



Traditions for Tomorrow

Traditions pour Demain – Tradiciones para el Mañana

By asserting their culture, Amerindian people construct their future

Valorizing traditional medical knowledge

The *Ajq'ijab'*, spiritual Maya leaders, have traditional knowledge of mind and body care. *Médicos Descalzos* (Barefoot Doctors) is an organization comprising therapists in Maya medicine as well as in western medicine. It is active in the heart of the Maya-Quiché region of the Guatemala central highlands, and has been striving for many years to enhance the knowledge and the role of these leaders, and of traditional midwives too (*Illomab*).

Traditions for Tomorrow supports a three-year programme of the organization, to produce publications for hundreds of practitioners, and ar-



Treatment given by an Ajq'ij, Guatemala (photo : Médicos Descalzos)

range meetings which allow exchanges and organized distribution of this knowledge. The 35 years-long war this country has gone through has left many deep scars which manifest themselves, for example, as serious mental health disorders, but which also often affect sexual and reproductive health.

This very pioneering initiative helps bridge the gap between these two health sectors, through research, training, sensitization and valorization, also maintains a close and permanent dialogue with the Public health system which is general unprepared to handle such pathologies.

Traditional knowledge and cultural expressions: subjects of intellectual property

In the Chiapas region of southern Mexico, an American woman, who runs an alternative publishing house, has, in her publications, assigned herself the copyright of the poems, legends and tales in the Mayan language, with which the Indians from the area have entrusted her. Traditional knowledge and cultural expressions are subjects of intellectual property. Such plunder of an heritage (oral tradition, medical knowledge and others, design, music, etc.) transmitted from generation to generation, must stop.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), UN agency based in Geneva, has been working for many years on the elaboration of an international treaty, which should amongst other things recognize the collective rights of ownership of this knowledge, define who are its owners, preserve the secrecy of that knowledge when so required by the owners, provide a framework for collecting the rights at a national level, and so on. More generally, the goal is to prevent the looting of this intangible heritage. For some years, Traditions for Tomorrow has taken part in this process at WIPO, together with indigenous experts whose presence is fully accepted and decisive in the negotiations.

For an inclusive education that respects values and knowledge

Educational policies are a continuous concern for the States. There are many lasting challenges to education, at all levels, (early childhood, primary, secondary, superior, technical, professional, teacher training, literacy, adult education, minorities, etc.).

Today's debate revolves around the choice between an education system that inculcates values and one that simply teaches. When making choices for modern education, it appears that concern for the economics of the system overwhelms concern for the individual. Indigenous people are directly confronted by these challenges.

From the very beginning, Traditions for Tomorrow has sought to find tailor-made solutions, by, for example, implementing bilingual-intercultural education programs at local level, producing appropriate teaching materials, building infrastructures in harmony with the local environment and culture, training teachers in education, providing direct support to school children and promoting distance education for children, women and adults in general.

Two innovative experiences have currently been made possible through its intervention:

a) an exchange of teachers between, on the one hand, a programme developed these past ten years in different parts of the Peruvian Andes which aims to integrate schools with their communities and with the adults and their knowledge, and, on the other hand, the implementation of an innovative pedagogical method of indigenous primary school teaching in the States of Oaxaca and Chiapas in Mexico.

b) the promotion of a Maya education program at secondary level in one part of the Chimaltenango Department in Guatemala, in order to obtain official recognition of this methodology at municipal level in San Martin Jilotepeque, as well as by the Ministry of education.

Recognized as a public utility in France

A Government decree published in the Official Journal of August 2nd 2013 has recognized the French branch of Traditions for Tomorrow as an "*Association reconnue d'utilité publique*". By officially acknowledging the quality of its work in international development co-operation in favour of culture, as well as the integrity of its functioning, the decree gives the organization an obvious prestige.

For Traditions for Tomorrow - France, this recognition offers new and important possibilities in that it is now entitled to receive legacies and donations through registered deeds. Thank you for contacting us on this subject.

Traditions for Tomorrow's various affiliations

- Consultative status with UN-ECOSOC
- Official NGO partner to UNESCO - association status
- Accredited to WIPO and to various UNESCO Conventions for the protection of cultural heritage and of the diversity of cultural expressions
- Member of the Geneva and Vaud Federations for Development Co-operation
- Member of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee representing the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity
- Member of the CRID (network of French NGOs for co-operation)
- Recognized as a public utility in France (JO. dated August 2nd 2013)
- Non-profit organization recognized by the ZEW0 (Zürich)



The *Watunakuy* in Cusco (Peru)

Almost every year since 2002, the *Watunakuy* (an expression going back to Incan time) brings together hundreds of traditional leaders over several days, who come from different Andean countries to celebrate the winter solstice (the *Inti Raymi* for the Quechua people of the Andes) at the sacred site of Raqchi near Cusco. This event is illuminated, night and day, by exchanges of seeds and knowledge, presentations of music and dances and ritual celebrations. Having supported the 2012 *Watunakuy*, Traditions for Tomorrow now finances an assessment of this

Protecting cultural heritage in the event of armed conflict

In the event of armed conflict, individuals are physically vulnerable and their cultural identity is also under threat, especially as such conflicts frequently contain ethnic, cultural or religious components. The destruction of cultural heritage, tangible and intangible - the foundation of people's cultural identity - can therefore be at stake in a conflict.

In her PhD thesis in Law presented at Geneva University in 2012, «Cultural heritage, tangible and intangible: which protection in the event of armed conflict? »*, Christiane Johannot-Gradis, cofounder and Vice-president of Traditions for Tomorrow, demonstrated that all cultural heritage is both tangible and intangible, and that the law applicable in such situations is well able to ensure its protection.

Since 2013, Traditions for Tomorrow takes part in the Intergovernmental Committee of the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of Armed Conflict.

* Thesis published by Schultess publications, Zürich, 2013

unique experience initiated by the NGO CEPROSI (Cusco), which will then be widely disseminated. Both projects are supported by the Horizon Foundation from the Netherlands.



Participants to the *Watunakuy*, Raqchi, Peru (photo: Nathalie Weemaels)



Winay Kawsay, cultural newspaper in Kichwa - Imbabura, Ecuador

Indigenous people putting all types of media to work

In recent years, indigenous people have been using communication and information tools in order to disseminate their knowledge and raise awareness of their struggle to defend their values and their territory. Radio stations, video, television transmission whether by cable or satellite, blogs, websites, social media, and newspapers; nothing is allowed to slip through their hands. The 2nd Continental Summit for Indigenous Communication took place in October 2013 in Tlahuitoltepec (Oaxaca, Mexico).

Traditions for Tomorrow actively supports numerous initiatives in this field. For example, it funds with UNESCO the Kichwa radio networks of the Andes and of the Amazon in Ecuador. With funding of the Swiss development co-operation institutions both at federal and cantonal level especially in Geneva and Vaud, it supports indigenous multimedia systems of communication in the north of Ecuador and in various regions of Mexico.

In the latter country, the afro-descendant minority (about 400.000 persons in total) also benefits from similar support for radio broadcast programmes out of the State of Oaxaca. These awaken the consciousness of the public and the authorities with the goal of obtaining official recognition of their existence in the Mexican constitution. In Peru, thanks to the support of the Horizon Foundation, the recordings of a much revered sage from the Cusco region, now dead, Ciprian Phutuni Suri, are broadcasted through weekly radio programmes produced by the Centro Sami of Cusco. These broadcasts in the Quechua language are addressed to rural populations living in the Cusco area and those who have immigrated to other regions or abroad can receive them through the internet.

Pueblos y minorías que Tradiciones para el Mañana acompaña

<i>Costa Rica</i>	<i>Bolivia</i>	Embera-Chami	Kiché	Saraguro	Chontal	Triqui	<i>Chile</i>	Criollos
Borrauca	Afro-bolivians	Wayuu	Mam	Shuar	Huichol	Tzotzil	Aymara	Garifuna
Bribri	Aymara		Qeqchi		Mam	Yucateco	Huilliche	Mayangna
Cabecar	Chipaya	<i>Guatemala</i>		<i>Mexico</i>	Mazahua	Zapoteco	Mapuche	Miskito
Ngobe-Bügle	Guarani	Aguacateco	<i>Ecuador</i>	Afro-	Mixe			Nahuatl
	Qhara Qhara	Axi	Afroecuato-	mexicans	Mixteco	<i>Peru</i>	<i>Honduras</i>	Rama
<i>El Salvador</i>	Quechua	Chalchiteco	rians	Akateco	Nahñu	Aymara	Chorti	
Kakawira		Ixil	Cañari	Chamula	Nahuatl	Paysans	Garifuna	<i>Panama</i>
Lenca	<i>Colombia</i>	Jacalteco	Cofan	Chinanteco	Nahuatl	Andinos		Kuna
Nahuatl	Afrocolombians	Kakchiquel	Kichwa	Chol	Purepecha	Quechua	<i>Nicaragua</i>	Naso
		K'anjobal	Puruway	Choloteco	Tojolabal		Chorotega	Ngobe-Bügle

Since 1986, Traditions for Tomorrow, an international non-governmental network, accompanies the efforts of indigenous people and minorities concerned about safeguarding their cultural identity in a dozen countries of Latin America.

Several hundreds of very concrete cultural or educational initiatives, chosen and conducted by the groups, were carried out in the field thanks to the support of members and donors, and public or private grant-makers. Traditions for Tomorrow contributes to strengthening confidence, self-esteem and dignity, to the restructuring of communities and to helping them face the challenges they are confronted with: this is “empowerment”. Besides,

We value your support!



- Annual membership € 20, CHF 25, US\$ 25
- Non-allocated donations, even small yet very useful
- Donations and legacies
- Voluntary work or sponsor one of our projects (contact us)
- Support in kind: equipment, supplies, your skills

Further details : www.tradi.info/support
Tax-deductible donations

Traditions for Tomorrow is also active in sensitizing public institutions and non-governmental organizations both at national and international level, on such issues as indigenous people, cultural diversity, living cultural heritage and the intellectual property rights which flow from them.

Our main private sponsors: the Horizon, Haella, Denis Guichard, Hirzel, Pictet, Swiss Solidarity foundations, Le Rosey Institute, Pricewaterhouse-Coopers (Geneva), Dillenschneider & Favaro law firm (Paris), the Raiffeisen Bank of Gimel, Canon, kosdesign (St-Légier), l’Imprimerie de Bière, Schenk (Rolle). *And the institutional ones:* UNESCO, particularly through its Participation Programme and the International Programme for the Development of Communication, the Swiss National Commission for UNESCO, the Geneva and Vaud Federations for Co-operation and their financial partners at cantonal and communal level, the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC), the City of Rolle.

Our present partners on the field: **Mexico:** CGCIP (Morelos), AFRICA (José María Morelos, Oaxaca), Fundación Santa María Yaviche (Oaxaca). **Guatemala:** Médicos Descalzos (Chinique), ADECOR (San Martín Jilotepeque), FUNDEBASE (Sacatepequez). **El Salvador:** Círculo Solidario (Antiguo Cuscatlán). **Ecuador:** APAK (Otavalo), AJKI (Iluman, Imbabura), CORAPE (Quito), AJONCE (Cofan Dureno, Sucumbios). **Peru:** PRATEC (Lima), Chuyma Aru de apoyo rural (Puno), Centro Sami (Cusco), CEPRO-SI (Cusco). **Bolivia:** Nación originaria Qhara Qhara Suyu (Chuquisaca), CE-SATCH (Sucre).

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