



# News from SAIIC...

As you have probably heard, SAIIC has moved to a new office space on the third floor of 1714 Franklin, also in downtown Oakland. We inaugurated the new office on Dec. 16. Among the many visitors were Mapuche representatives from the Consejo de Todas las Tierras in Chile. These representatives did several presentations in the area relating to NAFTA, where they expressed their opposition to the free trade agreement which will negatively affect the land and natural resources in their territory. They were enthusiastically received in the San Francisco Bay Area and are planning future tours of the US.

In October, we were honored to have a visit from the Quichua leader Luis Macas, President of CONAIE, the national Indigenous organization in Ecuador. He was attending a conference of Goldman Environmental Prize winners, and took this opportunity to make several presentations to large audiences at UC Berkeley.

Board member Guillermo Delgado debated Indigenous issues in the National Association of Anthropologists meeting that took place in Atlanta, GA. Board member Alejandro Argumedo participated in the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Bahamas in Nov. and Dec. and lobbied for provisions to protect Indigenous biocultural resources.

The Abya Yala Fund, a newly founded Indigenous foundation, is also taking off, and will be sharing SAIIC's expanded office space until it finds its own location.

**Kimberly Rosa**, Development and Administrative Coordinator for the last two and half years has left SAIIC to help start a community mediation program in San Luis Obispo county, where she moved in the middle of December. Kim will be in contact with SAIIC until her replacement is oriented to the work. Kim has been of tremendous value in building SAIIC's administrative and financial capacity, and we will miss her presence in the office. In other major staff changes, SAIIC is pleased to announce that **Leticia Valdez** has been hired for the position of administrative coordinator. **Constanza Castro** and **David Tecklin** who have managed journal production for the last year and a half will be turning the role of coordination over to **Reynaldo Vasquez**. **Alfonso Jaramillo** who designed *Abya Yala News'* current format and has produced last year's editions will also be leaving this work.

SAIIC continues to move forward with efforts to use computer networks to advance its work. **Marc Becker**, who continues as communications coordinator, has helped establish an electronic conference on PeaceNet called [saic.indigo](http://saic.indigo), and has facilitated board

members communication through email. As a reminder to SAIIC supporters who have an email account but are not on PeaceNet, you can receive copies of postings to this conference by sending a note which simply says, "subscribe saic-1" to [majordomo@igc.apc.org](mailto:majordomo@igc.apc.org). Either read [saic.indio](http://saic.indio) on PeaceNet or subscribe to saic-1 in order to receive urgent action alerts and other news from SAIIC.

If you have questions about how to access this information, please contact Marc at the SAIIC office. Email users can also retrieve an electronic copy of SAIIC's brochure which describes our work by sending a blank email note to [saic-info@igc.apc.org](mailto:saic-info@igc.apc.org). If you use gopher, you can find a copy of this brochure: **\*\*\***. Finally, SAIIC has also established its presence on the Internet in the form of a World-Wide Web Home Page. Use your WWW browsers (such as Lynx, Netscape, or Mosaic) to [a c c e s s : http://igc.apc.org/saic/saic.html](http://igc.apc.org/saic/saic.html).

SAIIC continues to seek to broaden the base of subscribers to *Abya Yala News*. Please help us by asking your friends to subscribe. In addition, we urge you to clip the Library Recommendation Form below and submit it to your local public or university library. This is a highly effective manner of spreading Indigenous perspectives more widely.