



Kimberley Land Council

MEDIA RELEASE

KLC shares Kimberley story with Indigenous people from across the world at United Nations event

Improving Indigenous land rights and promoting economic development was the central message the Kimberley Land Council delivered to the United Nations in New York.

The KLC recently returned from a two-week networking trip where it connected with Indigenous people from across the globe as well as government delegates, environmental organisations and philanthropists.

KLC CEO Nolan Hunter said attending the United Nations forum on Indigenous issues was a beneficial experience.

“I was sponsored to do an International training program at the United Nations. It was really insightful and inspiring and taught me how to raise issues and present submissions within the forum,” he said.

Mr Hunter said hosting a side event at the United Nations on economic and cultural business enterprises was a highlight of the trip.

“At our side event we got to share our Kimberley story and promote the work we are doing to pursue enterprise development through using our Indigenous culture and knowledge to develop sustainable businesses,” he said.

“More than 50 people from Canada, Guatemala, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden, America and the Arctic attended our event, which was great because we got to meet such a broad cross-section of people and cultures.

“Through sharing stories with each other, we got to learn about the challenges people face, the solutions they are implementing and the failures and successes they are having. We’ve brought back a lot of new ideas with us.”

Mr Hunter said the KLC, while in New York, played a pivotal role in developing the future structure and vision for the World Indigenous Network.

“The KLC worked alongside the Australian Government in setting up the World Indigenous Network to connect land and sea managers from across the globe, so it was great to be involved in the second phase of its development and help create a vision for what it will become into the future.

“Globally, Indigenous-led conservation initiatives are collectively having a major impact in mitigating environmental challenges, so having a vehicle like the World Indigenous Network to bring people together is really important.”

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Break out perspective piece from Nolan: The city that never sleeps

New York really is the city that never sleeps. Travelling from the Kimberley to the hustle and bustle of city lights, millions of people, traffic jams and high rise buildings was definitely a culture shock. Even the United Nations where the Permanent forum on Indigenous issues was held was like a world unto itself, with its own rules and regulations, language and governance structure.

Although the New York trip was jam packed with meetings, events and forum sessions, there was a little bit of time to squeeze in some networking and socialising. A highlight was dinner with the Pacific delegation including representatives from Australia, Hawaii and New Zealand. And just like at home, Indigenous people the world over love belting out a few tunes at Karaoke, so of course we all ended up in a little Chinese karaoke bar singing New York, New York!

Through participating in the Tribal Link International training program at the United Nations, I was able to meet a range of people from various countries.

Our final wrap-up dinner and drinks was great. The group I did my training with were really friendly and we became quite close during the three-week training program so our final dinner together actually became a cultural celebration.

We had a welcome to country chant from the American Indians, African singing, a tribal song from the Philippines and dancing from Spain? And at the end we participated in a traditional farewell ceremony from ?”

Then of course there were the sights you just have to make time to see while in New York; Central Park, the Rockafella Centre, the Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn and Harlem. Not to mention the food you just have to eat; bagels with cream cheese, steak, hot dogs and pizza.

New York is a vibrant city and a melting pot of all different cultures. There are just so many people from so many different places and that works to make it a really interesting place. But after three weeks of busy city life, it was nice to come back to the Kimberley and Broome time.

Nolan Hunter