

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE USE

DVD Launch on Maori and the UN

Ko te manu e kai ana i te miro, nōna te ngahere.
Ko te manu e kai ana i te mātauranga, nōna te ao.

"Maori have a long history of engaging at the international level, networking with other Indigenous Peoples to participate in the development of international law and informing the international community of the issues and concerns affecting Maori" said Producer/Director Tracey Whare de Castro.

"The purpose of this DVD is to share the history of Maori participation at the UN, to explain the meetings and work of the UN that relate to indigenous peoples human rights and give Maori some tools on how they can participate".

"Being aware of the different international fora available to Indigenous Peoples ensures we are being strategic especially when Government thinking lags behind what is happening globally in the area of indigenous human rights. A recent example was the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 143 countries adopted the Declaration at the General Assembly with only 4 countries opposing including New Zealand" continues Tracey.

Since the inception of the League of Nations after World War One, Indigenous Peoples have continually brought their concerns to international fora. As international human rights law has developed Indigenous Peoples have been at the forefront of such developments relaying their history and concerns to ensure human rights law applies to their situations.

Aotearoa Indigenous Rights Charitable Trust (AIR Trust) is a non-profit organisation committed to promoting informed debate and action to protect the rights of indigenous peoples within Aotearoa and around the world. The Trust undertakes projects designed to raise awareness about the rights of indigenous peoples within Aotearoa and for assisting Maori to attend international meetings of indigenous peoples and the United Nations.

LAUNCH DETAILS

DATE: Friday 21 November 2008
TIME: 5.30pm
VENUE: Salmond Room, Law Faculty, Victoria University, 15 Lambton Quay
WELLINGTON

CONTACT

email: aotearoaindigenousrightstrust@gmail.com