

Agenda Item 6: Human Rights
U.N. New York Headquarter
20 May 2002



Human Rights Report on Taiwan Indigenous Peoples

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N'gaayho!¹ Indigenous sisters and brothers of the world, I salute you with my mother language of Pangcah. I am a member of the Pangcah² people and I am here on behalf of the Association of Taiwan Indigenous Peoples' Policies (ATIPP) at this important forum to share with you and the United Nations the story of my people.

First, on behalf of my people, I like to extend our congratulations to all fellow Indigenous delegates of the globe at this historical occasion – the first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Despite the many difficulties, inside and out, which were going against us Indigenous peoples, we have followed our ancestors' spirit and persistence to work together collectively so that we will be respected and honored on the world stage. Hence, I congratulate you, my fellow Indigenous sisters and brothers of the world. In addition, we also like to express our prudent support to the Chairperson and extend our congratulations to you upon your election.

(I) Introduction – A Brief Historical Review

Like many Indigenous peoples of the world from the beginning of time, we also had our own traditional culture, land, tribal wisdom, medicine, music, belief system, and political system. We were free, we were beautiful, and we lived harmoniously with natural ecology. However, the invasion of the outsiders quickly took over our beautiful mountain and river, as well as our natural resources. Worst still, we were forced to accept foreign education, which created terrible confusion among Indigenous members about Indigenous identity and hostility toward each other.

Hence, we strongly appeal to your support to supervise the force of political economy of the nation-states that caused the crisis of Indigenous identity and ethnic genocide.

(II) Taiwan Indigenous Peoples' Rights to Economic Development

Although Taiwan, as a whole, is considered as achieving significant progress, both

¹ This means greetings in the Indigenous language of Pangcah people in Taiwan.

² Pangcah is one of the ten officially recognized tribes in Taiwan.

wastes. Without the informed consent of Indigenous people of the Orchid Island (Tao people), Taiwanese government deceived Tao people and transported tons of nuclear wastes to the Orchid Island. For the past twenty years, our fellow Tao sisters and brothers continued to suffer from cancer and unknown diseases.

For the well-being of our environment and my fellow Indigenous peoples in Taiwan, we strongly appeal to the Taiwanese government and the United Nations to stop nuclear operations and remove the poison from our land. We want a clean and safe environment.

(V) Recommendation – Proposal

Under the principle of universal human rights, we strongly appeal to the United Nations to care for the human rights of the Indigenous peoples in nation-states that are not currently recognized by the United Nations. Our recommendations are as follow:

- i. We urge the Commission on Human Rights to expedite the adoption of the Draft Declaration on the Indigenous Peoples Rights before the second session of the Permanent Forum and allocate a sufficient budget for a Permanent Forum Secretariat.
- ii. We urge the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to work in close collaboration with the Commission on Human Rights and the UNHCHR to conduct comprehensive studies on Indigenous peoples in nation-states that are not currently recognized by the United Nations.
- iii. In recognition of universal human rights, we urge the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to extend its invitation to Indigenous peoples in Taiwan for the second session of the Permanent Forum.
- iv. We urge the ECOSOC and relevant UN bodies to study WTO policies in consideration of Indigenous peoples' rights.

Mr. Chairperson and my fellow Indigenous sisters and brothers, before I end this intervention, I want to draw your attention to a serious issue concerning language by Chinese translators commissioned by the UN. In the Chinese translation, we, Indigenous peoples, are addressed as the “Barbarians” at the WGIP in Geneva and this Permanent Forum in New York. This is a great insult to all Indigenous delegates in this forum and we wish an immediate change be made in this session.

Last but not least, on behalf of my fellow Indigenous peoples, I like to express our sincere appreciation to Ms. Mary Robinson and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) for your consideration of the overall well-being of Taiwan Indigenous peoples.