

DOCIP'S VOLUNTEER NETWORK

JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

After an eventful 2017, which ended with our participation at COP23 in Bonn (we all agree, Fiji would have been much more interesting, not only because of the weather), we are now back into the new year with lots of energy to put into practice all our projects. However, before we start by looking what is ahead of us, let's have a quick look back on what happened since summer and the last newsletter!



In terms of conferences, there were two major happenings by end of the year. On the one hand, there was the Forum on Business and Human Rights, during which we always work with a delegation from Central and South America. The Forum this year was a first of a kind, because we not only offered our services in terms of back-office and interpretation, but we start to act more and more as a facilitator with various stakeholders – a task we have been working on for a while.

From an indigenous perspective, the Forum also starts to acknowledge their important role and this year, an indigenous women from Guatemala was able to hold a speech during the closing panel. We hope to see further advances!

On the other hand, there was the Convention of Parties on Climate Change (COP23) in Bonn. It was the first time that Docip was participating officially as partner of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change. We were not only accompanying the Caucus meetings, but also interpreting during the events on the Indigenous Pavilion. Our valued translators were in the meantime busy to translate all statements made during the different meetings of the COP. It was a tough time, but we are looking forward to the next meeting in May, as climate change remains an urgent matter that concerns us all! Watch [here](#) the video about the indigenous struggle at COP23.



The final highlight of 2017 was the third regional workshop of the Oral History and Memory Project, organised in Kenya in December and in which 6 elders and 11 youth were participating. The overall aim was to contribute to the transmission and protection of the memory and oral history of the Indigenous Peoples of Africa and their relationship with the United Nations, as well as to promote this historic experience and ensure the continuity of the international Indigenous movement. For more information, visit:

<https://www.docip.org/en/oral-history-and-memory/youth-empowerment/>.

Finally, I would like to introduce you to our new colleague, Priscilla Saillen, who has started in December as the new head of documentation. Priscilla has a degree in Languages and Civilisations of South Asia, History and Science of Religions, where she gained insights in anthropology and through which she discovered her interest for indigenous peoples. She is also fluent in Hindi and Urdu. We are happy to have her on board and some of you will certainly cross her path sooner or later!



WHAT'S COMING UP

There are several activities coming up in the next months and we'll be looking to our volunteer network for help. We're currently looking for online translators and volunteers for the **17th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**, held in April (16-27) in New York and for the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Intrasessional meeting** taking place in Bonn (April 30-May 10). Also, the mandate of the **WIPO Intergovernmental Committee** meetings on traditional knowledge has been renewed for two years, and the first session will start this march (19-23).

If you are able to help out, please do not hesitate to contact Karen at karen@docip.org.

The agenda of the Technical Secretariat from January to July 2018

2017-03-19 2017-03-23	35TH SESSION, WIPO INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE (IGC)	Geneva, Switzerland
2018-04-16 2018-04-27	PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES / 17TH SESSION	New York, USA
2018-04-30 2018-05-10	48TH SESSION OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES TO THE UNFCCC	Bonn, Germany
2018-06-25 2018-06-29	36TH SESSION, WIPO INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE (IGC)	Geneva, Switzerland
2018-07-09 2018-07-13	11TH SESSION, EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL)	Geneva, Switzerland

The full annul agenda of conferences relevant for Indigenous Peoples is available [here](#).

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' ISSUES: THE INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL LEVEL

In regards to indigenous issues, the COP23 conference was a milestone this year with the discussion on the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Platform.

On November 2017, the COP23 acknowledged indigenous Peoples leadership role in protecting forests and keeping global temperatures at a safe level, and decided the purpose and functions of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform that "will be to strengthen the knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change, to facilitate the exchange of experience and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic

and integrated manner and to enhance the engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples in the UNFCCC process". Moreover, governments decided "to continue to work towards the full operationalization of the platform". This marks a new era of addressing the concerns and needs of indigenous peoples in the climate process. Once operational, the platform will allow for an exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices on mitigation and adaptation and ultimately lead to more climate actions.

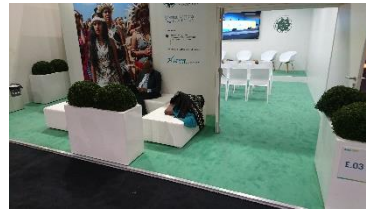
Focusing on Latin America for this newsletter, there were a few happenings worth to be mentioned:

- **Mexico:** In 2017, Maria de Jesus Patricio Martinez, an indigenous women backed by Mexico's rebel Zapatista movement registered to run as an independent candidate in the 2018 presidential election, adding to a growing list of hopefuls bucking established political parties. She is the spokeswoman for the National Indigenous Congress, the political arm of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN). Just a few days ago, a gang of armed men yesterday held up and robbed a vehicle traveling with the presidential pre-candidate. A couple of days before, she attended an event in Santa María Ostula, Michoacán, where she condemned the murder of indigenous activists and spoke out about the threat that organised crime poses to indigenous people.
- **Panama:** Indigenous Panamanian communities have denounced government inaction on ratifying International Labor Organization Convention 169 and are demanding that their needs and social issues be addressed. Panama is one of few Latin American countries that has not yet signed Convention 169, which was approved by the ILO in 1989 and is considered the main international treaty on the human rights of Indigenous peoples. Indigenous Panamanians have been calling on the government to ratify ILO Convention 169 for more than 20 years. On the meeting of the Second National congress of Indigenous Peoples of Panama in Ngabe-Bugle, attendees reiterated their demands for the Panamanian government.
- **Peru and Chile:** During his travels in South America, the Pope Francis spoke about issues indigenous peoples are facing. Addressing an indigenous audience in Peru's jungle city of Puerto Maldonado, the pope expanded on the environmental message, taking aim at the multiple threats faced by the Amazon rainforest and telling its indigenous inhabitants they were a "call to conscience for a way of life which could not measure its own costs". Pope Francis has warned that the Amazon's indigenous people have "never been so threatened in their territories as they are now" and demanded an end to the relentless exploitation of the region's timber, gas and gold. "No Peruvian president has ever given such a complete speech about the Amazon indigenous agenda as has Pope Francis," tweeted Iván Lanegra, a former minister responsible for indigenous affairs. After his visit, Pope Francis has also denounced the use of violence to achieve political gains as he travelled to the heart of Chile's centuries-old conflict with the indigenous Mapuche people, where a spate of church burnings have been blamed on radical activists. Hours after another church and three helicopters were torched, Francis celebrated mass at a former military base that not only lies on contested Mapuche land but was also a former detention center used during Chile's military dictatorship.

For more information on current issues on the ground, there are several online sources that can be consulted. Here a few list of interesting media on the topic of indigenous peoples:

- <http://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous>
- <http://www.globalissues.org/news/topic/693>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/indigenous-peoples>

DOCIP IN PICTURES



COP23





Forum Business and Human Rights

