An Akha woman wearing a face mask sorts coffee beans at a plantation in northern Thailand in February, 2020. Covid-19 has affected the world’s indigenous people disproportionately.

**Highlights**

In 2020 we had to postpone our planned field assignments due to the global coronavirus pandemic. However, we were able to continue our work in Thailand and Laos instead. In 2020 we also revised our mission and added new content to our Web portal. We awarded an institutional education grant to support indigenous education in Thailand. We were active on social media.

**Mission Change**

In 2020 we made a small but significant change to our Mission Statement. Our mission continues to focus on education for
and about indigenous people. However, we re-stated this mission to incorporate the spread of indigenous education, knowledge and science. This change was made in acknowledgement of the role that traditional, indigenous knowledge and science can and should play in informing policy to tackle the enormous challenges that face the world today.

Assignments

In early 2020 we had planned to begin our field assignment work in Taiwan. It was during a stopover in Southeast Asia – en route to Taiwan – that the world began to lock down due to the spread of coronavirus. We were forced to change those plans and, instead, made the most of the situation by continuing our work in Thailand and Laos.

Web Portal

In 2020 we continued our “tic-tac-toe” strategy for our Web portal. “Tic” involves keeping our portal up to date with information technology trends. “Tac” refers to the content on our portal. “Toe” is design — the user interface to, and user experience of, our portal.

Tic. 2020 was a “tic” year. We upgraded our Web portal’s responsive design framework technology. We also made minor systems updates to our hosting platform.

Tac. We continued to publish monthly opinion editorials about current, global events that affect indigenous people, with an accompanying photograph from our
extensive archives. Opinion editorials are published on the first day of each month and are linked from our Web portal home page at:

http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/

Our opinion editorials are archived on the first of January each following year at:

http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/opinionArchives.jsp

We also published two new photo-ethnographic articles about the Mandinka and Tz’utujil peoples. They are available on our Web portal at:

http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/text?people=Mandinka
http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/text?people=Tz%27utujil

We also created a new YouTube channel for our short documentary films about indigenous people, knowledge and science. They are available at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCud7xda-NeHbFRJo2TJs8ig

We also published a new travel narrative story, Loss of Indigenous Knowledge in the Omo Valley, Ethiopia. It is available on our Web portal at:

http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/travelStory.jsp?travelStory=omo%20valley


A Tz’utujil Girl, Guatemala, 2013.
We re-designed the user interface of the listing of photo-ethnographic articles by languages spoken and by geographic region in those sections of our Web portal.

**Social Media**

Throughout 2020 we continued to update our Facebook page with announcements and links to news stories about and affecting indigenous people at:

http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Peoples-of-the-World-Foundation/243657765700765

**Resources**

The resources on our Web portal continued to be used extensively by non-governmental organizations, non-profit and media organizations, interns, government agencies, publishing companies, journalists, students and educators around the world.

**Programs**

In 2020 we awarded the first installment ($500) of a $1,000 grant under our Institutional Education Grants program to The Karen Hilltribes Trust in Thailand. This grant will help to fund that organization’s educational programs that benefit indigenous Karen people in northwest Thailand.

**Finances**

Donations decreased in 2020 compared to 2019.

Table 1 below shows a summary of our 2020 balance sheet (amounts are in US$).

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td>(1096)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance</strong></td>
<td>(972)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. 2020 balance sheet.

We acknowledge the contributions of our donors, directors, advisors and others who contributed their expertise, time, energy and resources in 2020.

**Plans for 2021**

Plans for 2021 are not yet finalized because of the continuing coronavirus pandemic. Besides publishing new content, we hope to resume our field assignment work, but that will depend largely on the progress of the global distribution of Covid-19 vaccines.

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1 Financial data appearing in this report have not been audited by a Certified Public Accountant.

*Annual Report 2020*