AN OATH AFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO ASSERT AND DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS

WE, the participants to the Asia Indigenous Peoples Regional Fair, convened to celebrate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) from 26-27 July 2008 in Chiangmai, Thailand, having come together in mutual trust, respect and solidarity for each other, under the guidance of our spiritual traditions, and having shared our struggles and aspirations, state this oath:

WE fully acknowledge and honor the outstanding work and contributions of indigenous human rights activists who have made great sacrifices to defend and promote our rights. They shall always be our inspiration in protecting our rights and for our welfare.

WE pledge, as stewards of the land, which we have nurtured for generations and hold the responsibility to nurture for generations yet to come, to defend our ancestral lands and territories against development aggression, destruction, encroachment and other unwanted incursions. WE pledge, as keepers of our traditions, which we have maintained for generations and hold the responsibility to develop to respond to our current situation, to defend our traditional beliefs, values and cultures against commercialization, forced assimilation, obliteration and other forms of ethnocide.

We commit, to establish solidarity with other peoples of Asia, and of this world, who share with us the common endeavor for a just society and a sustainable world. We affirm our view that the work of asserting and defending the rights of all peoples is the responsibility of all human beings.

We affirm our commitment to achieving greater victories in exercising our collective rights. We declare our unity and solidarity to work tirelessly for a better and peaceful world.

July 27, 2008
Chiang Mai, Thailand