



News from SAIIC...

Since our last journal in November of 1995, SAIIC passed through a difficult period, which has slowed the publication of *Abya Yala News*. We apologize to our readers for this inconvenience. In spite of many difficulties, our work with Indigenous peoples has continued on stronger than ever. We had numerous visitors, worked on many different campaigns, and stayed long hours to do it all.

We are very pleased to announce that **Amalia Dixon** is now Director of SAIIC. Amalia's experiences as a Miskita woman in the autonomous Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua have prepared her well for the rigors of the SAIIC directorship. It is a pleasure to work with her.

SAIIC is pleased to announce that **Mariana Chuquin**, a Quichua woman from Ecuador has joined us as member of the board of directors. Mariana is from the community of Mariano Acosta in the province of Imbabura. Mariana attended the Universidad del Norte in Ecuador as a single mother. She moved to the US in 1984, and now works in Social Services for the community of San Francisco's Tenderloin district, providing health, food, free shelter, clothing, counseling, and information resources. She has remained active in the Indigenous Movement through it all. Welcome, Mariana.

Laura Soriano Morales, a Mixtec-Zapotec woman from Oaxaca, Mexico, has joined SAIIC to coordinate and produce SAIIC's radio program. Laura is part of the Binational Oaxacan Indigenous Front, and has a long his-

tory of working in the Indigenous movement. Up to this point, we have taped a program on Biodiversity and Biopiracy for the purposes of informing Indigenous peoples of this new form of colonialism. The radio program also consists of a segment of news entitled "Indigenous Voices." Radio programs are taped and distributed to over seventy different Indigenous radio stations and organizations in Latin America.

SAIIC welcomes **David Rothschild** as the new Administration and Project Coordinator. David graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz, with a Major in Latin American Studies. David has worked with various Indigenous organizations in Ecuador including CONAIE. He is presently working on a book focusing on Biodiversity and Indigenous Intellectual Property Rights, to be published in English and Spanish.

In late October, we received the visit of **José Jacir de Souza**, long-time Macuxi activist in Brazil. Jacir extended his speaking tour from the East Coast to the West, and had great success here in the Bay Area. We had the privilege of conducting an interview with him with the help of Leda Martins and Glenn Switkes.

Between November and January, **Gilton Mendes**, an intern from Brazil, worked with SAIIC in developing closer solidarity ties with Indigenous organizations in the Brazilian Amazon. Gilton compiled key information on the changes in the Brazilian Indian land legal structures and also networked with and presented his work

to area activists. It was a pleasure having Gilton here working with us.

SAIIC also received the visit of a **Sami delegation** (the Sami people are indigenous to what is today Norway, Finland, Sweden, and parts of northern Russia). During their visit, we exchanged common experiences of fighting for territorial rights, issues of representation, and the struggle to preserve and manage the earth's natural resources. We thank them for coming to see us.

Lastly, we were lucky enough to receive the visit of **Francisco Campbell**, who is Vice-President of URACCAN, the University of the Autonomous Region of the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua. Francisco talked to SAIIC about this brand new initiative to provide Indigenous education and training to the Sumu, Miskito, Rama, and Garifuna peoples in Nicaragua.

Several people have left SAIIC since our last journal: **Leticia Valdez**, **Andrew Bartlett**, **Marc Becker**, and **Cheryl Musch**. We take this opportunity to thank them for their warm dedication to SAIIC and wish them the best in all their future endeavors.

Coming up in the next issue of

**Cultural
Extinction in
the Americas**

ABYA YALA NEWS