

Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

**Eighteenth Session
Geneva, May 9 to 13, 2011**

ADDENDUM TO ACCREDITATION OF CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (“the Committee”), at its first session, held in Geneva, from April 30 to May 3, 2001, approved certain organizational and procedural matters, including according *ad hoc* observer status to a number of organizations that had expressed their wish to have a role in the work of the Committee (see the Report adopted by the Committee, WIPO/GRKTF/IC/1/13, paragraph 18).
2. Since then, an additional number of organizations have expressed to the Secretariat their wish to obtain the same status for the subsequent sessions of the Committee. The annex to document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/18/2 contains the names and other biographical details of the organizations which, before March 9, 2011, requested accreditation at the eighteenth session of the Committee. Applicants were invited to complete an application form and the biographical details of the organizations contained in the Annex are set out exactly as received from each organization.
3. The Annex to the present document lists an additional organization which also requested observer status.

4. *The Committee is invited to approve the accreditation of the organization referred to in the Annex to this document as an ad hoc observer.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS REQUESTED ACCREDITATION
AS AN OBSERVER IN SESSIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

B.I.S.O.N. International

B.I.S.O.N International

To: Traditional Knowledge Division
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Fax: +41 (0) 22 338 70 20

Email: grtkf@wipo.int

Dear Traditional Knowledge Division,

Re: Request for accreditation as a permanent observer in future sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee

I am writing to express the wish of my organization to participate in the sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore as a permanent observer. Please find our application and the required documents attached for the Committee's consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Paul Crane Tohlakai

Initiator

Application Form for Accreditation as *Ad Hoc* Observer to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore^{1,2}

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

Full name of the Organization:

B.I.S.O.N. International

Description of the Organization: (maximum 150 words)

BISON International is borne out of Europe where there are concerns of Indigenous Peoples rightful place in the international community. Natives and non-natives have recognized a need for international relations policy based on Indigenous sense of honor and respect. B.I.S.O.N. International, as a support organization, aspires to assist in developing a comprehensive organizational and international cross-cultural program. It will be an "Organization Without Borders" as it evolves.

B.I.S.O.N. International will be under the leadership of Indigenous Natives of North America. They will be a vital component in the decision making process

Main aims and objectives of the Organization:

- Redress the issues and help with the rebalancing of past injustices that have contributed to the collective and historical trauma that has affected Indigenous People for generations.
- Explore the establishment of "Sister Cities" with European cities and Native American reservations or communities.
- Garner support for the honoring of treaty rights and the promotion and implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Support Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination.
- Support the revitalization of Indigenous communities, with services and resources.

Please do not enclose any attachment with your application

¹ Please note that the decision on accreditation will not be made by the Secretariat, but by the Member States at the beginning of the session of the Intergovernmental Committee. It is therefore possible that certain organizations may not receive accreditation. Therefore, if the requesting organization is not based in Geneva, it might not be advisable to travel to Geneva for the sole purpose of participating in the session of the Committee until accreditation has been granted.

² Please note that this application form may be presented to the Committee exactly in the form received. Please therefore, as far as possible, complete the form using a type-writer or word processor. The completed form should preferably be emailed to grtkf@wipo.int.

- Support the “Indigenous Voice” through cultural and educational programs and events.
- Support the blending of sustainable technology of today with the enduring wisdom and knowledge of earth-based cultures.
- Create cross cultural youth programs and journeys.

Native Americans can offer knowledge and the understanding of more life fulfilling pathways that can assist humanity in the great transitions occurring.

Main activities of the Organization:

- Educational presentations in Europe by North American Natives.
- Cultural Events: Song, dance, Arts and Crafts and culturally relevant shows.
- Eco-Tourism to Native communities.
- Explorations of Socio-economic opportunities with International communities.
- Cross-cultural exchanges for youths and groups
- Sustainability programs-projects for native communities with volunteers.

Relationship of the Organization with intellectual property matters, including a full explanation of why you are interested in the issues under discussion by the Committee (maximum 150 words)

Having evolve out of learning experiences, B.I.S.O.N. has assumed a position in initiating a unique approach that in part honors Indigenous traditions to include decision-making processes. Our intellectual properties and self-determining rights have never been allowed despite even good intentions. Traditional knowledge and inherited abilities that could be explored and utilized as a valued resource is felt needed to find ways to reach a goal of sustainable future for Indigenous communities. Indigenous people of North America have survive despite what could be the most intense genocidal agenda against a minority. We are now exercising our basic human rights to be self-determining. To be a part of the decision-making process, using our Indigenous Mind is a responsibility and one that B.I.S.O.N. Indigenous is determine to utilize in education of all.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

To be active primarily in European countries with a base in Switzerland.

Additional information:

Please provide any additional information which you feel may be relevant (maximum 150 words).

As an International individual who has founded B.I.S.O.N., we have experienced the many facets of cross-cultural challenges with other organizations that did nothing to further the healing and other ideals of international relationship. It is felt that the time is right to not only seek social justice but to implement Indigenous People sense of values and peace oriented agenda with the international communities. We do represent various international communities primarily of Europe with Native Americans and First Nations of Canada to mentor our Missions and Goals toward a common vision of Peace. A focus on representing ourselves instead of others is our task through educational programs designed for the culturally diverse communities of Europe. We Natives recognize our culture being appropriated by non-natives to include our intellectual-traditional knowledge, customs,

ceremonies and other cultural expressions. We wish to speak for ourselves to protect, maintain, and sustain our culture for our future generations yet to come.

Full contact details of the Organization:

Postal address:
c/o Marianne Ruegg
Rue de la Gare 18
1607 Palézieux
Switzerland

Telephone number: +41 21 731 18 07
Fax number: +41 21 693 8060
Email: groupe-bison@hotmail.com
Web: www.groupe-bison.com

Name of Organization Representative and Title

Paul Crane Tohlakai – Initiator
Bob Red Elk - Administrator