



t e r r a l i n g u a  
Partnerships for Linguistic and Biological Diversity

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**Terralingua Update - Summer 2002**

**Terralingua News**

Dear Members,

In the last newsletter, we announced the opening of our office in Washington, D.C. and launched our search for personnel. We have now happily settled into our new quarters, and our staff search has been completed successfully. I'm delighted to inform you that Ms. Francine Madden has been chosen for the position of Program Associate. Francine, who has a background in natural resource management and considerable experience with field projects with local communities in Africa and Asia, brings to Terralingua (TL.) her enthusiasm for innovative interdisciplinary work, her imagination, her sense of organization and multiple other talents that make her a real asset for a fledgling, yet rapidly expanding, non-profit such as Terralingua. In the initial stages, Francine will cover both program-related and some of the main administrative tasks, until additional funding will allow us to expand our staff. Please welcome Francine to our organization! She can be reached at [fmadden@terralingua.org](mailto:fmadden@terralingua.org) or +1.202.518 2040 for general inquiries and information about our activities.

As also indicated in the previous *Langscape*, we are well advanced with work in the Ford Foundation-funded Phase 1 of our Global Biocultural Diversity Assessment (G.B.C.D.A.). Specifically:

- ▶ We are finishing up the quality control of the G.I.S. database of the world's ecoregions and ethnolinguistic groups, which forms the basis for cross-mappings of biological and cultural diversity and analysis of observed global correlations. The database is the product of collaborative work between G.I.S. consultant Aimee Goodwin and our own Anthea Fallen-Bailey.
- ▶ A map derived from this database ("The World's Biocultural Diversity: people, languages, and ecosystems") and a companion educational booklet (*Sharing a World of Difference: the Earth's linguistic, cultural, and biological diversity*, by TL.'s Tove Skutnabb-Kangas, Dave Harmon, and myself) have been produced with additional support from, and are being published by, U.N.E.S.C.O. They will be launched at the U.N. World Summit on Sustainable Development (W.S.S.D.) late next month in Johannesburg, South Africa and later distributed by U.N.E.S.C.O. (See below for more on the W.S.S.D. preparatory process).

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### **Support Terralingua!**

Terralingua membership is free because we believe that information about biocultural diversity should be available to everyone. However, your financial support will help us continue to work towards our goal of protecting and perpetuating global biocultural diversity. Member donations are the bedrock of Terralingua's financial base, helping to cover our basic operating expenses. We recommend a minimum contribution of US\$25.-/year (US\$35.-/year for organizations); more is, of course, most welcome! A donation of US\$100.-or more will make you a Donor Member. Terralingua is a registered charity in the U.S.A., so donations are tax deductible. Please visit our Web site ([www.terralingua.org](http://www.terralingua.org)) for secure on-line donations, or send a check/cheque or (international) money order to our Treasurer, Mr. David Harmon (address at the end of the newsletter). We thank all those who have already helped fund Terralingua this year.

- ▶ A draft framework for an “Index of Biocultural Diversity” (I.B.C.D.) measuring trends in biocultural diversity was prepared by Dave Harmon and collaborator Jonathan Loh. The I.B.C.D. is modelled after indices used in the environmental field to gauge current conditions and trends. The draft framework document will now be submitted to an extensive process of review and revision, in view of refining the methodology (see below), after which we will begin implementing its use.
- ▶ The report *Safeguarding the Uniqueness of the Colorado Plateau: an ecoregional assessment of biocultural diversity*, co-ordinated by Dr. Gary Nabhan, director of Northern Arizona University's Center for Sustainable Environments (C.S.E.), is now in press. It will soon be distributed through C.S.E. and Terralingua channels. This report, which is the fruit of our partnership with C.S.E., is the first in a planned series of case studies on the links between biological and cultural diversity, with a focus on traditional ecological knowledge and the role of local languages in knowledge collection, maintenance and transmission, and on concrete action for integrated biocultural restoration.

We have now started the process of fundraising for the next stage (2003-2005) of the G.B.C.D.A. according to the plan set forth by the TL. Board of Directors in April 2002. The plan includes the further development of the three components listed above, as well as three new components:

- *Global G.I.S. database.* TL. will conduct a detailed analysis of the previously gathered data on overlapping distributions of biological and cultural-linguistic diversity and prepare detailed reports for public ecosystems, local languages, traditional knowledge, and cultural traditions, extending the concept of “ecosystem health” to the social and cultural well-being and resilience of human communities. (See below for more on ecosystem health). The preliminary research will also enable the repatriation of relevant information to the communities. Candidate sites for such studies, where we already have established contacts, include northern Mexico, northern California, Canada, Hawai'i, as well as other places in the Pacific, South-East Asia, and Northern Europe. Travel to several of these sites in the next few months will help consolidate these opportunities.

In addition to further developing these three previous lines of work, we plan to initiate the following:

- \* *Researching linguistic human rights* (L.H.R.). L.H.R., that is, rights pertaining to the use of mother tongues and other languages in private and public life, are a key tool for supporting linguistic (and cultural) diversity, yet they are underdeveloped, understudied, and underapplied in both international- and national-level policies. Our initial goal is to prepare a report outlining the general principles of L.H.R. (from relevant literature and existing legal instruments) and presenting a series of “best L.H.R. practices” studies from different parts of the world. These guiding principles and practices will be disseminated amongst policy makers and implementers, as well as grassroots organizations. At later stages, we will carry out systematic and periodic data collection on the state of L.H.Rs. around the world, to be entered into our global database for use in the assessment and monitoring of the state of L.H.Rs. and for related policy recommendations.

- \* *Gathering “ecosystem stories”.* Studies of traditional ecological knowledge (T.E.K.) have devoted little attention to the contexts in which T.E.K. is developed and transmitted, especially from the older to the younger generations — from informal daily communication of observations and know-how to more formal delivery of traditional stories, songs, and other forms of verbal art. Documenting such “ecosystem stories” is of special relevance in cases in which only the older generations may still be steeped in this knowledge and fluent in the language in which it is encoded. As a component of our field projects, these materials will be instrumental in contributing to the intergenerational transmission of T.E.K. in the communities in which we will work. Dissemination of these stories in various media in a way that engages the public will also be a powerful means of highlighting the richness of T.E.K. and its value for the maintenance and restoration of biocultural diversity.
- \* *Bridging science and the humanities.* We believe that it is crucial to generate widespread support for biocultural diversity in the midst of the current processes of both globalization and polarization of ideas. We will explore opportunities to do so by bridging the “two cultures” through humanities projects that will “get the message out” to a general public about the global predicament and incalculable value of biocultural diversity, appealing not only to the intellect but also to the emotions. Project ideas include the development of new musical works and the organization of story-telling festivals.

In addition to program activities, we continue to follow and participate in various international processes in which we seek to promote a biocultural perspective. In particular, TL Advisory Panel member Dr. Margaret Florey, a linguist, and her colleague Dr. Chris Healey, an ethnobiologist, represented TL at the fourth preparatory committee (PrepCom IV) for the W.S.S.D., recently held in Bali, Indonesia. Margaret’s and Chris’s report on PrepCom IV appears below. Margaret is slated to join TL’s Vice-President, Tove Skutnabb-Kangas, at the Johannesburg summit next month.

We are also continuing to forge links with the field of ecosystem health. In May, I participated in the International Conference on Ecosystem Health at Quetico Centre, Ontario, Canada, and in June in the “Healthy Ecosystems, Healthy People” conference of the International Society for Ecosystem

Health (I.S.E.H.) in Washington, D.C. Ecosystem health fully embraces a “humans-in-the-environment” perspective and the need for community-based, community-driven initiatives to restore the health of ecosystems and of human communities. Cross-fertilization with the biocultural perspective promises to be very beneficial to the integrative goals both fields pursue. Additional workshops and conferences in Hawai’i and Australia in November will help strengthen these links and provide opportunities for exploration of some of the case studies mentioned above. (Visit the I.S.E.H. Web site, <[www.ecosystemhealth.com](http://www.ecosystemhealth.com)>, for more information about this field).

Public attention to language endangerment and the links between linguistic/cultural and biological diversity continues to increase. One of the latest indications comes in the form of an excellent article in the magazine *Scientific American* (see the “Terralingua in the News” section above for details). This article also contains the announcement that a new foundation in the U.K., the Lisbet Rousing Charitable Fund, has set aside \$30 million for work on endangered languages (see announcement at beginning of next section). Part of these funds are to be administered by the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. This foundation joins the Volkswagen Foundation and the Ford Foundation in offering major support for the documentation and revitalization of endangered languages — as I suggested several times in the past, the litmus test of the linguistic diversity crisis coming into public focus! This can only be a source of hope and renewed energy for us all.



As always, I wish to thank you, the Members, for your continued moral support of our shared cause. If you can afford to also support us monetarily, please consider doing so. As you know, while we do not charge membership fees, member donations remain an essential part of our financial basis. In recognition of your contributions, we make efforts to provide you with additional member benefits, (such as the book discount for *On Biocultural Diversity: linking language, knowledge and the environment*, edited by myself (2001; Smithsonian Institute Press). Be sure to include the discount code “TL1” when ordering (tel.: 1-800-782-4612; fax.: 202-275-2201)) and special offers, such as the current offer of a copy of the W.W.F. report and wall-size map (see our Web site for details) for donations of \$100 or more. Don’t miss this

opportunity while supplies last!

Cordially,

Luisa Maffi.



**Terralingua In Bali: the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Preparatory Committee Meeting for  
The World Summit on Sustainable Develop-  
ment, May-June 2002.**

By Margaret Florey and Chris Healey.

Prologue

Terralingua has been participating in the preparations for the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg later this year. Dr. Luisa Maffi, Terralingua's President, participated in the Third Preparatory Committee Meeting (PrepCom III) for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in New York, and we were asked to represent Terralingua's interests at PrepCom IV held in Bali, Indonesia, from 24 May - 7 June, 2002. Dr. Margaret Florey is a linguist in the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, and a member of Terralingua's Advisory Panel. Professor Chris Healey is an anthropologist with the Centre for Indigenous Natural and Cultural Resource Management at Northern Territory University in Darwin, Australia. Florey has conducted research on endangered indigenous languages in Australia and in eastern Indonesia's Maluku Province. Healey has conducted research on ethnobiology and indigenous resource management in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Australia. We have been working collaboratively on the ethnobiology of the Alune people of Seram in the Maluku province of Indonesia since 1993. Florey attended PrepCom IV from 24 May to 2 June, and Healey from 30 May to 7 June. Dr. Tove Skutnabb-Kangas, Terralingua's Vice-President, will represent Terralingua at the Johannesburg Summit.

The involvement of Terralingua delegates has been generously funded by the Ford Foundation, which sponsored the participation of approximately ninety delegates at PrepCom IV representing a wide range of

organizations from all parts of the world. The Foundation also provided substantial support for the Indonesian People's Forum, which hosted a series of extremely well-organized parallel events at venues adjacent to the scene of the main U.N. and government action, the Bali International Convention Centre (B.I.C.C.) in the up-market tourist precinct of Nusa Dua.

Background to PrepCom IV

PrepCom IV was the last in a series of meetings of U.N., national government and civil society representatives to prepare for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (W.S.S.D.) to be held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Emil Salim in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August-September this year. W.S.S.D. is also popularly known as Rio +10. As with the Earth Summit held in Rio in 1992, the South African meetings focus on the disparities between rich and poor nations ("North" and "South" to use the politically correct U.N.-"neutral speak"), and the problems of environmental degradation.

The Johannesburg Summit is being billed as one of the largest ever gatherings of world leaders, as well as a plethora of civil society representatives, and a host of parallel events. According to the W.S.S.D. Web site, the Summit "is expected to provide the impetus for specific actions that will comprise a major departure from business as usual, towards a new approach that simultaneously promotes economic growth, social development and environmental protection" (W.S.S.D. 2002, <[www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/whats\\_new/](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/whats_new/)>). These heady objectives set the scene for the PrepCom IV formal meetings and behind the scenes lobbying.

PrepCom IV was attended by approximately 5,000 people, including the nine Multi-stakeholder groups (Indigenous Peoples, Women, Youth, Non-Governmental Organizations, Trade Unions, Local Authorities, Scientific and Technological Communities, Farmers, and Business), government delegates, United Nations staff, and representatives of the international media. The PrepCom delivered moments of excitement and satisfaction together with moments of great frustration.

A core objective of PrepCom IV was to finalise the Chairman's "Text for Negotiation", the draft of which had emerged from previous meetings. This text, negotiated through an exhaustive process of consultation with government and U.N. delegates,

was intended to set the agenda for the formal discussions in Johannesburg and to provide guidelines for international policies on sustainable development.

Going into the Bali meetings, n.g.o. participants were generally cynical that the interests of rich nations and multi-national corporations were going to undermine prospects of the W.S.S.D. achieving any real progress towards meeting the U.N.'s own rhetoric. In short, there was a general view that "business as usual" was likely to prevail. Nevertheless, there was also a strong sense of the need for continued lobbying and action on the part of civil society, particularly in the context of the erosion of the ideals articulated at Rio in 1992. The vigour and variety of participation by delegates of the Indonesian People's Forum in the debates, displays and performances of the side events was an encouraging sign of the capacity of civil society to make itself heard.

#### Week 1 — The Chairman's Text for Negotiation

PrepCom IV was launched on Saturday, 25 May for the Ford Foundation delegates, with a full day of orientation and training by Ford staff, including Arthur Getz, Jeff Campbell and Linda Elswick. The staff, together with Irene Kim who provided continuous administrative support, continued to offer invaluable support to the delegates throughout the conference.

At the conclusion of the orientation, participants were encouraged to meet in interest groups and to begin strategizing around key issues. A working group with expertise in natural resources and indigenous knowledge most closely reflected Terralingua's goals, and became the primary focus of our work. The International Community Forestry Caucus (I.C.F.C.), as we had named ourselves by the end of Week 1, was initially formed with representatives among the Ford Foundation delegates from Terralingua, the National Network of Forest Practitioners (Providence, R.I., U.S.A.), the Economics Institute (Loyola University, New Orleans, U.S.A.), Co-ordinadora Indigena y Campesina de Agroforesteria Comunitaria (Central America), Rural Action (Ohio, U.S.A.), AgCenter (Louisiana, U.S.A.), Center for Sustainable Environments (Arizona, U.S.A.), and Consejo Civil Mexicano Para La Silvicultura (Mexico). The Caucus continued to grow throughout PrepCom IV. Within several days the I.C.F.C. membership had expanded to include 20 organizations. By the end of the PrepCom that had expanded to 51

organizations, represented by 80 individuals with a truly international constituency.

The Chairman's "Text for Negotiation" was the focus of action by the I.C.F.C. throughout Week 1. The text was considered by the vast majority of n.g.o. delegates to be far from satisfactory, with no clear goals or timelines for implementation. The delegates had thus been very frustrated by the advice of speakers at the Ford Foundation and the official n.g.o. orientation sessions that there would be very little chance of having any contribution to the "Text". Despite this advice (and with the encouragement of the Ford Foundation staff), the I.C.F.C. decided on a three-pronged approach — revising sections of the Chairman's "Text for Negotiation", working on strategies for the Johannesburg Summit, and developing longer-term goals for sustainable development. The I.C.F.C. thus produced a small lobbying document with the headline "Put the people of the forest back into the summit!" and an introduction which declared:

The Chairman's "Text for Negotiation" fails to recognize indigenous and community-based forest management systems despite the fact that they were recognized in the U.N.F.F. Ministerial Declaration of 13 March, 2002.

In order to have the language re-inserted into the text, we propose the following revisions:

Changes and additions (which we learned in the language of the W.S.S.D. to call "new normative language") were drafted to the four sections (as numbered in the text) which addressed:

- 35. Agriculture
- 37. Mountain ecosystems
- 39. Biodiversity
- 40. Forests and trees

In each section the Caucus focused on recognition of the rights and roles of indigenous and community-based groups, and support for the maintenance of indigenous knowledge. The role of indigenous languages was included in proposed revisions to sections 37 and 39.

The document produced by the I.C.F.C. was then used by caucus members to lobby country delegates participating in the U.N.'s Working Group 1, which was meeting in three sessions each day to finalize the Chairman's Text for Negotiation. With our international

membership base we were able to lobby delegations from the U.S.A., Australia, the E.U., and the G77 and China (a major grouping of 132 countries of the South) through the Ecuador and Mexican delegations. Our primary lobbying position became the inclusion of our proposed section 40 (h), which read:

Recognize indigenous and community-based forest management systems and support expansion of these approaches globally.

The lobbying efforts of the I.C.F. Caucus were intensified following our first achievement — the inclusion of 36 (s) as new normative language (with the I.C.F.C.'s drafted changes put forward in Working Group 1 by Canada)<sup>1</sup> in the chapter on Agriculture:

36. (s) [Agreed] Promote the conservation, and sustainable use and management of traditional and indigenous agricultural systems and strengthen indigenous models of agricultural production.

The following two days saw the achievement of further successes in Section 41 Forests and Trees. Two additions were incorporated into the chapter, as indicated in bold below:

41. [Agreed] Forests and trees cover nearly one third of the Earth's surface. Sustainable forest management of both natural and planted forests and for timber and non-timber products is essential to achieving sustainable development and is a critical means to eradicate poverty, significantly reduce deforestation and halt the loss of forest biodiversity and land and resource degradation, and improve food security and access to safe drinking water and affordable energy, highlights the multiple benefits of both natural and planted forests and trees and contributes to the well-being of the planet and humanity. Achievement of sustainable forest management, nationally and globally, including through partnerships among interested governments and stakeholders, including the private sector, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organizations, is an essential goal of sustainable development.

This would include actions at all levels to...

Changes drafted to Section 40 (a) were agreed by Working Group 1 as “new normative language” in 41 (i), as written below:

(i) [Agreed] Implement the Convention on Biological Diversity's expanded action-oriented work programme on all types of forest biological diversity in close cooperation with the U.N.F.F., the C.P.F. members and other forest-related processes and conventions with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

Our final success saw the acceptance of 40 (h) as “new normative language” in 41 (h), as written below (with the I.C.F.C.'s drafted changes put forward in Working Group 1 by Mexico):

41. (h) [Agreed] Recognise and support indigenous- and community-based forest management systems to ensure their full and effective participation in sustainable forest management.

The *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* (Vol. 22, No. 34) reported on the highlights of the W.S.S.D. PrepCom IV for Thursday, 30 May, and included the amendments to the Text in sections 36 and 41, along with the countries which made the proposals.

Attempts to include reference to indigenous languages in the Chairman's “Text” (in sections 37 and 39) were not successful. We speculate that this issue was considered peripheral to the concerns of sustainable development. It was difficult in the very short lobbying time we could gain with country delegates to state a more persuasive case. However, we are confident that languages have at least been raised as a legitimate concern, and more broadly, that they are recognised as an important element of indigenous knowledge.

The response of I.C.F. caucus members was ambivalent *vis-à-vis* our successful efforts in lobbying for inclusion of “new normative language” in the Chairman's “Text” to go forward to the W.S.S.D. The changes introduced by the I.C.F.C. have gone some way to strengthening the recognition of indigenous knowledge and indigenous- and community-based approaches. The work of the I.C.F.C. has also proven very encouraging to its membership in reinforcing the value of linking with other like-minded groups and caucusing around clearly-focused issues. However, the Text remains far from satisfactory, with some sections further weak-

ened by the negotiation process within Working Groups 1 and 2. There was clearly a continuing concern among many of the n.g.o. delegates at PrepCom IV that the statement failed to address important issues of “sustainable development”, including the entrenched interests of the developed North at the expense of the South.

### Week 2 — Forging links and looking to the future

The middle weekend of the PrepCom allowed us to emerge from the intense lobbying work of the I.C.F.C. to learn about other organizations participating at the PrepCom and the various activities which were taking place. The official opening of the Indonesian People’s Forum was held on Sunday, 2 June. Cultural performances ranged from public lectures, installations of protest art along the Nusa Dua foreshore, banner displays by Indonesian community arts groups, and dramatic performances in the Amphitheatre. The latter included a spirited portrayal of the struggle between the forces of globalisation and local cultures in dance and song, and poetry readings by Indonesia’s foremost poet, Rendra, on the theme of the plight of the poor.

The I.P.F. also provided an open-air venue for representatives of Civil Society organizations to set up information booths. This provided an excellent opportunity to make contact with several n.g.os. carrying out important work throughout the Indonesian Archipelago on biodiversity in areas broadly relevant to the interests of Terralingua. Some of these contacts were followed up with informal discussions during the latter part of the I.P.F. meetings. Several of these organizations appear to be well-organised and well resourced [sic] and are undertaking various research and capacity-building programs to promote local and indigenous involvement in small-scale enterprises and community management of environmental resources. Organizations that could usefully link to Terralingua include the following:

- KEHATI — Keanekaragaman Hayati Indonesia (Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation)
- LATIN — Lembaga Alam Tropika Indonesia (Indonesian Tropical Institute)
- WALHI — Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (Indonesian Forum for the Environment/Friends of the Earth Indonesia)

- W.W.F. - Indonesia
- KpSHK — Konsorsium Pendukung Sistem Hutan Kerakyatan (Consortium for Supporting Community-Based Forest System Management)
- Institute for Social and Economic Research, Education and Information (Indonesia)
- Indigenous People’s Alliance (Indonesia)
- Community Development and Natural Resource Management — Papua (Indonesia)

Other southeast Asian regional organizations with which we made contact whose activities are also of potential interest to Terralingua are:

- International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (Philippines)
- Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Vietnam)
- Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (Thailand)

A public forum during the morning session of the I.P.F. opening became a rowdy demonstration by Indonesian youth groups calling for a boycott of the PrepCom IV. A large contingent of police and the official neighbourhood security committee took up watching positions, but mercifully left the amphitheatre when the demonstration calmed down. Sporadic demonstrations against the World Trade Organisation and W.S.S.D. were also reported in the streets in the vicinity of the Convention Centre during the last week of Prep Com IV, and a heavy police presence was evident, but no serious incidents occurred.

During the second week of PrepCom IV there was an opportunity to participate in a range of other meetings. These included other caucus groups, side events and sessions organised by the Indonesian People’s Forum (I.P.F.), and more informal discussions. The following are some of the high-light sessions:

Good Forest Governance: a workshop focussed on the issues of who is responsible for destruction of forest, who makes decisions about forests, and who guarantees forest management. A strong message of the workshop was that good forest governance is achievable by putting management of forests back into the hands of local communities.

“Cry of the Excluded: poverty, racism and sustainable development”: a workshop on “environmental racism” and the unequal participation of people of colour in healthy environments.

Working Group on World Sustainability Hearing: discussing preparations for a World Sustainability Hearing to be run as a parallel event to W.S.S.D. in Johannesburg, facilitated by Earth Island Institute. This event is likely to be of particular interest to Terralingua.

I.P.F. Fishers’ Caucus: an extremely lively meeting organised by I.P.F., attended almost exclusively by representatives of the Indonesian small-scale fishing interests, including artisanal fishermen. A primary concern expressed was the impact of large-scale international industrial fisheries on fish stocks, and the impact of shipping, industrial waste and mining on environmental quality.

I.P.F. Farmers’ Caucus: also attended mostly by Indonesian small-scale producers. Presentations of panelists and comments from the floor highlighted demands for reforms to ensure farmers’ livelihoods and the need for solidarity in the struggle to influence government policy.

I.P.F. Forestry Caucus: the panel presentations stimulated impassioned response from the mainly Indonesian audience, particularly in relation to customary resource management practices.

I.P.F. Forum on Trade Liberalization and Sustainable Development: several panel members and speakers from the floor raised issues of governance, challenge from Civil Society to national governments, and indigenous participation in natural resource management.

Recurrent themes in several of these sessions were: the adverse impact of trade barriers and subsidies in developed countries on developing nations; problems of corruption in Indonesia; and the associated inattention of authorities to the interests of local and indigenous people in favour of the interests of commercial and transnational institutions. These themes were elaborated by academics, n.g.o. and government officials and by local peasant

farmers and fishermen. While none of these views was new, it was nonetheless instructive to witness the passion and eloquence with which many of the Indonesian speakers from the floor addressed the issues. The active participation of indigenous villagers, men and women, from different parts of Indonesia was most notable.

Healey also attended the closing part of the last full session of U.N. meetings open to observers — the Interactive Dialogue Among Ministers, in which country representatives gave short statements on the broad agenda for Johannesburg. By then late in the proceedings, presentations were nonetheless heard from China, Ireland, Senegal, Belize, Uganda, Benin, Chad, Guyana, Panama, Bahamas, Solomon Islands, Austria, The Basel Convention, New Zealand, and Kirghistan. Most of these statements were in the seemingly bland U.N.-speak. Senegal commented on the need of



developing nations for technical and scientific resources to manage sustainable environmental development, which might be interpreted as the need to transcend indigenous knowledge, while several other countries made reference to the importance of involving indig-

enous peoples in environmental management. The Solomon Islands was perhaps most explicit in this regard, pointing to the spiritual connections of indigenous peoples to their lands, which need to be recognised and promoted. New Zealand reiterated this view more broadly in a rather forthright statement on the failure of the PrepCom IV process to reach agreements through genuine participation and partnership with Civil Society. Despite such sparks of interest, the Chair was evidently struggling against the advanced *ennui* of the occasion. Many of the country desks were empty, and the Chair inviting more contributions in an effort to fill in the half-hour of allotted time remaining to the meeting.

The second week also saw the I.C.F.C. move from lobbying and negotiating changes to the Chairman’s “Text” on to the next phase of our activities. There were further Ford Foundation briefing sessions, and a series of I.C.F.C. workshops and meetings to discuss a press release and possible articles to promote the cause of community forestry, including the participation of indigenous peoples, and preparations for the W.S.S.D. Johannesburg meeting. The I.C.F.C. agreed to establish a Web site with links to all partner organizations, and is shaping up to be a strong lobbying group at the W.S.S.D. in Johannesburg

and beyond. Terralingua will, we feel, be able to make a significant contribution through its focus on indigenous knowledge and biodiversity.

#### From Bali to Johannesburg and beyond

Clearly, the Johannesburg meetings will be quite different from the PrepCom meetings. To begin with, the sheer scale of the gathering will inevitably mean that delegates will have difficulty networking with the same degree of effectiveness and informality as was possible in Bali. The logistics of the W.S.S.D. will compound the difficulty, with anywhere up to 60,000 delegates expected. A great deal of time will be taken up with traveling between scattered accommodation sites to dispersed meeting venues in a sprawling city.

The number of civil society organizations and interests likely to participate, and the variety of parallel and side events occurring at the same time as the U.N. deliberations will make Johannesburg a major opportunity to develop networks and multi-level partnerships. There is also the danger of the solidarity of common interests being weakened by differences of opinion about strategies and finer points of rhetoric and ideology. In the desire of the U.N. to produce tangible agreements and outcomes of the meeting, in an atmosphere of low expectations, there is also a danger that civil society and interests of the less politically and economically powerful may be stranded on the peripheries of the central action.

The daily n.g.o. briefings held at the Bali International Convention Center provided a useful forum for airing concerns about the process at Johannesburg and for developing strategies to make it as productive as possible. The last few meetings of the I.C.F.C. centred on discussing strategies and plans for involvement with the W.S.S.D. I.C.F.C. members Karen Edwards (R.E.C.O.F.T.C. — Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand) and Chun Lai (International Centre for Research in Agroforestry, Philippines) compiled a summary of decisions and options. Key points include:

Building and organizing participation of community forestry interests in Johannesburg: developing regional focal points, linking with other initiatives.

Developing communication networks for existing and future caucus members:

establishing Web space and a list server.

Organizing events at Johannesburg: define events, secure space.

Preparing for the Summit: lobby ministers to include community-based forestry in the ministerial declaration, share information, link with other caucus groups and side events.

Members of the group volunteered to act as focal points by region and country, and others offered to liaise with various Major Groups, notably the n.g.o. Caucus and Indigenous Peoples Caucus, in the lead-up to Johannesburg. A task force to plan events at Johannesburg was constituted. Since we all dispersed from Bali a list server has been established to keep I.C.F.C. members in touch ([info@recoftc.org](mailto:info@recoftc.org)) in the lead up to Johannesburg and beyond. This provides updates on relevant forest related news.

A small selection of the many Web sites with comment or information on the outcomes of the Bali meetings and the relation between cultural and biological diversity in the context of community forestry includes:

W.S.S.D. at  
<[www.johannesburgsummit.org](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org)>  
The Initiative on Promoting Good Forest Governance in Asia and the Pacific at  
<[www.recoftc.org/forgov.html](http://www.recoftc.org/forgov.html)>  
U.N. Forum on Forests at  
<[www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm)>  
International Network of Forests and Communities at  
<[www.forestsandcommunities.org](http://www.forestsandcommunities.org)>.

A couple of electronic news reports on the Bali meetings and the forthcoming W.S.S.D. can be viewed at  
<[www.planetark.org.dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/16382/story.htm](http://www.planetark.org.dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/16382/story.htm)> and <[www.gristmagazine.org/maindish/case060702.asp](http://www.gristmagazine.org/maindish/case060702.asp)>. These capture some of the complexities of the issues faced by the W.S.S.D., the cynicism of many delegates, but also some of the positive outcomes of the Bali meetings and prospects for the future.

#### Reflections on process

Because of parallel U.N. and side events

taking place in different venues it was not possible to attend all sessions of direct interest to Terralingua. Indigenous languages, environmental knowledge and community participation in management seemed best represented in the forestry and natural resources sessions. These are clearly issues that are not specific to forests, but cut across various interest groups. However, there was no clear context in which these more general concerns could be promoted effectively.

Given the relevance of indigenous issues in various of the caucus groupings, it was ironic that the Indigenous People's Caucus was effectively a closed working group for most of PrepCom IV, consisting of a small group of delegates mainly from North America and Europe. Indigenous issues, in fact, were widely represented in other caucus sessions, as indicated above, mostly by participants from Asia, Africa and Latin America. Insofar as at least some of the concerns of indigenous people are also the concerns of farmers, fishermen, foresters, women, n.g.os., etc., it would be beneficial to see a more concerted and structured attempt on the part of caucus organizers to foster linkages across various interest groups.

Lastly, there are a set of more general ideological and analytic issues at stake in the lead up to the Johannesburg meeting and its aftermath that need to be addressed. Unfortunately, those with widely divergent stances seem unable to engage with each other, which tends to polarize debate into entrenched and extreme views. Despite decades of criticism from proponents of alternative visions for the future, the U.N. persists in promoting a vision of modernization theory that appears to be prisoner to the thinking of the 1960s. The language of the Chairman's Text includes frequent reference to more contemporary notions of "sustainable development", but there appears little evidence of a critical application of the concept. Rather, it appears to be premised on the notion that, under the benign guidance and assistance of the North, the "less developed" nations will one day progress to share the same level of material plenty as the "developed" North. Critiques of liberal modernization theory argue that this discourse of development masks the deeper structural relationships between North and South, which are grounded in unequal, exploitative relations which ensure the affluence of the North at the expense of the South. Indeed, some go so far as to argue that these dependent relations may lock poorer nations and populations — including most surviving

indigenous peoples — into conditions of arrested development or even permanent "under-development".

There is also, perhaps, a need to be wary of some of the less critical positions on the role of indigenous knowledge and traditional practice in preserving biological diversity. There were repeated claims in the Forestry Caucus and other sessions that the way to ensure good governance and management of natural resources is to place responsibility in the hands of local communities (which are often, of course, indigenous communities). In many instances this is undoubtedly the case, as many examples demonstrate. However, there is a place for caution in romanticizing and essentializing traditional wisdom as inevitably providing resolutions to contemporary problems of management of the world's natural resources. Indigenous and traditional community knowledge is essentially local knowledge. Many of today's ecological and economic problems are global rather than local. Furthermore, as indigenous peoples have become encapsulated into an expanding global system, the nature of their own relationships with their environment and their neighbours has been constrained by changing circumstances. Indigenous and local communities undoubtedly provide models of good governance of resources and solutions to many resource management problems. But the relationship between local knowledge encoded in language and biological diversity needs to be theorized and demonstrated rather than asserted as dogma.

<sup>2</sup> Please note: section numbers changed in the final document.



## Terralingua in the News

### Utne Reader Article

Via Luisa Maffi.

The April 2002 issue of *Utne Reader* (“the best of the alternative press”) re-publishes the article “Fruits we’ll never taste” by Beth Ann Fennelly (pp. 64-70), which had appeared in the Fall 2000 issue of the *Michigan Quarterly Review*. This is an excellent piece on how “preserving diversity — in the natural world and human culture — lets us delight in an abundant world”. On p. 70, Terralingua is featured among “resources for saving endangered languages”, which is, in turn, an excerpt from the Spring 2000 issue of *Whole Earth magazine*.



### Scientific American Article

From: rosetta-admin@epoch.longnow.org,  
on behalf of Alexander Rose  
Via Luisa Maffi.

*Editor's note:* see the **second** U.R.L. below for an article on endangered languages in which Terralingua is mentioned, and the *On Biocultural Diversity* book is listed in the “more to explore” section at the end...



A new article by Wayt Gibbs in the August issue of *Scientific American* came out on 16 July, 2002, focussing on endangered languages. It is an excellent article from what I have read so far. It has a beautiful full-page piece on Rosetta which you can see at this U.R.L.:

<[www.longnow.org/about/articles/  
ArtscientificAmericaRosetta.pdf](http://www.longnow.org/about/articles/ArtscientificAmericaRosetta.pdf)>

The whole article (400Kb .pdf file) can be seen at this U.R.L.:

<[epoch.longnow.org/share/longnow/  
ScientificAmerRosetta.pdf](http://epoch.longnow.org/share/longnow/ScientificAmerRosetta.pdf)>

Wayt Gibbs is also writing a piece on time, which will have a feature on the Clock in next month's issue. He seems to be an excellent ally to the [Rosetta] Foundation and our projects.

Alexander Rose,  
Executive Director ,  
The Long Now Foundation.

Tel.: 415.561.6582  
Fax.: 561.6297  
E-mail: <[zander@longnow.org](mailto:zander@longnow.org)>  
Web: <[www.longnow.org/](http://www.longnow.org/)>.

## General News & Correspondence

### Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund — Endangered Languages Project

From: <[info@eldp.soas.ac.uk](mailto:info@eldp.soas.ac.uk)>  
Via Tove Skutnabb-Kangas  
<[skutnabb-kangas@vip.cybercity.dk](mailto:skutnabb-kangas@vip.cybercity.dk)>

### Press Release

To help explore and record linguistic diversity across the globe, a British foundation has provided UK£20,000,000 over ten years to establish an international scholarly programme to study endangered languages.

The scale of the funding is commensurate with the urgent — and enormous — threat to the world's linguistic diversity. Many of the languages that will be studied are linguistic isolates. All are very nearly extinct. They have never been adequately analysed or recorded, and they are typically spoken only by a few elderly people. These languages — and their speakers — deserve to be remembered, and to take their place in history. At the same time, this world-wide project to preserve crucial knowledge about the world's linguistic heritage will vitally illuminate the history of how humanity settled the earth.

The Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund aims to support research in the humanities and the social sciences. This grant, together with other family benefactions amounting to many millions of pounds, is intended by

the Hans Rausing family to help British universities maintain the highest standards of academic scholarship.

When deciding to secure the participation of School of Oriental and African Studies (S.O.A.S.) in this programme — a process that took many months of consultation — the Fund's trustees expressed the greatest confidence in the achievements and potential of the School, and in enthusiasm and dedication of its scholars and leaders. The trustees were impressed by the fit between their own profound concern at the threat to knowledge of linguistic and cultural diversity globally, and S.O.A.S.'s long-standing and distinguished study of small languages in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and elsewhere. The Fund's trustees also share with S.O.A.S. a commitment to the highest ethical standards when co-operating with small language communities — people who are often marginalised and dispossessed.

Part of the grant will underwrite an academic programme within S.O.A.S., using S.O.A.S.'s staff and facilities. It will train field workers and deepen the knowledge of endangered languages through specially designed courses in field linguistics generally, and endangered languages in particular, as well as by co-ordinating scholarly activity, publicity and consultation in the field. But the bulk of the fund will be administered by S.O.A.S. to provide grants to scholars throughout the world to document and analyse endangered languages.

Professor Colin Bundy, Director and Principal of S.O.A.S., voiced unqualified delight at the news of the award. "S.O.A.S. was founded in 1916 as a specialist institution for the study of languages in Asia, and later in Africa. We founded the first British linguistics department (in 1932) and our Library was identified in 1961 as a national resource for the study of Africa and Asia. Our history, mission and ethos equip us for this visionary project". He stressed that, in addition to the School's regionally defined departments concentrating on language and culture, its range of disciplinary departments — such as anthropology, history, linguistics — offered a rich opportunity for becoming a world leader in the documentation and study of endangered languages.

S.O.A.S. and the Fund together will underwrite the infrastructure to manage this grants programme.

This means that other families, foundations and companies that would like to donate to this cause will have the

security of knowing that 100% of their money goes directly to the recording and study of nearly extinct languages. The costs of research and documentation to ensure that full knowledge of a language and its use are preserved will vary, but the average is about UK£150,000: we urge all readers of this message to give generously to this profoundly important cause — before those thousands of the world's languages (well over 50% of the total) that are now highly threatened, disappear forever. No sum is too small, and all money donated will go directly, fully, and only to the cause of recording near-extinct languages — and thus save a unique world heritage.

Contact: <[www.eldp.soas.ac.uk](http://www.eldp.soas.ac.uk)>

Direct payments to S.O.A.S. can be made direct to the School's bank at:

National Westminster Bank, p.l.c.  
94 Moorgate  
London EC2M 6XT. England.

Sort Code: 56-00-23.  
Account #: 08622655.

All general enquiries should be addressed to Mary O'Shea at S.O.A.S. on 07898 4075 or to <[mo2@soas.ac.uk](mailto:mo2@soas.ac.uk)>.



### **V.W. Foundation Funds Endangered Language Projects**

From *S.S.I.L.A. Bulletin* #170,  
<[ssila@OREGON.UOREGON.EDU](mailto:ssila@OREGON.UOREGON.EDU)>:

Grants have been announced for the main phase of the "Documentation of Endangered Languages" programme that is being underwritten by the Volkswagen Foundation (Hanover, Germany).

The Volkswagen Foundation hopes that this funding initiative will help stem the irretrievable loss of endangered languages around the world. The projects that are being funded are characterized by data orientation, multi-functionality, and general accessibility.

The programme is intended not only to establish high standards of documentation, but to encourage the development and testing of new methods of research, and of the processing and archiving

of linguistic and cultural data. The program has a strong interdisciplinary orientation: it not only supports interdisciplinary data collection, it also intends to establish opportunities for subsequent multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary use of the data gathered.

The M.P.I. for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen (NL.) will house the data archive, including audio and video recordings, photos, and a variety of texts and notes.

For a detailed description of the technical, linguistic, and legal framework of the program, including detailed descriptions of the twelve projects and their personnel, and information about how to apply for future funding, visit <[www.mpi.nl/DOBES](http://www.mpi.nl/DOBES)>.



### **Native Speakers Needed for "Language Query Room" Advisory Board**

From: Doug Whalen  
<[whalen@alvin.haskins.yale.edu](mailto:whalen@alvin.haskins.yale.edu)>

The Endangered Language Fund, along with the Linguist List, is establishing a new function for language communities and linguists called the "Language Query Room" (L.Q.R.). This effort is being funded by a grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation (N.S.F.). This note is to give you a preview of the L.Q.R. and to ask for volunteers for an advisory board of native speakers.

The L.Q.R. will be a space where questions about how to say things in different endangered languages can be posted. Someone who needs to have a form translated, typically a language learner or a linguist, will post a query via a form at the L.Q.R. site. An automatic e-mail will be sent to everyone who has registered an interest in that language. If a native speaker feels like responding, they will use a similar form on the site, and everyone on that language's list will be informed that new material is present. We hope to have both text (in the native orthography) and audio supported. All of the material will be archived for future searching.

Our current plan is to recognize the contribution

of the native speaker volunteers as official "Language Consultants". They will have their status listed as such on L.Q.R., and a brief biography will be posted (if desired). The primary motivation is the interest in the language and the desire to see it more widely recognized by allowing progress to be made on it outside the field. We are also hoping to have an endangered language "chat room", which would allow speakers of the designated languages to converse with each other, with the only "cost" being to have the discussions archived. We will have a pop-up keyboard that will make entry of unusual orthographies much simpler (we hope) for those languages that have such an orthography.

As we work on the design of the L.Q.R., we want to make it as useful to native communities as possible. To help with that effort, we are assembling an advisory board composed of speakers of endangered languages. We would like to invite any who qualify to contact us about joining the board. The criteria are:

- \* is a native speaker of an endangered language (since we already have the viewpoint of the professional linguist well represented);
- \* has e-mail and Internet access (since the L.Q.R. will only exist on the Web, and the advisory board will have virtual meetings only by e-mail);
- \* is fluent in English (since the membership is intended to be world-wide and those of us on the grant have only English as an interlanguage);
- \* is able to spend a few hours over the next year reading e-mail and contributing an opinion about the best way to make the L.Q.R. function (the time demands are small and on an e-mail schedule rather than a telephone or meeting schedule).

We are putting out this initial request over relevant lists (Linguist and Endangered Languages), but if you know of someone who meets the criteria and is not on these lists, please forward it to them so that we can find the largest pool of candidates possible.

Those who do not meet these criteria but who have comments about the L.Q.R. are welcome to contact us as well, at the e-mail addresses below.

We hope to have a functioning site up this year. The L.Q.R. will, with luck, expand the range of language material

that is used in linguistic theorizing and enhance the stature of the endangered languages in the process.

We look forward to hearing from all interested parties, and we will announce the L.Q.R. itself as soon as it is available.

Durbin Feeling (Cherokee), Chair, L.Q.R.  
Advisory Board...<dfeeling@ou.edu>  
Douglas H. Whalen, President,  
Endangered Language Fund...  
<elf@haskins.yale.edu>.

Doug Whalen  
Haskins Laboratories  
270 Crown St.  
New Haven, CT. 06511. U.S.A.

Tel.: 203-865-6163, ext. 234  
Fax.: 203-865-8963  
E-mail: <whalen@haskins.yale.edu>  
Web: <www.haskins.yale.edu/>.



### **Bolivian Indigenous Languages Given Space in National Newspaper**

From: Bret Darin Gustafson  
<bdgustaf@fas.harvard.edu>

In *S.S.I.L.A. Bulletin* #164:

A new supplement to the La Paz, Bolivia, newspaper *La Prensa* is now appearing weekly in Quechua, Aymara, and Guarani. The supplement is titled "3 Pacha/Ara 3", borrowing the words for "time-space" in Aymara and Quechua (pacha) and Guarani (ara). It is directed by the Aymara writer and linguist Felix Layme, with contributions in Aymara from Julio Yanarico, in Quechua from Aurora Quinteros, and in Guarani from Vicenta Abapori. The supplement contains news and events written in each of the three languages. The project is supported by U.N.I.C.E.F., the Bolivian Ministry of Education, and the government of the Netherlands.

The supplement appears in the regular edition of this urban paper, but is also distributed to the new multilingual teacher-training institutes across the country. It can also be viewed at <www.laprensa bolivia.com>

— click on the icon in the upper right corner of screen. U.N.I.C.E.F. liaison and co-ordinator Rodolfo Garcia (rogarcia@unicef.org) is interested in feedback, contributions and support, as well as information about native language education programmes in North America.

While Bolivia has made significant advances in institutionalizing native language education in public primary schools and at the level of teacher training, countless pedagogical and political obstacles remain. The urban sphere is still dominated by anti-indigenous rhetoric, including a spate of recent editorials denouncing bilingual education as retrograde, anti-national, and anti-modern. In such a context, the appearance of this trilingual supplement is notable. Last year, upon request, without hesitation, and with no mention of his illness, Ken Hale wrote a brilliant editorial in support of Bolivian bilingual education and indigenous language rights, which will soon be published in the press as part of this continuing public opinion campaign.

Bret Gustafson  
Dept. of Anthropology, Harvard University.



### ***Time Magazine:* endangered languages**

From: Suzette Haden Elgin  
<ocls@madisoncounty.net>  
Via LINGUIST List <linguist@linguistlist.org>

The June 10, 2002, issue of *Time*, p. 22, has a half page titled "Tongues That Go Out of Style", written by Harriet Barovick. It shows a map of the world, with notes about endangered languages worldwide. For North America it mentions "Pennsylvania German," "most Native American languages," and Gullah; the choices for Europe are Faeroese, Sardinian, and Yiddish. The fact that for Asia the chosen example is Nushu, identified as "perhaps the world's only language just for women", does not inspire confidence — Nushu is not a language, but a writing system.



## Monsopiad Cultural Village Has a New Web Site

From: Herman <herman@monsopiad.org>

The Monsopiad Cultural Village does not yet have any sponsors, but we managed to make a new Web site. Please have a look at the site, and send us your comments (there is a page and form for the purpose). The details are as follows:

Web site:

<www.monsopiad.org>www.monsopiad.org>

Latest photographs of the Cultural Village:

<uk.y42.photos.yahoo.com/  
monsopiadculturalvillage>

Monsopiad Cultural Village  
Managing company:  
Borneo Legend, Myths &  
Tours Sdn. Bhd. (336441 - P)  
P. O. Box No. 153,  
88858 Tanjung Aru - Sabah. East Malaysia.

Tel. : +60 88 761 336  
Fax. : +60 88 761 680  
E-mail: herman@monsopiad.org;  
mcv@monsopiad.org, mcv@tm.net.my

The Monsopiad Cultural Village is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with guided tours at 10 a.m., 12 noon, 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. and cultural shows at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.



## Bovdejupmi — Innbydelse — Invitation to the Nordic Sámi Educational Research Conference

From: Skals, Eva <Eva.Skals@samiskhs.no>

Sámi allaskuvla bovde davviriikkalas sámi skuvladutkiid konferánsii 7.-9. 11. Guovdageainnus. Konferánsas guorahallat, mii lea dáhpáhuvvan ja dáhpáhuvvamin nu sámi go eará eamiálbmogiid skuvladutkamis. Konferánsa vehkiin háliidat ovdánahttit dieduid, mat gusket etnistehtii, guovttegielalasuhtii, minortehataproblematihkkii, eamiálbmotperspektiivii sihke integreren- ja assimilerengazaldagaide. Dutkankonferánsa ulbmilin lea maddái álggahit ja ovddidit

doaimmaid, mat huksejit teorehtalas dutkanvuodu eamiálbmogiid skuvladutkamii.

Samisk høgskole inviterer til Nordisk samisk skoleforskningskonferanse i Kautokenio, 7.-9. november.

På konferansen vil vi diskutere hva som skjer og har skjedd innenfor samisk og urfolks skoleforskning. Ved hjelp av konferansen vil vi utvikle kunnskap om etnisitet, tospråklighet, minoritetsproblematikk, urfolksperspektiv innenfor både integrerings- og assimileringsspørsmål. Forskningskonferansens mål er å utvikle og igangsette aktiviteter som kan bygge et teoretisk grunnlag for urfolks skoleforskning.

Sami University College invites you to join the Nordic Sami Educational Research Conference in Kautokeino, 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> November. In the conference we will discuss what has happened and is happening within Sami and Indigenous educational research. Through the conference we will be developing knowledge on ethnicity, bilingualism, minority issues, and indigenous approaches to integration and assimilation issues. The objective of the research conference is also to launch activities that could build a theoretical foundation for indigenous educational research.



## The Fourth International Conference on Hani/Ahka Culture

1 - 9 December, 2002  
Honghe Prefecture, China.

From: Andreas Wilkes <ajw5@UKC.AC.UK>

For those interested in S.E. Asia and especially the ecology of terraced agriculture.

### Background.

The Hani/Ahka are a trans-national people, concentrated in the drainage areas of the Mekong and Honghe Rivers, including southwestern China and the mountainous areas of northern Burma, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. They have a population between 1,800,000 to 2,000,000, and the Hani in China account for more than 1,300,000 of that total. After the First International Conference on Hani/Ahka Culture in Gejiu, China, in 1993, the Second and Third conferences were held in Qiangmai, Thailand, in

1996 and in Xishuangbana, China, in 1999. They offered opportunities for intercommunication among researchers interested in cultures of the Hani/Ahka and other mountainous peoples, and for acquaintance with each other and enhancement of friendship. At the Third conference, attendees decided to hold the Fourth International Conference on Hani/Ahka Culture in Honghe Prefecture, Yunnan, China, in 2002. This decision is supported by the Honghe Prefecture Government and the Conference will be held in the Hani areas of Yuanyang and Honghe counties, Honghe Prefecture.

#### Goals of the Conference

- a. Offer a discussion and dialogue opportunity for researchers from different countries and areas who are interested in the Hani/Ahka and other cultures. Establish a network for acadæmic expansion.
- b. Provide an opportunity for discussion and enhancement of friendship between Hani/Ahka representatives from different countries and areas.
- c. Promote efforts to protect and study Hani/Ahka traditional culture.
- d. Display and publicise the outstanding traditional Honghe Hani terraced-field culture, and promote progress in reform and openness of Honghe Prefecture.

#### Schedule

The conference will take place from 1-9 December, 2002. It will be held at various locations in Yuanyang and Honghe counties, Honghe Prefecture. The schedule detail will be offered later.

#### Folk-custom spot investigation

During the conference, two activities of folk-custom spot investigation — one day each time — will be offered in Yuanyang and Honghe counties. Attendees may expect to see the beautiful scene of Hani terraced fields, houses, folk customs and activities of cultivation, spinning, weaving and cloth-dying, and savour the Hani diet by joining the famous Hani multi-table Long Street Feast.

#### Fees

Cost of conference is US\$500 per participant (Including the fees for room

and board in Kunming, 1 Dec.; for room, board, transportation and material during the meeting; and for souvenir and organization costs as well). Fee for accompanying individuals (including adults and children) is US\$300 per person.

#### Undertaking Agencies

The Honghe Research Institute of Nationalities;  
The Honghe Prefecture Hani Studies Association.

#### Contacts

Zhou Hui, Wang Ya, Huang Shaowen  
The Honghe Research Institute of Nationalities  
Jianshui  
654300, Yunnan. China.

Tel.: 0873-7613015  
Fax.: 0873-7616545  
E-mail: hhhnxh@yahoo.com.cn  
Net: www.mingze.com.cn.



### **Nominations Solicited for the Ken Hale Prize**

From: Trechter, Sara <strechter@csuchico.edu>  
Via LINGUIST List <linguist@linguistlist.org>

S.S.I.L.A.'s Ken Hale Prize, being inaugurated this year, is presented annually in recognition of outstanding community language work and a deep commitment to the documentation, preservation and reclamation of indigenous languages in the Americas. The Prize (which carries a small monetary stipend and is not to be confused with the L.S.A.'s Kenneth Hale Book Award) will honor those who strive to link the academic and community spheres in the spirit of Ken Hale, and recipients will range from native speakers and community-based linguists to academic specialists, and may include groups or organizations. No academic affiliation is necessary.

Nominations for the award may be made by anyone, and should include a letter of nomination stating the current position and affiliation (tribal, organizational, or academic) of the nominee or nominated group, and a summary of the nominee's background and contributions to specific language communities. The nominator

should also submit a brief portfolio of supporting materials, such as the nominee's curriculum vitae, a description of completed or continuous activities of the nominee, letters from those who are most familiar with the work of the nominee (e.g., language program staff, community people, academic associates), and any other material that would support the nomination. Submission of manuscript-length work is discouraged.

The nomination packet should be sent to the chair of the Committee:

Sara Trechter  
Linguistics Program/English Department  
California State University, Chico  
Chico, CA. 95929-0830.

Inquiries can be obtained via e-mail to Sara Trechter at (strechter@csuchico.edu). The deadline for receipt of nominations has been extended to October 15, 2002.

The 2002 Ken Hale Prize will be announced at the next annual meeting of S.S.I.L.A., in Atlanta, in January 2003. The other members of this year's selection committee are Randolph Graczyk and Nora England.

### Annotated Listing of Interesting/Useful Sources

#### Shoshone Poetry — Review Copy

From: Brooke Bigelow  
<bbigelow@upress.usu.edu>

*Newe Hupia: Shoshoni poetry songs.*  
(A book and a C.D.).  
Authors: Beverly Crum, Earl Crum, and  
Jon P. Dayley  
Publisher: Utah State University Press.  
Price: US\$24.95.

Available for review. This collection presents written texts of songs in Shoshoni and English, with both figurative and literal translations, and is packaged with a C.D. containing performances of the songs by Earl and Beverly Crum. It has literary value as a presentation of Shoshoni verse and

aesthetics. For more information contact Brooke Bigelow at U.S.U. Press, 1-800-239-9974 or <bbigelow@upress.usu.edu>.



#### Europe and the Languages

From: Guia K. Monti <guiam@wol.es>  
Organization: gksdesign and Internet Marketing

*Europe and the Languages*  
Author: Miquel Siguan.  
Translator: José Manuel Igoa.

Just thought you might be interested to know about *Europe and the Languages* by Prof. Miquel Siguan of Barcelona University (U.B.). This is a linguistics text on languages in modern Europe. Translated into English by José Manuel Igoa. English version not available in print, only as e-book at <atotos.gksdesign.com/ebooks/siguan/>.



#### Manual de las Lenguas Indígenas Sudamericanas I & II

From: LINCOM.EUROPA@t-online.de  
(LINCOM EUROPA)

*Manual de las Lenguas Indígenas  
Sudamericanas I & II.*  
(Handbook of South-American Indian  
Languages).

Author: Alain Fabre.

Publisher: LINCOM EUROPA.

**Vol. I.** I.S.B.N.: 3 89586 201 0.  
LINCOM Handbooks in Linguistics 04.  
672 pp.

Price: US\$86 / 76.50 / UK£56.

**Vol. II.** I.S.B.N.: 3 89586 202 9.  
LINCOM Handbooks in Linguistics 05.  
667 pp.

Price: US\$86 / 76.50 / UK£56.  
(2<sup>nd</sup> printing).

El libro incluye datos acerca de 428 grupos étnicos/lingüísticos indígenas sudamericanos actuales, desde Honduras hasta Tierra del Fuego, en forma entradas ordenadas por familias lingüísticas. Después de una

introducción en la se discuten brevemente problemas de pertenencia lingüística y étnica de las poblaciones referidas sigue una bibliografía general de unas 4500 entradas, mapas de los países con población indígena, un índice con referencias cruzadas de unos 3200 nombres de grupos y subgrupos lingüísticos y étnicos. Cada entrada del diccionario contiene (1) localización geográfica detallada, (2) nombre(s) del grupo y



subgrupos cuando se conoce, (4) número de hablantes y/o de los integrantes del grupo étnico, (5) bibliografía de la población presentada con temas de etnología, lingüística,

ethnohistoria y derechos humanos, (6) observaciones diversas relativas a la etnohistoria, subdivisiones étnicas y/o lingüísticas, haciendo hincapié en numerosos puntos debatidos que aparecen en la literatura referente al grupo étnico, así como datos de primera mano obtenidos en comunicaciones particulares con antropólogos y lingüistas con sólida experiencia en el terreno.

The handbook presents data about 428 contemporary indigenous languages/ethnic groups of South and Central America from Honduras to Tierra del Fuego, in the form of dictionary entries arranged according to linguistic groups. After an introduction discussing problems of linguistic grouping and ethnic status of population groups, there follows a general bibliography of more than 4500 titles, general maps of the countries mentioned, a cross-referenced index of about 3200 names of ethnic groups/subgroups, languages, and varieties. Each entry of the dictionary contains: (1) precise geographical locations; (2) name(s) under which the ethnolinguistic groups are known in the literature, including some considered nowadays obsolete but found in older sources; (3) own name(s) whenever known; (4) number of speakers of the language and/or ethnic group; (5) bibliography of the group, including ethnology, linguistics, ethnohistory and legal rights; (6) observations concerning ethnohistory, linguistic and/or ethnical grouping, including many moot points and first hand observations obtained in personal communications from experienced field workers, anthropologists and linguists. [Written in Spanish].

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### A Manual of Linguistic Field Work in South Asia

From: Lakhan Gusain <lgusain@hotmail.com>  
Via Endangered Languages list.

*A Manual of Linguistic Field Work and  
Indian Language Structures.*

Author: Anvita Abbi.

Publisher: LINCOM EUROPA. LINCOM  
Handbooks in Linguistics 17. 320pp.  
I.S.B.N.: 3 89586 401 3.

Anvita Abbi, Center of Linguistics and English,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi & Max  
Planck Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology,  
Leipzig, Germany.

This is a manual on linguistic field methodology with special reference to Indian language structures. It covers all that one needs to know about eliciting data from native speaker informants of South Asian languages. The book contains step-by-step information about collection, collation, analysis, description, presentation and explanation of linguistic data. The author has drawn a large number of first-hand collected examples from lesser-known and "tribal" languages of India to expose the readers to the variety and diversity of linguistic data available in the subcontinent. In

addition to the discussion on elicitation on phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic and sociolinguistic information, the author has discussed the linguistic characteristic features of each language family of India. The book makes the reader aware of areal features of the languages under consideration and the contact phenomena to facilitate fieldwork. Each topic is followed by the "elicitation tips" and interrogation techniques for the field worker as well as practical issues, problems and solutions as regards collection of data. Sets of questionnaires on commonly investigated topics are included in the "appendix" to facilitate field workers to come to grips with the theoretical and structural aspects of languages in general and Indian languages in particular. Numerous figures, maps and tables.

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### Cultural Centre Produces Booklets for Teaching Vernacular Literacy at Pre-School Level

From: Nicholas Thieberger  
<n.thieberger@linguistics.unimelb.edu.au>  
Via Endangered Languages list.

Various booklets.  
Port Vila Presse. 2001.

The Oral Traditions Project of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre has produced a series of booklets to be used in teaching vernacular literacy in various language communities throughout Vanuatu. A set of four different booklets has been produced for each of 12 languages. These booklets are an important step in introducing vernacular education to communities. The books are intended primarily for use in early education in community kindergartens. One is an alphabet book, to be used for teaching the spelling system of the language. This book in particular will be of use to both adults and children, to assist in showing how to write in the vernacular. People who wish to write in language but have previously found it too hard,

will be able to use this book as a guide to how some of the more "difficult" sounds in their languages should be written. The other three books are picture books showing the names of common birds, trees and marine life. The 12 languages for which the books have been produced are: two languages of West Vanua Lava, Banks; two languages of west coast Santo; the language of Hog Harbour, Santo; Central Maewo language; the Lolovoli dialect spoken in southeast Ambae, raga of north Pentecost, and two of south Pentecost; a language of west Ambrym; and the language of V'ao island, Malekula. These books are the culmination of three years work by Catriona Hyslop, the linguist who manages the project, travelled to each of the communities, analysed the sound system and discussed with the community how their languages should be represented in writing. The main funders for the project were Australian Volunteers International, who sponsored Catriona Hyslop, and N.Z.O.D.A., who provided funds for running workshops and for part of the production cost of the booklets. The Curriculum Development Centre of the Ministry of Education also offered vital support by producing most of the booklets.

Department of Linguistics and Applied Linguistics,  
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Web: <www.linguistics.unimelb.edu.au/contact/studentsites/thieberger/>.



### Bibliography on Language Endangerment

From: Tasaku Tsunoda  
<tsunoda@tooyoo.l.u-tokyo.ac.jp>

A *Bibliography on Language Endangerment* was placed on the following Web site in May 2002:

<www.tooyoo.l.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~tsunoda/dlg\_lst.html>.

It was updated on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2002, and now contains about 670 entries.

For those colleagues who read Japanese, *O-sutoraria Genjuumingo no Sekai* (The World of Australian Aboriginal Languages) was placed on the following Web site in June 2002:

<www.tooyoo.l.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~tsunoda/  
Australia/index.html>.

Sincerely,  
\*t  
Starr T. Hogan  
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### Native Language Preservation

From: Starr T. Hogan <starr.hogan@NAU.EDU>

I work with a non-profit arts organization (DAYDREAMZ project), and we recently completed a youth media workshop here in Arizona. The group of six Native American teenagers developed a 60 second radio P.S.A. (public service announcement) regarding their concern for preservation of traditional languages. These youths wrote, recorded, and edited this piece themselves. They used Hopi, Navajo, & Apache speakers ranging in age from 8 to 68. We are looking for groups who could use this to further their own missions in cultural/ language preservation, as well as to have more exposure for this poignant work.



Any ideas, suggestions, groups to contact?

I have an "mp3" file for you to hear; contact me for it... We would also appreciate feedback, if you have any. The piece is NOT for sale; it may be used with written permission, for non-commercial purposes only. We are a non-profit organisation, so donations are always welcome and appreciated to allow us to continue our work. Thank you for your time.

Comments and suggestions are welcome, and we do welcome articles and news items for publication. Please send all communications regarding this newsletter to the Editor, Ms. Anthea Fallen-Bailey, either by e-mail (afallenb@terralingua.org), or by regular mail (41620 Fish Hatchery Drive, Scio, Oregon 97374-9747. U.S.A.). Membership inquiries and renewals should also be sent to the Editor. Fees/donations should be sent to our Treasurer, Mr. David Harmon, Terralingua, P. O. Box 122, Hancock, Michigan 49930-0122. U.S.A. Funds can also be donated via our secure on-line service at <www.terralingua.org>.