

Indigenous and Migration Network IMN

Indigenous and Migration Network (IMN) Meeting at ITI 37th Congress held on 10/19/24 in Antwerp



SUMMARY REPORT

The meeting provided the opportunity for Ova Saopeng and Roberto Cayuqueo to reconnect after the 36th Congress in Fujairah, UAE. Activities in between the two congresses were minimal through zoom calls that included members CJ Ochoco, [George Mascarenhas](#), Zaza Muchemwa and CJ Ochoco to determine next steps since the dissolution of Network of Heritage, Indigenous Cultures and Migration. The new name has been approved to be Indigenous and Migration Network moving forward.

For this meeting we received new interest from the following members in attendance at the 37th Congress in Faustino Blanchut of ITI Belgium, Daniel Lares of ITI Mexico, Ricardo Fernandez of ITI Mexico, Yajaira Salazar of ITI Chile, Romaine Kuonen of ITI Switzerland and Hadi Mohammad Khani of ITI Switzerland. We opened our meeting with a theater practice that provides connection and communication offered by Ova Saopeng. The ALOHA circle is a practice from his theater company TeAda Productions where we offer ALOHA which is a Native Hawaiian word that means “Welcome, Hello, Love and numerous meanings” then each person would share their name, where they are from and who they bring with them. Each individual offered their answer. Ova Saopeng shared the mission and goal of the network and facilitated another exercise to gain more knowledge about each other. He provided an exercise that made everyone inquire who is in the circle with a phrase: Do this IF and provided a statement. He then gave others the power to also inquire any questions they may have about each other. The exercise brought laughter and connection and loud noises. We then delved deeper into conversation on the state of AI (artificial intelligence) and the challenges for performers and how we are dealing with this issue within our own region. We closed with a conversation on next steps to stay connected and provide information on future possibilities to continue this movement. Everyone was assigned to seek Indigenous or migration issues within their region and report out on our next expected meeting to be held via Zoom in the first week of November. A sign up sheet was circulated to gather contact information to keep this network growing. We closed out our meeting with a MAHALO circle where we shared one thing we are grateful for from this meeting and one thing we take away with us.

Ova Saopeng then reported to the general assembly to provide more information on the IMN and encouraged the assembly to send anyone who is interested in Indigenous or Migration work within their regions to connect with us.