



News from SAIIC...

SAIIC is in the midst of many changes. We have changed our name to the **South and Meso American Indian Rights Center** to better reflect the focus of our activities. While information gathering and dissemination continue to be major projects for us, the new name describes more clearly our role in international organizing: to fight for Indian peoples' rights. In a more concrete change, we will also be moving in November to new office spaces at 1714 Franklin (3rd Floor), also in downtown Oakland. This large new space will accommodate our expanded team of interns and volunteers.

Over the summer, we have focused largely on issues of biodiversity conservation and intellectual property rights, which are receiving increasing international attention. SAIIC board member and Cultural Survival-Canada, executive director, **Alejandro Amaru Argumedo** spent several weeks here in Oakland participating in events relating to these issues and planning for our upcoming workshop on "Indigenous peoples, Customary Law and Intellectual Property Rights."

This workshop will take place in early 1995 and will bring together Indigenous peoples from North and South America who are facing constant threats to their survival as cultures of the land. The workshop will be an opportunity for Indigenous peoples to develop policy and strategies to enhance their struggles for advancing inherent rights and protecting bio-cultural resources and spiritual values.

SAIIC assisted in organizing a planning meeting of the **Coordinating Committee of Indigenous women of Meso and South America**, which took place in Bolivia this June. SAIIC will continue participating in the steering com-

mittee as international relations coordinator. SAIIC board member and women's project coordinator, **Wara Alderete** furthered her information gathering on traditional health systems and attended a conference on women and traditional health hosted by Wayü Indians this September in Venezuela. In conjunction with The Book Publishing Company, we have published the second edition of the women's book "Daughters of Abya Yala".

For the fifth consecutive year, **Nilo Cayuqueo** represented SAIIC at the **UN Working Group on Indigenous Peoples** meeting in Geneva. He also helped organize a planning meeting for the Coordinating Committee of Indigenous Nations and Organizations of the Continent (CONIC) in Bolivia.

SAIIC is pleased to announce that **Marcos Yoc, Maya-Caqchiquel** from Guatemala, will be joining the board of directors. Marcos has been active in the Chimaltenango area and works in Maya education.

David Tecklin will be leaving the SAIIC Office Coordinator position to renew work with forest conservation issues. **Cheryl Musch** will be managing the office through the winter.

We are also happy to welcome **MacArthur Foundation Fellow Marc Becker** here to work with us for the next year. Marc will be using his extensive experience with computer networking to help us expand our information systems via the internet. Marc lived in Ecuador last year, where he will return again next year to finish research for his dissertation.

SAIIC has established an electronic conference on PeaceNet called *saic.indio*. We will be posting a variety of new and historical information on SAIIC's activities and the Indian movement in this conference.

The full text of the Barbados III Declaration excerpted in this issue has been posted there in English and Spanish. To join PeaceNet, call (415) 442-0220. If you already have an Internet e-mail account you can be placed on a mailing list to receive the postings to the SAIIC conference by sending a note which simply says "subscribe saic-1" to majordomo@igc.apc.org.

Over the summer, SAIIC has also been very busy implementing several organizational strategies in order to strengthen our work. We completed one of the two public awareness campaigns planned for this year. Approximately 5,000 people in the San Francisco Bay Area received news and information about SAIIC—most likely for the first time. This effort will also help to finance the second planned public awareness campaign targeting approximately 200 foundations in the United States. Broadening our base of subscribers to the journal is critical in our move toward more self-sustainability. You can help with this effort by sending us the names and addresses of anyone who might be interested in receiving information about SAIIC and *Abya Yala News*.

You are cordially invited to SAIIC's Office Warming Party

1714 Franklin, 3rd Fl,
Monday, December 14, 1995
6:00-10:00pm

- Refreshments will be served. Office warming gifts gladly accepted.
- We still need office equipment, including: modems, a scanner, Macintosh or 486 PC computers, as well as all the usual items.