

BANCO INTERAMERICANO DE DESARROLLO
BANCO INTERAMERICANO DE DESENVOLVIMENTO



INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
BANQUE INTERAMERICAINE DE DEVELOPPMENT

CHIEF *s.l.*

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UNIT

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SDS/IND/9.2005

Washington, D.C., August 17th, 2005

Mr. Armstrong A. Wiggins
Director, Indian Law Resource Center
601 B Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Armstrong:

As the Acting Chief of the Indigenous Peoples and Community Development Unit and on behalf of Anne Deruytere, I am answering your message of yesterday that included two letters directed to Anne.

As you are aware, during the past year we conducted a far-reaching prior consultation process of the IDB's Indigenous Peoples Strategy and Policy profiles with different stakeholders throughout the Region. After approval of the Indigenous Peoples Strategy and Policy drafts by our Programming Committee for final consultation, it was decided because of budget and time constraints that this consultation would be performed electronically.

For this purpose, the Bank contracted the services of ALOP. In addition to the public space made available for comments, that you used, we sent specific invitations to participate in the electronic consultation to more than 780 Latin American stakeholders. We have received an important amount of comments and feedback, that are being published in ALOP's web site.

Also, it was decided to organize a consultation workshop at the Hotel Bouganvillia in Santo Domingo, Costa Rica, on August 20th and 21st, restricted to Latin American grassroots indigenous organizations. The rationale for this meeting is: (i) that not all IDB borrowing countries' grassroots indigenous organizations have access to the internet services; and (ii) that we are responding to specific requests from these organizations that wished to be consulted directly, independently and that wanted to choose themselves their own representatives.

The agenda and list of invitations are being coordinated between the Bank and the Central American Indigenous Council, our host indigenous organization in Costa Rica and they have not been finalized yet. In addition, it has been our custom to publish the list of participants only after each workshop.

ALOP was instructed to redirect any inquiries on this workshop to our Unit. More than 20 NGOs have requested to participate in the workshop and we have explained to them that the event is restricted to IDB borrowing countries' grassroots indigenous organizations. Except for the ILRC, all of them have indicated their understanding.

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss ILRC's comments on August 25th, 2005, as proposed in my message last Monday.

Yours sincerely,


Carlos Perafán