

3.1.2 Email Dissemination

Information relevant to the Indigenous Peoples of Asia are collected from various sources and are disseminated to the listserv of the foundation through email and the website. Dissemination of information is done in two processes – daily and weekly. The daily information dissemination involved collecting of current events; opportunity for trainings, workshops and other relevant international, national or local information. This project has started from June 2007. From the introduction of this project, eighty-four information has been disseminated on daily basis in 2007. The weekly dissemination of information are the information acquired by the foundation from its various seminars, workshops and conferences as resource paper, case studies and research paper. Twenty-seven information has been disseminated in weekly basis in 2007.

There was much more interaction with members on the usefulness of the information sent and most members and contacts said they were happy to receive the news. Selection of information is proving still proving to be a major challenge for the IDM. Updating the email list is also a regular, with new contacts added monthly and an assessment of the existing list every three months. Many of AIPP's members and contacts rely on yahoo, gmail or hotmail addresses which does not always support large attachments or have limited space. Some tends to change addresses regularly for different reasons, making it difficult to maintain a consistent mailing list.

3.1.3 Distribution of Printed Materials and CDs

As organizations and UN agencies came to realize that AIPP is organising regional conferences regularly, more materials were sent to the Secretariat for distribution. AIPP also became more diligent in requesting for materials in bulk and distributed to conference participants and visitors to the Secretariat. Among those who sent materials in bulk are the International Alliance, UNDP-RIPP and the CBD Secretariat. AIPP also distributed its own published materials. It has also become a practice for Conferences/Workshops organized by AIPP to immediately collate all documents, photos and reports and produce CDs to be distributed at the end of the event. During this period, two CDs were produced i.e. for the Communal Land Conference and the 3rd Indigenous Knowledge and Biodiversity (IKB) Conference.

3.1.4 Website

One picture here – a graphic representation of one of the webpage?

Maintenance of the website of the foundation is other activity of the Information and Dissemination Manager. Information and photos of AIPP activities are uploaded in the website for accessibility by interested people worldwide. Fifty-three information and photos are uploaded and the website is linked with thirty-four other sites, including with the websites of the AIPP donor organizations and members of the foundation. A course on web designing and computer programming was organized for all the AIPP staff from 10 - 13 April and in September 2007 by Jenifer Lasimbang.

The following information were uploaded on the AIPP website:

No.	<i>Documents/Pictures etc Uploaded</i>
1	Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Report of Nepal 2006
2	Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Report of Cambodia 2006
3	Indigenous Peoples Human rights Report of Thailand 2006
4	Latest notification from Secretariat CBD on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing; Article 8 (j): Traditional Knowledge; Innovation and Practices; and other issues
5	Composite Report on the Status and Trends regarding the knowledge, innovation and practices of Indigenous and Local Communities
6	AIPP Annual Report – 2006
7	Calendar 2007
8	Upcoming Activities of AIPP
9	Regular latest weekly information disseminated by AIPP
10	Regular photos of latest activities of AIPP
11	New photos in the Image Gallery
12	Asia regions map in the Home page
13	Report of 'Strategic Planning Workshop on Policy Advocacy' – Sabah, Malaysia, 2006
14	Redesign the Home page of the website
15	'Communication Sheet' for Human Rights Abuse
16	'Concept of Youth Dialogue'

17	IPs and Natural Resource Management – Synthesis Paper
18	Lijiang conference photo
19	Photos in CMLN website
20	HRAC meeting photo
21	Article of Thailand village visit by Jeremy – upload in CMLN website.
22	The NRM report of Malaysia
23	Background of TIWDM in NE India and Nepal
24	3 photos in the Image gallery
25	Report of NRM Country Studies of Thailand
26	Design new pages in the website for the 6 programs of AIPP
27	Upload Goals and Objectives of CMLN in the Cambodia page of CMLN website. It is in Khmer language.
28	Full report of the Natural Resource Management in Cambodia
29	ICOLT workshop and field trip photos in RCB page
30	LT, CoT and ICOLT Workshop reports in RCB page
31	Background of 3 rd ID Conference in Nepal
32	Appeal of AIPP to the governments of Asia countries
33	Updated Calendar 2007
34	Youth Dialogue Concept and Rationale, Youth dialogue Report – June 2006, Youth Dialogue of the Shan, Youth – Elder dialogue of Philippines and Youth Dialogue Report – December 2006 in the Youth Program Page of AIPP website.
35	Photos of people doing documentation of various AIPP program in Research and Information Dissemination page of the website.
36	Full report of NRM studies in Bangladesh – document and research and information dissemination pages
37	Compilation and summary of Leadership Training – Common Perspective.
38	Full report and summary of 3 rd IKB conference
39	Photos of Indigenous Peoples Day 2007, Chiang Mai and Interns from Taiwan
40	The full resource paper on Access and Benefit sharing presented on the 3 rd Indigenous Knowledge and Biodiversity Conference.
41	Resource paper of forest Biological Diversity and the Convention on Biological Diversity presented on 3 rd IKB conference
42	National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan in Burma
43	CMLN Report 2007
44	3 rd ID conference Report, Nepal 2007
45	GMS workshop on EI, AB and HP
46	Photos of ICOLT workshop, IKB conference, PAW, GMS workshop, IP Day in Chiang Mai
47	Concept of Regional Dialogue on NRM.
48	Summary by earth Negotiation Bulletin on CBD WG ABS and 8(j)
49	Background information of HR ToT
50	Photos in the Advocacy and Networking's page
51	Resource paper on Traditional Knowledge and the CBD
52	Photos of NRM – RD UNDP RIPP
53	Report of Asia Indigenous Peoples of Regional Preparatory Meeting for UNPFII

3.2 IKB Case Studies and Resource Papers

With the leftover funds from SwedBio, case studies and resource papers for the 3rd IKB Conference were commissioned. A total of 7 resource papers were commissioned, but only 6 were finally prepared. These were on Access and Benefit Sharing, Traditional Knowledge, Protected Areas, Forest Biodiversity, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action

Plan and Indicators. For the case studies, 10 cases were commissioned - two cases for each topic namely Inland Waters; Traditional Knowledge (language); Forest Biodiversity; Biodiversity and Tourism and Agriculture Biodiversity. These resource papers and case studies were presented at the 3rd IKB Conference and were also suggested to be presented at the forthcoming WG8(j) and COP9.

3.3 Publications

One picture of these various publications

Production of CBD Pamphlet – The IDM and SG worked on the production of the CBD pamphlet which was duly produced on time for the 3rd IKB Conference in Lijiang, China.

Publication of IPHR Report – The English version of the IPHR reports of Thailand, Nepal and Cambodia were published in June, and about 300 copies have been circulated. During the 6th Session of the PFII in May, a photocopied version of the reports were circulated as there were delays in coming up with the publication.

TIWDM Manual – 1000 copies of the TIWDM Manual also came out in June and are being distributed. UNDP-RIPP supported the finalization and printing of the Manual.

HRT Manual – As mutually agreed by both AIPP and the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) which is supporting the printing of the AIPP Manual, the finalization was postponed pending decisions of the UN General Assembly on the DRIP and the Human Rights Council on its mandate relating to indigenous peoples. Meanwhile, comments are being solicited from the OHCHR and other HR trainers.

4. Regional Capacity Building

This Programme is regional inter-peoples education and empowerment programme among indigenous peoples in Asia. The only activity thus far is a decade-long indigenous community organisers and leadership training (ICOLT) aimed at empowering indigenous communities and organisations to exercise collective rights and address their needs.

4.1 Regional Coordination

As soon as the new regional coordinator assumed her position in February, she went through an orientation of her duties. Then among the first tasks she had to do were to prepare for the second ICOLT Coordinating Committee (CC) meeting and the Regional Trainers Exchange Workshop which were planned for 23 - 25 May. Another major task of the Regional Coordinator (RC) was to finalise the Phase 1 proposal to be submitted to donors as the Pilot phase was coming to an end on 31st July, 2007 after the donors agreed to a one-month, no-cost extension. After the agreement to hold an evaluation of the Pilot Phase was made by the ICOLT CC in July, the RC subsequently had to prepare for the evaluation, which required careful preparation of logistics since it involves four countries and two evaluation teams. It also meant preparation of documents such as reports and budgets. In view of the amount of work required from such a new person, the RC did an excellent job, although she later encountered numerous challenges to raise funds for the Phase 1 activities. During this period, the COT lead trainer and SG mainly provided guidance, assisted by the other ICOLT CC. The RC attended the Leaders' Exchange programme in the Philippines in April, took part in the evaluation and conducted a monitoring visit to PACOS Trust, Sabah in November 2007.

4.2 Community Organisers and Leaders Training *One picture here*

The first six months of 2007 marked the end of the Community Organisers Training (COT) in Cambodia and the Leaders Training (LT) in Malaysia and Philippines respectively. The COT in Bangladesh could not be concluded because of the suspension of activities of the partner organization, Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha, but was eventually finalized in November 2007. Each area sent their evaluation, looking at both achievements/lessons learned and challenges. Among those identified by the project were:

Achievements, Lessons Learned

- LT - preliminary visit/training design, 2 ToTs, 6 LTs, and evaluation;
- COT – preliminary visit/training design, 2 ToTs, 2 COT and evaluation;
- Lead Trainers need to have sufficient time (6 months) to contact local partners to understand the local context and thus able to design the training according to the need of the organization;
- Local organisations also need sufficient time to be able to select suitable trainers and trainees especially for the COT (5-6 mths), localisation of materials and a dry run/practice for trainers;
- Sufficient funding to support partners, lead trainers administrative and communication needs;
- Commitment from lead trainers and local organisations to communicate with ICOLT RC;
- Exchanges were useful and developed close relations and learning among trainers and trainees;
- Materials were adapted and translated and there are written materials and audio-visuais;
- Need ongoing assessment in the form of quarterly reviews and reflections;
- Training methodologies need to be adapted based on situation;
- A local indigenous trainer is required, or if not possible, a non-IP trainer must emphasize with IPs and indigenous concepts. Local partners and lead trainers must maintain direct and ongoing assessment of the training team; and
- Links developed between partner organisation and other existing relevant training.

Challenges

- Follow-up, monitoring and evaluation on effectiveness of the Trainers, Leaders and Community Organisers;
- Ongoing threats to leaders and indigenous organisations by the military, police and intelligence;
- Security of funding;
- Insufficient reference materials (terms, process);
- Ability to respond to the needs of the communities in the training areas;
- Low formal education of trainers and trainees; and
- Establishing a Program or Unit within the partner organisation to ensure continuity of the COT/LT

One picture here of the Workshop or the Evaluation

4.4. Coordinating Committee Meeting/Regional Trainers Network Workshop

The AIPP Secretariat was mobilized to prepare and host the second meeting of the ICOLT CC and the Regional Trainers' Network Workshop (RTNW) from 12-15 May in Chiang Mai. Among the agenda discussed at the ICOLT CC was the forthcoming evaluation of the Pilot Phase; the proposal, fund-raising and starting date for the Phase 1; and a to prepare for the RTNW. At the RTNW, each of the teams from the four countries shared and evaluated their training programme, and held group discussions on lessons learned and recommendations for future training. A total of 33 participants were at the Workshop - an average of 5 persons per country team, 5 from the AIPP Secretariat, 2 lead trainers, 5 CC members and three representatives of partner organizations from the new areas in Phase 1. The RTNW also elaborated on its future plans for the Competence Centres and the trainers' network. A one-day field trip was also organized by the Secretariat to enable participants to interact with an indigenous community in Chiang Mai.

4.7 ICOLT Pilot Phase Evaluation in 4 countries (July 4 - 27)

Preparation for the end of the Pilot Phase evaluation started in early May with the drafting of the Terms of Reference and discussion at the ICOLT CC meeting to decide on the composition of the evaluation team, the programme and budget. The field evaluation was held in July, for a total of three weeks, including planning meeting, field visits and finalization of report. The evaluation teams were composed of Christian Erni of IWGIA, Jannie Lasimbang of AIPP, Atina Gangmei (ICOLT Regional Coordinator), the two Regional Lead Trainers – Claudia Lasimbang for the Community Organizers Training and Elvira Taguba for the Leaders Training, and two external evaluators – Joan Carling of CPA and Shimreichon Luithui of IKAP. Two evaluation teams were formed, each team covering one COT and LT project areas of Bangladesh, Cambodia, Malaysia and Philippines. The objective was to evaluate all the activities of the project and analyze the outcomes, impacts and lessons learned during the project implementation. Some initial findings, analysis and recommendations were presented and discussed with the local partners during the evaluation process. The final recommendations of the evaluation report was prepared and presented and incorporated into the next Phase project implementation.

The impact of the project as concluded in the evaluation was very positive and overwhelming. The capacity of the trainees as well as trainers has been extensively increased. The trainees have been able to raise the level of community awareness on various issues directly confronting them such as violation of their rights to socio-economic privileges, marginalization of their cultural identity, and exploitation of their lands and resources etc. Through the mobilization activities carried out by the ICOLT trainees, the community began to unite themselves, support and cooperate with each other in their

effort to address their problems and issues collectively. For instance as a result of the training in Sabah, Malaysia, leaders were able to take action by mobilizing a protest to the government, after which the plan to establish an oil-palm plantation was cancelled. There was improvement in the trainers' skill of facilitation, public speaking and community organizing work. They had also developed more confidence in giving training. The trainees trained in the LT and COT increased their self-confidence, and became pro-active in their respective communities. In Cambodia, a particularly important impact was the election of a CO trainee as the Chief of the Commune Council (a local government body). In addition to this, 6 trainees including 2 women also contested in the Commune Council election. The other significant impact was the enthusiasm and strong commitment of the trainers and trainees to continue community organizing work and promote indigenous leadership. Overall it was concluded that the Pilot Phase was a great success producing multiplying effects to indigenous peoples' organizations and communities at large. Having being proven effective and beneficial to the indigenous communities and its organizations, the new Phase 1 was launched in September 2007 for 6 indigenous local partners in 5 countries with ICCO and IWGIA co-financing the core budget.

5. Campaign and Policy Advocacy

This Programme is aimed at using the experiences of indigenous representatives in campaigns and policy advocacy at the national and international level to share with organisations that need support in bringing about legal and policy change on indigenous rights at national and international level. Activities involve the preparation of indigenous human rights report to manifest the situation for promotion of their rights and organizing an inter-peoples exchange on policy advocacy.

5.1 Policy Advocacy Workshop (Chiang Mai, 10 – 14 July)

One picture here of the Workshop

The Second Strategic Policy Advocacy workshop was organized at Roong Aroon Resort, in Chiang Mai from 10 -14 July 2007. Forty two indigenous representatives attended the workshop from Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Northeast India and India, Indonesia, Cambodia, Burma, Malaysia, Taiwan, Nepal and Philippines. Participants were identified by their respective indigenous organization. The themes of the workshop were “**Autonomy, Globalisation and Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Women**”. The themes were identified during the first policy advocacy workshop in Sabah, Malaysia. Among the activities connected to the preparation of the Workshop were the selection of participants identified by their respective organizations participant, respecting gender balance, expertise and providing opportunity for young indigenous leaders; preparation of logistical arrangements, program and related documents with local host, Hmong Development Association, Thailand; preparation of background papers relating to the themes of the workshop. During the Workshop, participants shared their experiences and information about national policies and practices of their respective countries. While analyzing policies and practices of various countries relating to indigenous peoples, they identified gaps and issues as well as formulated strategies and action plans. A cultural night was also organized to share each others’ cultures and the fourth day was assigned for field visit to visit Hmong Village to observe their society and way of life.

The objectives of the Policy Advocacy workshop is to exchange experiences and create a common platform for advocating rights of indigenous peoples at local level, presenting an overview of the trend and challenges/gaps in recognizing rights of indigenous rights of indigenous peoples, identifying priority areas, formulating strategies and action plan to advocate for policy change in order to address gaps and challenges. The foreseen goals were found to be the line with the objectives of the workshop because the thirty four indigenous representatives were able to share trends, challenges and gaps of policy framework of their respective countries focusing international legal framework. They collectively formulated strategies and action plans that are being used as a tool for advocacy by indigenous organizations who participated in the workshop. Some of the weaknesses were however found in the areas where participants could not distinguish between national policies, laws and programmes in their respective countries. This not only reflected a lack of preparation but also lack of clarity and information available. Policy advocacy work is also very difficult to achieve in the short term.

One positive aspect is the follow-up from the “autonomy” theme where one of the participants from Taiwan was able to mobilize sufficient interests to organize a community workshop and in which the project coordinator was invited to make presentation. The theme on “Indigenous Peoples and Globalisation” was also very concrete in its approach

but because the issues are broad, it would take much more than one workshop to achieve the desired results. The results have to be promoted aggressively.

5.2 Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Reports

One picture here of the IPHR Publication or from the people doing the Report?

This year the three countries selected to prepare the Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights (IPHR) country reports are Indonesia, Vietnam and Bangladesh. During this period, the AIPP Secretariat, mainly through the CPAC, identified the lead organization to conduct the preparation of the IPHR reports to ensure that the reports complies with requirements and standards established by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples to which the report will be submitted to in November 2007. An additional USD3,000 was also approved by the AIPP Executive Council to supplement the grant from the European Commission for the IPHR reports, which is insufficient. There was a serious delay in finalizing the reports and to date, the reports from Vietnam, Bangladesh and Indonesia are still being edited.

As mentioned earlier under 3.3. *Publications*, an English version of the IPHR reports from Cambodia, Nepal and Thailand were compiled into a book, published and being distributed. 100 copies of the unpublished reports were also distributed at the 6th Session of the PFII in May 2007 in New York.

5.3 Urgent Appeals

Observing and receiving information on human rights violation cases in Asia region, the AIPP Human Rights and Advocacy Committee (HRAC) decided to take possible action against such cases in 2006. The information sheet that was developed and circulated earlier continued to be used and a number of information on human rights violation were received during this period. AIPP sent urgent appeals in such cases in Bangladesh, India, Philippines and Cambodia. To make the human rights monitoring process more effective, a proposal is also being made to the HRAC to establish an indigenous lawyers' networking within AIPP.

6. Organizational Strengthening

This Programme is aimed at building greater collective leadership within AIPP through the Executive Council and the different Committees set up to oversee the implementation of the programmes and activities set by the General Assembly. It will also strengthen cooperation AIPP members and contacts and build collective ownership by encouraging active participation.

6.1 Executive Council

One picture here of the EC meeting?

The Executive Council (EC) meeting was held at the AIPP Secretariat from June 1 – 3, with all the EC members present except Alastair Bodra (representative for India/Nepal). The agenda discussed included an assessment of AIPP's activities and challenges since October 2006; Secretariat and EC Reports; Sub-Regional Consultations (SRC) 2007/2008; AIPP 5th General Assembly; Membership application; review of the Charter and Working Guidelines; review of the CMLN project; and support for EC members. Among the decisions of the EC meeting were the fixing of the dates of the 5th AIPP General Assembly in July 2008, and a Regional Fair celebrating the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and AIPP's 16th anniversary.

As part of the preparation for the General Assembly, the EC will collate all the results of the SRC's and use it to evaluate the organization and to do a strategic plan for the next term from 2008 – 2010. This evaluation/strategic planning is scheduled in April 2008 and will also double up as the next EC meeting. Between EC meetings, members also communicated actively by email and made decisions on several issues including requests for support under the AIPP Fund and deciding the dates and preparations for the SRCs.

6.2 Board Meeting

The Board Meeting was held on March 19 2007, attended by all board members. In line with its functions, the Board discussed about AIPP's political status, its advice in the effective management of its finances and also provided suggestions on the smooth functioning of the Secretariat. At the meeting, the Board also provided advise and support on the scouting process for the new SG (2008 – 2012) together with the EC members responsible for this, and requested the FM to produce relevant information documents to enable the Board to make informed analysis of the AIPP overall financial situation.

6.3 Committee Meetings

6.3.1 ICOLT Coordinating Committee Meeting

The second ICOLT Coordinating Committee was held in Chiang Mai on 16 May 2007 to discuss mainly about the evaluation of the Pilot Phase and the launch for Phase 1. Members included the AIPP lead trainers, Ms. Claudia Lasimbang and Ms. Jill Carino, ICOLT Regional Coordinator and representatives of the current partners.

6.3.2 Indigenous Knowledge and Biodiversity Committee (IKBC) Meeting

The IKBC members consisting of Ms. Luong Thi Troung, Mr. Gam Shimray, Mr. Martanis Mail, Ms. Kamonphan Saelee and the SG, and two new members, Ms. Sirjana Subba and Mr. Mutharom met in Lijiang, China from June 25 – 26, 2007. Ms. Des Amos and Mr. Dipujjal Khisa could not attend due to visa problems, while Mr. Shwe Myo Thant does not have a passport. During the meeting, the IKBC assessed and decided on the following:

- Recruit a new Project Manager to replace Mr. Dammar Rai who has resigned from his post. In the meantime, the SG will take on any urgent tasks;

- Planned for the next one year programme, with particular emphasis on advocacy at the CBD and Climate Change processes;
- To step up the information and dissemination of materials;
- To launch a training programme on CBD national implementation in October 2007, with an initial activity of developing the training curriculum in August 2007; and
- To hold the 4th IKB Conference in 2009 and to be jointly organized again by the IA, IKAP and AIPP.

One picture here of any of the 3 Committee meetings?

6.3.3 Youth Programme Committee Meeting

The AIPP Executive Council, having understood the need for an expanded committee from the small group coordinating the projects, decided in October 2006 to form the Youth Programme Committee (YPC). Benjamin Tongpoeng, AIPP Administrative Manager, was appointed staff-in-charge and Adrian Lasimbang, Executive Council-in-charge of the Committee. Members were sought and those selected includes Ms. Mane Yun (youth-Cambodia), Ms. Sadia Drong (youth-Bangladesh) and Mr. Vic Saway (Elder – Philippines). There is ongoing identification and selection for another two representatives.

The YPC met in **November 2007** for two days to assess the YED and plan future activities. The YPC felt that although the concept of the YED as it was originally conceived i.e to find out the reasons for the gaps between youth and elders in indigenous societies, most of the activities ended up also a session to transfer certain knowledge from elders to youths. It was also observed that most of the youths who came to these dialogues were those who were already concerned about the existing need for intergenerational transfer of indigenous knowledge, and failed to reach youths who have lost their interests in learning such knowledge. As such, it was concluded that this should be the focus in the next steps for the Youth Programme. In the beginning, the YED was left to the organizations to choose their topics but the last two years, the core group decided to make thematic focus such as women (2006), traditional economic system (2007).

6.3.4 HRAC Meeting – 10 & 11 July, 2007 (Chiang Mai)

The seven member HRAC met to discuss 13 agenda within the two days. Reports for the 2006-2007 was presented by the Campaign and Policy Advocacy Coordinator and some of the other HRAC members including the IPHR reports, organizing of the PFII/HRC, coordinating advocacy at HR fora, HRT, Policy Advocacy Workshop and Urgent Appeals. Challenges and recommendations were made for each activity in a detailed manner, as each of the members is an expert in these fields. The most problematic activity is the Urgent Appeal as AIPP does not have the expertise or time to ensure that information are well-verified. It was confirmed that for the following year, these activities will be continued. A new activity, the establishment of an Indigenous Lawyers' Network was also discussed and approved. The HRAC also recommended the celebration of the World's Indigenous Peoples Day at the regional level.

6.3.5 IEC Meeting – 11 September, 2007 (Nepal)

Six members of the IEC met to review past activities as well as plan for the coming year. Although there are no specific activities of the IEC, it managed to tap the resources within AIPP to ensure the promotion of indigenous economic concepts of sustainable use of resources, reciprocity and social responsibility, apart from also understanding the impact of the market economy on indigenous peoples. Among the activities are a focus on indigenous economy under the Youth-Elders Dialogue (2007) and the Internship programme (2007). For 2007 -2008, it was decided that the IEC would be responsible for the preparation of the next ID Conference as it is directly related to the Committee's work.

One picture here of any of the 2 Committee meetings?

6.3.6 GC Meeting – 29 September 2007 (Chiang Mai)

Although the Gender Committee (GC) only met for a day, the six members who were present went through ten agendas. The four members who were unable to attend were also informed through the minutes of the meeting. Among the issues discussed were the confirmation of members of the GC, review of the six planned activities and a planning for the next four years. The activities reviewed included the TIWDM, Manual for the TIWDM, country exchanges and documentation of Herstories and report and review of three activities namely the Youth-Elder Dialogues on Women conducted by two organizations, theme on “Indigenous Women” during the Policy Advocacy Workshop 2006/2007, and the Indigenous Development Conference 2006/2007. Activities are done under various programme of AIPP as there is no specific women programme in AIPP. The GC recommended to establish a new “Women Programme” in the next AIPP General Assembly in July 2008.

Among the activities recommended are the continuation of the TIWDM, monitoring of women’s participation in international processes, to study the implementation of the UNDRIP with respect to women, organising a regional workshop on “Policy Advocacy on Indigenous Women” and organize Dialogues for Change” and to provide input to the ID Conference and the Youth Elders Dialogue. The “Dialogue for Change” is envisaged to involve leaders and women in a dialogue for the reformation of traditional institutional structure which is discriminatory to women. It was planned to involve TIWDM trainers in conducting studies of society where the condition of women has improved, prepare guides for the studies, commission two cases per year followed by a publication of reports from every country involved in the study. Another dialogue was envisaged between men and women on the sharing of household responsibilities.

6.3.7 CMLN Advisory Committee Meetings – 8 & 17 December, 2007 (Chiang Mai)

Because of the difficulty in bringing the committee members together, the CMLN Advisory Committee (AC) met into two parts in December. As the phase 1 of the project was coming to an end, the AC deliberated in details on the project, in particular it reviewed the project goals and objectives by assessing achievements, impacts and outputs of project to date. Another major agenda was a review of the project management including AC decisions and processes, project coordination, local/site coordination, management committee, technical support provided to the sites, and project networking, monitoring and reporting. The AC also planned for the subsequent year (2008), looking at how the project implementation was envisaged and the strategic directions. It also looked at the performance of the coordinators and the programme of the forthcoming 3rd CMLN Regional Workshop in the Philippines.

Among the main issues discussed was the whether the CMLN project will continue under AIPP or look for a new host organization. The AC made some recommendations to the AIPP EC and forthcoming General Assembly to consider establishing a new programme within AIPP where the CMLN will have a higher profile (at the moment, it is located under the Advocacy and Networking Programme), if it were so decided by AIPP and the partners to continue to come under AIPP.

6.4 Secretariat Functioning

6.4.1. Administration and Finance

The main task of the Finance Manager (FM) at the beginning of 2007 was to finalise the 2006 Financial Reports and to submit them to the auditor. With the audited report finalized in March, she sent the reports to donor and also reported at the AIPP Board and Executive

Council meetings, as well as in other specific committees/staff that required a financial report such as the ICOLT and CMLN coordinators. She also prepared income tax returns for the staff and AIPP, and prepared monthly and quarterly financial reports for each of the projects. Accounts for one-off projects like the Communal Land Conference/Asia UNPFII Regional Prepmeeting and 3rd IKB Conference were also finalized and closed. Regular follow up on the financial reports and budgets of partners is also required from the FM, for both the CMLN project (with partners from Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia); and the ICOLT project (with partners from Malaysia, Philippines and Bangladesh). From time to time, she also did the reimbursements during conferences such as the Policy Advocacy Workshop and other meetings that happened in Chiang Mai.

The Administrative Manager (AM) in 2007 continued with his main task of preparing the Annual Report to be sent to the government as part of a requirement for Foundations in Thailand and office maintenance. To maintain the secretariat, the AM is responsible for office supplies, computer maintenance (including setting up of the AIPP computers network and printer-sharing, arranging email addresses for new staff; updating E-mail address), and maintaining the library, as well as ensuring reports are sent to donors in a timely manner. He is also responsible in organising the local logistics and ticket bookings for all AIPP meetings held in Chiang Mai and assisting other coordinators in contacting participants as well as the holding of monthly staff meetings.

The Finance and Administrative Assistant (FAA) generally assists the FM and AM in their duties, but is also responsible for other tasks, in particular, she is charged with the application, renewal or cancellation of work permit of AIPP staff. This is an arduous task with some policy change and time taken to secure the letters from various ministries. The FAA is also tasked with filing and backing up electronic files and physical files.

6.4.2 Staff and Staff Consultation

One picture here of a staff meeting (we can also pose!)

In the first six months of 2007, three new staff joined the Secretariat (Information Dissemination Manager- Mr. Chin Khan Muan, ICOLT Regional Coordinator – Ms. Atina Gangmei and Project Manager – Mr. Dammar Rai), while one left (CMLN co-coordinator). Efforts to replace the CMLN co-coordinator took quite a while and the new assistant coordinator only started in November. Then after undergoing a 3-month probation period, the PM decided to resign on June 2007 based on mutual agreement that he is not suited for the post. The IKBC decided not to re-advertise the position but select from previous applicants. The new PM joined AIPP in October and in the meantime, the SG is responsible for the interim administration of the projects. Staff meetings continued to be held once a month as a mechanism for staff to update each other and for inter-programme coordination. All staff submits their monthly workplan to the SG and share with other staff. Starting 2007, formal weekly staff consultations with the SG was initiated to discuss about tasks and direction. Informal consultations/discussions also happen regularly over email or in the office. The staff welcomes these consultations and have made this a regular mechanism.

6.5 Fund Raising

Fund-raising for the various programmes and activities are done mainly by the SG (except for the CMLN project which was raised by Jeremy from McKnight Foundation and Misereor), although the responsibility is in fact envisaged for the programme coordinators. Funding for some of the projects have fortunately been raised from same donors that have made commitments towards supporting ongoing activities such as the TIWDM (UNDP-RIPP), Information Management & Dissemination (IWGIA, ICCO & SSNC), Campaign and

Policy Advocacy (European Commission), ICOLT (IWGIA, ICCO), HRT (SSNC, EC), CMLN (SwedBio) and Core Funding (IWGIA, ICCO & SSNC), making it easier on the staff. More efforts are being taken for the programme coordinators to build the capacity to carry out fund-raising by holding training and working as a team. The Secretariat also does consultancies, documentation and project assistance to certain groups as a way to raise funds. Such effort was rather successful and recommended to continue.

6.6 AIPP Internal Evaluation and Preparation for SRC

In June 2007, the EC decided to conduct an internal evaluation process of the Programme and Activities of AIPP between the period January 2004 and December 2007 i.e. between 4th and 5th General Assembly. Since there was no funding allocated for this, the SG proposed a process that could involve as many people as possible but taking into consideration the realistic amount of time that all concerned may be able to provide input. This involved the drawing of a simple table in October 2007 and sent to the staff, Committees, EC and Sub-Regional Consultations (SRCs) to complete. The table outlined all the activities within each of the seven AIPP Programmes, focusing on the assessment on three aspects namely Participation of indigenous representatives or organizations; their Impact; and the Process used. In December, the SG collated and edited the information in the Programme Evaluation table and circulated it to the EC for final comments before transmitting them to the SRCs to be discussed by between January – April 2008.

The SG also prepared another table, the Strategic Programme Evaluation table immediately after the Programme Evaluation table by identifying strategic concerns of AIPP. With the completion of the Programme Evaluation and the Strategic Programme Evaluation, another table was then prepared to address the critical issues and needs identified. This was the Strategic Programme Planning (2009 – 2012) which outlined 7 (new and old) programmes for approval at the 5th GA:

1. Campaign and Policy Advocacy
2. Regional Capacity Building
3. Research and Information Dissemination
4. Networking and Organisational Strengthening
5. Youth and Intergenerational Transfer of Indigenous Knowledge
6. Indigenous Women
7. Indigenous Knowledge and Biodiversity

7. Youth Programme

The Youth Programme wants to address the immense concern at the growing gap between youths and elders in indigenous societies to promote mutual respect. The main activity on the short-term are dialogues between youths and elders aimed at helping communities to work together in the intergenerational transfer of knowledge and values and to foster greater understanding that will ensure continuity of indigenous identity among youths.

I leave it to you to make the best picture selection

7.1 Youth-Elders Dialogues

In 2007, four dialogues were held namely by the PACOS-Malaysia, Pena Kalbar – Indonesia, Bangladeshi Adivasi Forum-Bangladesh, Naga Women Union of Manipur-Northeast India and DKK-Philippines.

7.1.1 ITEC of IMPECT-Thailand

In 2006, the Youth Programme Committee approved the application from the Inter Tribal Youth Education and Culture (ITEC) of IMPECT Association, Thailand but they had to be postponed to 2007. ITEC organized Youth-Elders Dialogues (YED) in two villages. The first dialogue took place in Baanmairungtawee village, Payao province from 28-31 March 2007, while the second dialogue took place in Baanongkiow, Chiang Mai province from 2-5 April 2007.

The dialogues focused on inter-generational transfer of knowledge on traditional music, crafts, ceremony, history and ways of life. It was also an opportunity for youth capacity building and sharing on leadership, network building, HIV/AIDs, drug addiction and human rights. 147 indigenous representatives, including 9 community elders, 23 women and 7 community leaders, attended the dialogues.

The dialogues were conducted by have open discussions and group learning on traditional music, crafts, ceremony, history and ways of life. Inputs and sharing on leadership, network building, human rights, HIV/AIDs and drug addiction/abuse were facilitated by resource persons from IMPECT and an official from the local government. In between sessions, participants relax and learn indigenous games at the same time. At the end of each dialogue, there were group presentations and exhibitions. Participants found these activities and dialogues critical in bridging inter-generational gaps, and helped many youths to value their traditional life.

7.1.2 Naga Women's Union of Manipur (NWUM)

In 2006, the NWUM requested for USD3,000 to hold two dialogues and after examining their request, the Committee decided to approve this request. The first dialogue was held from December 12 – 15, 2006 but was not reported because the narrative and financial report came late. The second dialogue was held last year from November 13 – 15, 2007.

The 3-day youth-elders dialogue for Northeast India organized from December 12 – 15, 2006 involved 24 participants from eleven tribes. The dialogue started with a discussion on the issues faced by youth and elders. Each tribe identified a long list of problems faced by both sides, but were summarized into four core issues namely unity, quality education, drug/alcoholism, leadership and customary practices. More analyses were done in group discussions on these issues and the remedies that can be taken by the community to

overcome these problems. Although the dialogue did not really focus on intergenerational transfer of knowledge on indigenous systems, the workshops managed to dwell in some details on this, apart from the generation gaps. Participants also enjoyed cultural sharing throughout the dialogue.

Another Youth-Elders Dialogue was organised by NWUM from November 13 – 15 2007 in Imphal, Manipur in Northeast India. There were 15 participants (7 men and 8 women), including students and unemployed youths; and elders working with the government, NGOs or community organisations. The attendance was poorer than expected because it coincided with the harvest season and heavy rainfall that caused a number of landslides. The focus of the dialogue centred on bridging the gap between youths and elders due to the lack of clarity on developmental concepts. Youth and elders had the opportunity to discuss and come up with a process that will improve relationships and mutual understanding. These among others include joint research on customary laws, exposure visits and for indigenous organisations to have a clear vision, mission and goals. There were also discussions to reduce environmental pollution and corruption which are seen as major local issues.

7.1.3 PACOS-Malaysia

A one-day Youth-Elders Dialogue was held in Sabah, Malaysia on August 6, 2007 focusing on the problems of inter-generational transfer of knowledge on traditional songs, music and food. Twenty indigenous representatives, including resource persons (3 men and 3 women), coming from diverse ethnic groups (Kadazan, Dusun, Sungai and Murut) participated in the Dialogue which also doubled up as a workshop to share their traditional songs, stories, music and food.

The dialogue was conducted by posing three questions and providing opportunity to all participants to respond. The three questions: (i) according to your experience, are the skills possessed by the elders being passed to the new generation; (ii) are the elders aware of the challenges and are they ready to impart or transferring their knowledge to the youths, (iii) what are some of the challenges for young people in learning traditional songs or crafts. Among the key needs and issues raised for question (i) are patience, constant practice, mastering the mother tongue, openness to share knowledge, influence of modern cultures, abundance of cheap and modern crafts and materials. For question (ii), the issues raised included difficulty of children to find time to learning from elders, loss of natural environment for learning as well as the socio-cultural environment eg shared meals, festivals, drinking sessions.

No matter how advance the world is now, traditional knowledge must not be forgotten. The different species in our surroundings have their own value and it is of prime importance that the knowledge of these should be inherited by our children.

Unsing, Elder from Sabah

On question (iii), some youths identified the fear of being scolded or beaten when they make a mistake, or that parents do not trust them to go along with them on hunting expeditions or allow them to do certain work. The elders pointed out that some may not bring young people to hunt for fear of scaring the animals or that they may not bring them to collect sacred medicines. Elders may also get frustrated when young people do not show passion to learn songs. They also said that elders should respect and trust their children by letting them complete certain safe tasks

7.1.4 Perkumpulan PENA – Indonesia

The YED in Indonesia was conducted in a remote area in the Niut Mountain area bordering Indonesia and Malaysia in Kalimantan, in the Island of Borneo. Perkumpulan PENA organized the dialogue on 18 & 19 July, 2007 in Jangkak village which was attended by 47 indigenous representatives from 7 villages. Among the issues discussed were on the role of youths in the village, customary laws and leaders, the identification of customs and the seeming loss of customs among the youths and how it can be revitalized. It was also an opportunity for traditional and religious (indigenous) leaders to share about customary laws to participants. It was felt however that women's participation in the meeting was minimal because they were relegated to preparing food for the YED!

During the Dialogue, it was identified that 6 main customary practices have been lost due to gaps in the inter-generational transfer of knowledge. It was therefore agreed by all present that these practices should be revitalized as long as they do not contradict religious values. As a follow-up, the youths decided to divide into 7 groups to write the village history and customs to be presented and evaluated at the end of 2007.

7.1.5 Bangladeshi Adivasi Forum - Bangladesh

A three-day national-level dialogue was held in Modhupur, Bangladesh from 25 – 27 October, 2007 which included presentations, dialogues, exposure and a cultural programme. Seventy-five participants, mostly youths with more than half women, were present at the dialogue representing 16 indigenous organizations.

The first theme on the problems in bridging the gap between youth and elders, a number of issues were identified including many youths and even elders are not speaking their indigenous language, the fact that youths are too preoccupied with deciding on a career and future, and the gap in the expectations for example many elders wants the young generation to be grateful to them. For the second theme, it started with five short presentations by youth leaders followed by comments from elders, comparing their struggle then and now, and established a consensus on the need to revitalize indigenous knowledge systems. The exposure programme was also useful to understanding the issues currently faced by the three communities visited and how women, men, youths and elders can come together to contribute to the development of their society as a whole. An interesting cultural programme which also included a debate on "*youths are responsible for the gap between elders and youth*" was apparently well-received.

Among the recommendations for future actions made during the national dialogue were proposals to hold similar interactive dialogues in different regions of Bangladesh, recognition of indigenous social institutions, support youth to choose their occupations and livelihoods, organizing youth cross-cultural programmes, promoting youth leadership and to ensure youths are involved in drafting national youth policies.

7.1.6 DKK-Philippines

The YED organized by the Cordillera Cultural Organisation (DKK) from March 16 – 19, 2008 in Licuan, Abra was attended mainly by youths (ages 15 – 20:28%, 21 – 30: 26%) who are mostly studying in Baguio City. The elders (ages 41-50:10%, 51-60:18% and 61-70:3%) are from several communities who are knowledgeable on the tribal wars in the Cordillera and the process of conducting peace pacts. The dialogue was focused on helping to maintain peace in the region and to campaign for the end of tribal wars. Among the activities conducted were informal sharing between the youth and elders, group and panel discussions, film showing, interviews during house-to-house visits and drafting a resolution.

Both youths and elders reflected on why the tribal wars have continued and in fact became worst. It was realized that many of the conflicts were due to clash over shrinking natural resources, as more and more resources in the Cordillera were misappropriated to companies for mining and dams. There are also other elements such as criminal and anti-social activities, infirmities in the Philippine justice system as well as military and para-military involvement. A traditional peace pact or *bodong*, which provides for mutual respect of territory, property, life and honour is recognized as a way of ending or preventing tribal wars.

The 3-day dialogue was considered long for the elders, while the youths enjoyed the singing, playing games much more and was hard to bring them together for discussions. The youths expressed the need to broaden the campaign to end tribal wars and made a resolution, song and script to ensure they keep close touch with the elders to do so. The understanding of the campaign by the youths is considered a seed that can help forge peaceful relationships between different tribes who are currently in conflict, and it was recommended to organize more fora, discussion and community integration as well as cultural exchanges.

7.2 Future Activities of the Youth Programme

For its priorities in 2008 – 2012, the Youth Programme Committee at its meeting on November 2007, decided on the following plan of action:

1. Continue the YED but target indigenous youths who are considered uninterested in indigenous systems;
2. Organise a Youth conference once in two year (2009 and 2012). (note: 30 years and below are considered youth). These will be a follow-up from the YED and will target youths who have developed interests to learn.
3. Provide Scholarship for 5 or 6 youths a year (also selected from those who attended the YED based on interest shown) to be placed in another community to learn together with the host organisation. Scholarship will be given for 6 weeks. Hosting of these youths for the first 2 years will be by Panagtagbo-Mindanao (Philippines, 2008) and with the Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (Cambodia, 2009).
4. Encourage youth participation in international or regional conferences by linking with other programmes of AIPP.

It is anticipated that for the period 2008 – 2012, the Youth Programme activities will continue to be linked with the Indigenous Development Conference and to merge into a new programme “Youth and Knowledge Transfer” which will be forwarded to the 5th AIPP General Assembly for adoption and subsequent implementation.

7.3 Overall Assessment of Youth Programme

Over the past 3 years, the Programme managed to hold 14 YED and one Youth Programme Committee meetings as follows:

I suggest making a graphic of the following (no need to do this – will ask Colin)

2005 - Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, Mongolia and SPNS, Peninsular Malaysia

2006 - Naga Women's Union, Manipur (North East India), Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (Cambodia), Shan Youth Association (Thailand), Chin Women Organisation (Kuala Lumpur), Nationalities Youth Forum (Thailand), and APIYN, (Philippines).

2007 - ITEC/IMPECT (Thailand), PACOS Trust (Sabah, Malaysia) Pena Kalbar, (Indonesia), Bangladeshi Adivasi Forum (Bangladesh), Naga Women's Union, Manipur (North East India), and DKK (Philippines).

The process used was to:

- (i) send out the concept paper widely to call for proposal/ Identification of an IPO to organize the YED;
- (ii) review of Proposal by the AIPP Youth Programme Committee and make suggestions where necessary or give approval.
- (iii) conduct of the Dialogue and Reporting
- (iv) AIPP review the narrative and financial report.

The impact of the YED was that in some areas, the YED concept was not adhered to but generally, it has helped understand the inter-generational gap with respect to indigenous systems and helped build capacity of youths. The YED also created a lot of interest among indigenous organisations and provided better understanding of the situation of youths in many countries. It also helped plan a future programme that will make indigenous societies more cohesive. The YED also helped facilitate linkages between the different AIPP programmes and activities such as the Regional Capacity Building, women and the Indigenous Development Conferences.

Project proposal review and support was not smooth because there were no personnel to implement the project. Both the AIPP SG and Administrative Manager did their best to coordinate the implementation of the YED. Having a programme coordinator is especially important in the next stage where the Youth Programme Committee has decided on four different components for the Programme, and the need for fund raising for the activities.

8. LESSONS LEARNED AND ANALYSIS IMPACT OF AIPP'S WORK IN 2007

8.1 Lessons Learned

Language and societal barrier – indigenous peoples often get marginalised in society because of their education and status in society. This may even transcend within networking among indigenous peoples themselves. The level of understanding on issues and language barriers of indigenous peoples from different countries differ and those who are not familiar with English as a lingua franca in the region would be left out. An open self-identification process will not work in Asia, as those who do not speak English will not come forward. Organising regional activities must allow equal representation, and allocation of interpreters. Many times regional meetings would have successfully brought indigenous representatives from Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand and Burma but failed to make an impact because either the interpreters are absent or not interpreting well. Funding for interpreters is a must.

Conceptual issues – In Laos, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Yunnan, Vietnam, Thailand and Burma, promotion of indigenous rights are hampered by the use of the term “ethnic minorities” by government and even NGOs and IPOs themselves. This confuses indigenous peoples in fully appreciating their rights as recognised by the United Nations. In other countries like Bangladesh, India and Japan, the refusal by governments to accept the existence of indigenous peoples can be a major political issue.

Gender Issues – Because of years of discrimination, women may lack the experience to represent communities or organisations at the regional or international level. Over the past 8 years, AIPP's insistence on having gender balanced representation has paid off and this is now an accepted policy, although it may still be a factor in new indigenous organisations and because of constraints of funds and language.

Information Dissemination - Translation of information in the national languages read and spoken by the indigenous peoples gives more opportunity to understand issues such as carbon trading, and other environmental issues related to indigenous peoples at the local level. It has also been suggested that a Committee be set up to oversee information dissemination so it can accommodate more activities and could be executed better. There is also a need for resources to do a strategic evaluation of AIPP's governance and determine its strategic direction.

Coordination and networking - While AIPP has already set a very good network which is highly praised in the region and is doing systematic regional coordination, regular turnover of staff at the AIPP Secretariat level and at the national and local level makes it necessary for constant human resource development. This objective is quite difficult to completely achieve because of the constant changes within organisations. At the AIPP Secretariat level, this may mean hiring an assistant to the Secretary General while it may mean raising remuneration and benefits to reduce the high turnover of its staff. At the national and local level, the need to identify good focal points or deciding to put enough focus or resources for regional networking would be necessary.

8.2 Political, Societal and Environmental Impact

Political impact of AIPP projects is seen from the improved understanding and appreciation on networking in the region and internationally and particularly by indigenous peoples from Cambodia, Laos, Timor Leste, Vietnam and Yunnan. The interaction and information dissemination also helped to enhance the understanding of their rights, bring up issues related to indigenous peoples to be studied and advocated at the international

level. In terms of socio-cultural relationships in society, the staff of the Secretariat in Chiang Mai particularly benefit from the interaction between them and the people they work with directly in their respective projects. Holding conferences in different countries like Cambodia, Yunnan, Thailand and Nepal not only provided the participants the opportunity to promote understanding among themselves but also to meet communities during their field visits.

Since some of the AIPP programmes focuses on the environment, this has involved a significant sharing of experiences on environmental protection using indigenous knowledge and change in attitude. It is also hope that the many recommendations and actions focused on issues related to mega projects that affect the environment and lives of indigenous peoples directly would have made an impact locally. At the international level, the efforts to change policies and maintain standards in all countries on human, cultural and environmental rights for indigenous peoples have some results from the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and this is now translated into further efforts at the national level to implement the UNDRIP, CBD and other international instruments and mechanisms.

8.3 Processes to Share

Information Dissemination – The translation partnership as a decentralised mechanism enables maximising resources and efforts. Partnerships are made with local organisations or individuals to translate certain materials distributed by AIPP. Partners can choose relevant topics that are of interest in their own countries, translate them and send it directly to their contacts. This way, information is shared electronically without the AIPP Secretariat worrying about the diverse language scripts and for dissemination to be done locally depending on the situation, either electronically or in printed version if the communities have poor access to internet.. It is possible to achieve smooth transfer of information relevant to the indigenous peoples of the region on a daily basis, make available various information in major Asian languages, and also ensure the availability of quick reference of information in the AIPP website. However, to achieve the objectives completely, the AIPP Information Dissemination Manager needs more experience in coordinating the translation network to ensure that it reaches indigenous peoples at the local level, and to deepen his understanding of a wide range of issues. There is a thus a need for more allocation for this particular work and for an active committee to check the accuracy of the information he summarises.

Email List Distribution is an alternative to popular listserves. Many people spend little time on the internet or navigate through websites and would find it cumbersome to get discussion mails in their inboxes. As such, sending summarised and select information through an email distribution list is less cumbersome and avoid information overload.

Networking – Formation of Committees and specialisation of organisations/representatives are important ways to ensure good and regular representations in fora and activities. The AIPP Committees provides direction to staff, and assess and plan activities, apart from encouraging voluntary commitments from expert individuals from the region. As indigenous peoples as asked to be represented in a growing number of international fora, there is a danger of certain individuals and organisations being overloaded. The encouragement for them to specialise would not only help the organisation/person, but also smoothens communication when a roster of experts/specialised persons are made and mechanisms for selection become less contentious. In general, the lessons learnt is that the organisations that AIPP serves are always shifting and the needs are growing as more and more IPOs are established. There is always a need to do more and the AIPP

Secretariat needs to document its experiences so new people who takes over would have a good basic to start with. There is also a constant need to evaluate its work and to interact and coordinate more and more with its partners, whether they are translation partners; Executive Council, Board and Committee members; or its ordinary members and contacts. Ongoing staff development and staff welfare is also important to build their commitment and skills. A strong need to provide assistance to the Secretary General in the administrative work was also identified, so that she will have the time to commit her time to political duties.

8.4 Contribution to Strengthening of Civil Society Organisations

The project which supports core funding of AIPP will directly contribute to strengthening of the Secretariat staff. Indirectly, the ongoing work of the AIPP Secretary General and staff to coordinate indigenous peoples organizations (IPOs) in Asia to meet regularly, facilitate preparations and participation in UN meetings and to provide relevant information and support capacity building activities will contribute towards strengthening of IPOs and networks in the region.

In the longer term, core funding support will definitely build AIPP's capacity as a grassroots organization to serve its constituencies. It is already observed that Asia indigenous representatives are contributing in an exemplary way because of the preparatory meeting and have a strong platform at the UN to advocate the rights of indigenous peoples. The fact that governments in Asia are also among the worst when it comes to respecting the rights of indigenous peoples, there is still much to be done to build civil society to address human rights based violation. AIPP is contributing towards the establishment of a number of specific networks such as legal support network, Asian Human Rights Commission and promoting human rights based approach to development. AIPP is also developing more national-level training on policy advocacy and support national networking meetings to build links and understanding among IPOs themselves.

Risks involved is the tendency for networks to be centered on a few people at the Secretariat level, rather than work on a decentralized manner which would ensure strengthening of IPOs at the local and national level. There is also a move by AIPP to further strengthen local level IPOs by anchoring some of its programme in some of its member organizations. Another need is for training for IPOs in administrative and financial management to ensure that projects can be managed well.

Prepared by

**Jannie Lasimbang
AIPP Secretary General**

9. Audited Financial Report
(refer to 2007 Audited Report)

AIPP CALENDAR 2008

Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ WGABS-6 (Montreal, 21 – 25 January) ❖ SRC – Bangladesh, Burma, NE India, India, Nepal (Dimapur, 18 - 20 January) ❖ SRC –Taiwan, Japan (Hokkaido, 25 – 27 January)
Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Secretary General to attend UNVF Board of Trustees Meeting – SG (Geneva, 4 – 8 Feb) ❖ WGPA-2 (Rome, 11 – 15 February) ❖ SBSTTA-13 (Rome, 18 – 22 February) ❖ PFII/CHR Regional Prepmeeting (Nepal, 24 - 26 Feb)
Mac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Human Rights Council ❖ SRC – Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and Timor Leste (Malaysia, 5 – 7 Mac) ❖ SRC – Mekong Region (Cambodia, 17 – 19 Mac) ❖ ICOLT Coordinating Committee meeting (Chiang Mai, 25 – 26 Mac)
Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ CMLN LC Review meeting (Chiang Mai, 3 & 4 April) ❖ AIPP EC and Board Meeting/Evaluation (Chiang Mai, 11 - 14 April) ❖ Seventh Session of the PFII (NY, April 21 – 2 May)
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ AIPP Staff Training (Chiang Mai, 9 May) ❖ COP9 (Bonn-Germany, 19 – 30 May) ❖ Sending 5th General Assembly documents to AIPP members (Chiang Mai, 29 May)
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ SG Mission to Malaysia (Participation in PACOS Strategic Planning, Sabah, 1 – 4 June) ❖ Regional Conference on DRIP Implementation (Philippines, 8 – 11 June)
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mid-Year Report to Donors ❖ 4th Regional Workshop/Evaluation CMLN (Chiang Mai, 7 – 11 July) ❖ CMLN Advisory Committee Meeting (Chiang Mai, 12 July) ❖ Asia Indigenous Peoples Regional Fair (Chiang Mai, 26 – 27 July) ❖ 5th AIPP General Assembly (Chiang Mai, 29 - 30 July)
Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Official handing over between incoming and outgoing AIPP Secretary General (Aug – Oct) ❖ UNDP-RIPP HRBA Writeshop (Chiang Mai, 1 – 3 August) ❖ IFAD Self-Determined Development Workshop (Chiang Mai, 6 – 8 August) ❖ TIWDM ToT & GC Meeting (Chiang Mai, 10 – 13 August) ❖ Human Rights Training (Timor Leste, TBD)
Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Third Regional Policy Advocacy Workshop (Taiwan, TBD) ❖ HRAC Meeting (Taiwan, TBD) ❖ TIWDM – Indonesia (TBD) ❖ Fourth Regional Indigenous Development Conference (Sabah, 23 – 26 September) ❖ IEC/YPC Meeting (Sabah, 27 – 28 September) ❖ UN Human Rights Council
Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Geneva, 1 – 3 October) ❖ IKBC Meeting (Chiang Mai, 13 – 14 Oct) ❖ Research and Information Dissemination Committee Meeting (TBD) ❖ TIWDM - Laos (TBD)
Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Human Rights Training (Laos, TBD)
Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ AIPP Internal Evaluation/Year-End Report to Donors/Auditing ❖ AIPP Annual Year-End Holiday (22 Dec – 2 January 2009)

Activities in Bold - Activities Organised/Co-Organised by AIPP, **TBD** = To Be Decided

Workplan does not show weekly information dissemination/summaries, monthly website update and monthly translation into 13 languages and other CMLN and ICOLT activities

Abbreviations

SRC – Sub-Regional Consultation

EC – Executive Council

IKBC – Indigenous Knowledge and Biodiversity Committee

HRAC – Human Rights and Advocacy Committee

IEC – Indigenous Economics Committee

GC – Gender Committee

YPC – Youth Programme Committee

CMLN – Collaborative Management Learning Network

ICOLT – Indigenous Community Organisers and Leadership Training



Human Rights Council

Resolution 6/36. Expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples

The Human Rights Council,

Bearing in mind paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and paragraph 84 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007,

Recalling that, at its sixty-first session, the General Assembly adopted in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007 the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

Bearing in mind Human Rights Council resolution 6/16 of 28 September 2007,

Recalling that the Human Rights Council should be cognizant of the work being undertaken on indigenous issues by other bodies in the United Nations system,

1. *Decides*, in order to assist the Human Rights Council in the implementation of its mandate, to establish a subsidiary expert mechanism to provide the Council with thematic expertise on the rights of indigenous peoples in the manner and form requested by the Council:

(a) The thematic expertise will focus mainly on studies and research-based advice;

(b) The mechanism may suggest proposals to the Council for its consideration and approval, within the scope of its work as set out by the Council;

2. *Also decides* that this mechanism shall report annually to the Council on its work;

3. Further decides that the expert mechanism shall consist of five independent experts, the selection of which shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure established in paragraphs 39 to 53 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007;

4. *Strongly recommends* that, in the selection and appointment process, the Council give due regard to experts of indigenous origin;

5. *Decides*, in order for the expert mechanism to enhance cooperation and avoid duplicating the work of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and the Permanent Forum, that it shall invite the Special Rapporteur and a member of the Permanent Forum to attend and contribute to its annual meeting;

6. *Also decides* that the members of the expert mechanism shall serve for a three-year period and may be re-elected for one additional period;

7. *Further decides* that, within its mandate, the expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples should determine its own methods of work, although the expert mechanism shall not adopt resolutions or decisions;

8. *Decides* that the expert mechanism shall meet once annually three days in its first year and thereafter for up to five days, and that the sessions may be a combination of open and private meetings;

9. Also decides that the annual meeting of the expert mechanism shall be open to the participation, as observers, of States, United Nations mechanisms, bodies and specialized agencies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and mechanisms in the field of human rights, national human rights institutions and other relevant national bodies, academics and experts on indigenous issues, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; the meeting shall also be open to indigenous peoples' organizations and non-governmental organizations, whose aims and purposes are in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, based on arrangements, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, and practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights, through an open and transparent accreditation procedure in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council, which will provide for the timely information on participation and consultation with States concerned;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all the necessary human, technical and financial assistance to the expert mechanism for the effective fulfilment of its mandate.

[Adopted without a vote]

34th meeting

14 December 2007