

## **From the Village to the United Nations and Back Again: Aboriginal Taiwan and International Indigenism**

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In the past three decades, indigenous peoples have asserted their place in international law, including the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Taiwan has participated in this process, as Taiwan's indigenous people have attended the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and related activities in New York and Geneva. Delegates to these events, legislators as well as social movement actors, return to Taiwan with new ideas about indigenous rights. These ideas have been incorporated into ROC law, including the 2005 Basic Law on Indigenous Peoples and subsequent legislative reform. But political and social movement leaders also return to their villages, where they have to explain new ideas, such as the creation of autonomous zones, to ordinary community members. This paper looks back at the past decade of the author's field work in Sediq and Truku villages, but also looks forward to the new century. What happens when indigenous leaders return to the villages with ideas learned from international forums? How do ordinary villagers interpret this process and its implications for their lives? Which ideas resonate best with their lived experience in Taiwan and point the way to improvement in the new century?