



“Are we ready to co-invest in each other?”

### **Indonesian Indigenous Peoples will host the first Asia/Pacific Summit**

Bali and Lombok Indonesia—These islands have long welcomed tourists who immersed themselves in their tropical beauty and rich traditions. In March Indonesia will host the first-ever meeting between funders and Indigenous peoples from around the Asia/Pacific region.

#### **The time is right.**

Indigenous peoples of Asia and the Pacific have not only protected ancient ways of life but are recognized as stewards of the world’s most significant remaining bio-reserves. While partnerships are slowly building, political, economic, climate-based pressures are pushing these peoples beyond their capacities. They can’t do it alone – now is the time to strengthen the links between funding agencies and these communities.

It is also time for new paradigms. Time to stop thinking in terms of *aid* and *donations* and to start talking in terms of *co-investment*. Time to value Indigenous knowledge and practices as highly as the capital needed to protect them. As Abdon Nababan of the hosting Indigenous peoples alliance, Alliance of Indigenous Peoples in the Archipelago (AMAN), asks, “Are we ready to co-invest in each other? How do we develop partnerships around these opportunities?”

AMAN and the International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) coordinated a steering committee that included The Christensen Foundation, Global Greengrants Alliance of Funds, Tebtebba Foundation and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, among others, to guide this historic event. As a result, donors, grantmakers, Indigenous leaders from more than 20 countries have committed to sit down to discuss concrete solutions to critical challenges. Keynote speakers, such as Ken Wilson of The Christensen Fund and Filipino congressman H.E. Teddy Baguilat, will inspire workshops with such esteemed Indigenous elders as Apai Janggut a Dayak from Sungai Utik Borneo.

While Indigenous populations predominate in this region (about 70 % of the world’s 350 million Indigenous Peoples), they have had few opportunities to directly collaborate with funding agencies. At the Summit, these communities will showcase good practices, and share challenges in sustainable resource management and work with funding agencies to structure partnerships that return greater social and economic benefits.

## **Concrete Solutions**

Site visits will demonstrate how Indigenous communities have developed concrete solutions to some of the most pressing socio-cultural and environmental problems of our times. For example in Les and Serangan Villages, small fishing communities that have both revolutionized catching methods and coral transplantation as the first step toward both community-based, integrated marine eco-trading and eco-tourism management. Since 2002 two villages, one still pristine in the Northeast, another in the coastal ‘slum’ of Sanur, both suffer from low incomes from fishing, have shown unity against cyanide fishing through customary regulation, and found better markets for naturally harvested ornamental fish and planted corals. They are now models of coral reef rehabilitation and sustainable, socially responsible and just economic development.

Meanwhile, field visits in the Balinese villages around Penglipuran provides a working example of how emerging initiatives, local credit cooperatives, collective title, and philanthropy can promote both economic growth and generate locally managed forest preservation. Collaboration between many groups, including the local Bamboo Foundation and the community resulted in the development of a REDD-based reforestation program run by an Indigenous-owned bamboo forest areas.

Other visits highlight the diverse spiritual and cultural traditions of the local communities. Participants will visit the remote village of Trunyan whose peoples preserve a pre-Hindu way of life and spirituality, with ancient, neolithic customs and a conscious avoidance of outside influences. Meanwhile, the artists’ village of Kamasan is the site of a successful cultural pilot project between the local people and UNESCO.

The summit is hosted by the Alliance of Indigenous Peoples in the Archipelago (AMAN) in Indonesia, co-organized by the International Funders for Indigenous Peoples, The Samdhana Institute and AMAN. More information on the agenda and speakers is available on IFIP’s website at [www.internationalfunders.org](http://www.internationalfunders.org) . Registration is now open at [www.regonline.com/asia](http://www.regonline.com/asia)

### **Conference dates:**

#### **Asia/Pacific Indigenous Peoples Resource Sustainability and Funders Summit**

**Pre-site visit on March 26, March 27–28, 2011 in Bali and post site visit  
March 29-30, 2011 in Lombok and April 1-3, 2011 in Thailand**