



Dear Friend,

Hello and welcome from Instituto Tierra y Cal, A.C., and Ingenieros Sin Fronteras, Mexico, A.C.! Tierra y Cal (literally: earth and lime) is a nonprofit organized in Mexico which provides training in construction with compressed earth blocks and other sustainable and appropriate technologies. Ingenieros Sin Fronteras (Engineers Without Borders) Mexico (ISF-Mexico) is a Mexican nonprofit which provides technical training and assistance in a wide range of appropriate and sustainable technologies, as well.

Our organizations are comprised of engineers and students, architects, builders, community organizers, and other professionals and experts in diverse fields of sustainable development. We are committed to participating with rural, poor and indigenous communities – throughout Mexico, Latin America and the globe – in developing sustainable and environmentally friendly technologies that maintain and restore the health and wellbeing of community life.

To address the challenges facing low-income families and communities, rural and urban alike, Tierra y Cal and ISF-Mexico have entered into a strategic alliance to promote the building of a Center for Sustainable Development (*Centro de Desarrollo Sustentable*) in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico. The Center (or el Centro) will be the physical core of a system of satellite organizations, universities and communities that will form a network, offering training and educational opportunities throughout Mexico and Latin America. Trainings at the Center will provide the necessary skills for Partner Trainers and members of target communities to develop their own ecosystem-based enterprise opportunities; thus acting as an intervention strategy to stem the exodus to urban centers. Instead of accepting the 'inevitability of urbanization', Tierra y Cal and ISF-Mexico see the transformation of rural economies and resurgence of healthy rural communities as contributing factors to rural, and consequently, global, sustainability. Strengthening the ability of rural communities to survive in a sustainable manner serves to protect the land base and rural and indigenous cultures, which are so necessary to sustain vibrant and healthy urban centers.

We are starting our Phase 1 workshop on September 6th, 2010 which will develop the infrastructure to house up to 25 students, volunteers and trainees for future workshops – a critical step in the development of the Center. To fund this phase, we are reaching deeply into our own pockets and we are asking for support from you, our friends, families, stakeholders and those we have worked with over the years. Currently, our organizations are made up exclusively of volunteers and the money you donate will result in the direct action towards the construction of the Centro de Desarrollo Sustentable.

While Tierra y Cal and ISF-Mexico are registered nonprofit organizations in Mexico, we currently do not have 501(c)(3) status in the US. However, all donations are still tax deductible if made to one of our sponsoring partner organizations: Birambye International. Your gift is a critical part of our efforts to improve the lives of rapidly disintegrating rural communities of the global south.

Sincerely,

Tierra y Cal and Ingenieros Sin Fronteras-Mexico

Please indicate your support and involvement by clicking on the PayPal link below or send a check to the address below. If you send a check, be sure to include the bottom portion of this letter with your gift and make your check payable to our partner organization: "Birambye International" and note in the memo section of your check "Tierra y Cal/ISF Mexico" – Thanks!

The funding for Phase I is needed before our September 6 start date so your prompt response is greatly appreciated.

Donations can be made electronically through PayPal to Birambye International for the Tierra y Cal/ISF Mexico Center for Sustainable Development project by clicking on the link below or by pasting the link into your browser.

Click on this link: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=Y2A7Q4Z2JS2T6

or

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Birambye International

BE SURE TO NOTE ON YOUR CHECK IN THE MEMO SECTION:

"Tierra y Cal/ISF Mexico"

Send Checks to:

Birambye International

C/O Tierra y Cal/ISF-Mexico

2930 Stuart St.

Denver, CO 80212

Quarterly

Bi-annual

Annual

One time only

Name _____

Address: _____

Date _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Email: _____

www.institutotierraycal.org

email: jimhallock@tierraycal.com_____
