

## CSOs and NGOs working for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples<sup>1</sup>



**Name of Organisation:** International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)

**Website of Organisation:** <http://www.iwgia.org/index.php>

**Facebook of Organisation:** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Work-Group-for-Indigenous-Affairs/108201492563576?fref=ts&rf=130448730326833>

**Organisation of DTP Alumni Y/N:** Yes

The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) is an independent and non-profit international human rights-based membership organization, whose central charter is to endorse and promote the collective rights of the world's indigenous peoples. Established in 1968, the IWGIA is registered as a non-profit organization in Denmark, with the head office of its Secretariat based in Copenhagen. IWGIA works at local, regional and international levels to further the understanding and knowledge of, and the involvement in, the cause of Indigenous peoples.

IWGIA plays an important role in ensuring Indigenous participation in the different meetings and working groups within the UN system. This is done by financial support from the Human Rights Fund to cover travel expenses of participants. Another important role of IWGIA is the facilitation of accreditation necessary for a large number of Indigenous representatives by way of IWGIA's ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) Consultative Status. A status which is required to be able to participate in the UN meetings. IWGIA's project work in Asia is confined to South and Southeast Asia where IWGIA has supported Indigenous organizations' work since the mid 1990's.

### Projects in Asia

IWGIA's project work in Asia is aimed at empowering Indigenous peoples through:

- Strengthening the regional network of Indigenous peoples' organizations. The network coordinates participation in international processes, exchange of knowledge and information and cooperation between different organizations in specific activities.
- Supporting local organizations and strengthening their capacity to address the problems they are confronted with.

### Thematic priorities

- Self-organising and empowerment
- Land and resource rights
- Self-determination, peace processes and constructive agreements with the State
- Climate change
- Information dissemination and awareness raising through publishing in local languages

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*Profile written April 2017*

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<sup>1</sup> The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is an NGO affiliated with the Faculty of Law at UNSW in Sydney. Since 1990, It has provided training to over 2600 human rights defenders and community advocates. These individuals work for a wide range of organisations working to promote shared values of human rights – in different ways. This profile is part of a series developed by DTP ([www.dtp.unsw.edu.au](http://www.dtp.unsw.edu.au)) to illustrate the richness and diversity of the organisations working to promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples more broadly.

