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**December 24, 2022 Letter from Director Richard Kamp (Pictures at the end)**

Hello. The E-Tech International director's end of the year letter tends to be enthusiastic in judging our mission. Of course; we want your attention and if possible a donation on website. That mission: to provide very highly credible international long term environmental technical support to communities and sometimes local regional and national governments who face potential or actual large-scale industrial environmental impacts. If we can afford to do so and the chemistry is positive, we provide this support after an agreement in writing from the territorial owners and caretakers, often indigenous. We seek to collaborate and support in-country teams who can do this work because nothing else works long-term. We do not deny the severity of environmental, health and social impacts and neither do we take political stances: we define the elephant in the room as best we can and the strategies needed to save lives, health, and the ecology.

This has been a year that has no simple definition. It has been a tough and evolving one that has left E-Tech (in my opinion) better adapted to the realities we work within-- as opposed to a tiny group of friends taking on very large tasks. We began the year with some staff burnout and an equally burning need to define such organizational policies as sexual harassment and to address both in an empathetic and firm manner.

We have stressed in the past our being "bare bones" with little infrastructure. A corollary is that many of our staff have sacrificed the need for stable income and adequate working conditions in order to commit to the work; a tough adaptation. In some senses in 2022 we realistically confronted the issues in front of us in different ways in different countries but all included very close and strong collaboration with others in-country. Here is what 2022 brought within our work as we continue as a lean organization with eyes wider open.

**Loreto, Peruvian Amazon:** A new E-Tech was born in Peru, incorporated by Director Paxty Tananta as a separate Peruvian legal nonprofit in April. E-Tech Peru has taken on a large part of an amazing legacy as we both continue to coordinate with the 4 Amazon basin indigenous Federations in 4 watersheds as well as Puinamudt- Federation "platform" in working with the Peruvian government (that remains under marshall law chaos). Part of the revolutionary 2016 Actas or laws was the commitment for the government to work in coordination with the Federations to remediate and rehabilitate 2500 Amazonian watershed square miles containing literally thousands of crude oil polluted sites. In 2021-22 the government agreed with Federation demands and through PROFONANPE the environmental

funding arm, to fund (inadequately but indefinitely) the training of communal businesses and environmental monitors, many of whom E-Tech trained, to be employable in cleaning up their own territory. Explicit in the Federation demands was that E-Tech coordinate the process.

E-Tech Peru is the lead organization on the ground now implementing the second semester of training of the four indigenous Federations in Loreto to become the remediators of half a century of ongoing crude oil pollution. E-Tech International is legally the administrator as part of a consortium with COAM, an oil spill response firm, in this implementation. We hope that in 2023 E-Tech Peru will be the lead organization and E-Tech International a consultant; consistent with our efforts to find funding for E-Tech Peru. Training this Fall in the 4 watersheds was moved around to different communities as the Federations blocked all commerce in the Amazon when the Castillo administration temporarily blocked cleanup funds before first caving to the Federations in November and then collapsing as a Presidency in December.

Ricardo Segovia conducted cultural-environmental investigations of Kukama people's rehabilitation priorities in the Marañon River in participation around the time of the blockade and concurrent with E-Tech Peru coordinated <https://e-techperu.com/PROFONANPE> training. E-Tech International continues our role of community representative in remediation planning as well as onsite citizen science monitoring.

**Ecuador:** 2022 work has focused exclusively on technically strengthening all means to confront the "imminent endangerment" from Ecuacorriente Mirador mine tailings collapse and other mining impacts on local Shuar and Saraguro indigenous communities as well as other non-indigenous communities combined with potential environmental danger to downstream rivers many miles to the south, possibly in Peru. This mine is in a heavily saturated rainforest with a history of earthquakes. 12 years of extreme and unregulated development of the Chinese open pit copper mine in a country inexperienced in mining impacts and in deep debt to China have made our technical expertise critical. Audits that could potentially halt or slow down mining as well as implementing a very difficult emergency response plan have long been needed. Permits are issued with almost no technical data and one was given in August allowing expansion to 140,000 metric tons per day with no real public input—somewhere in the top 4-10 globally depending on the year. E-Tech was concurrently issuing our report for the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights on imminent endangerment (following government non-compliance with freedom of information requirements) for a mine 60% smaller -because we were completely ignorant. We are in the process of contracting to get a highly professional model of tailings collapse as a tool for our Ecuadoran technical and grass roots colleagues to pressure for governmental action on the mine. We have expanded our outreach to groups in Ecuador to be sure we all operate from the same understanding of this mine and likewise we are creating tools such as modeling and remote sensing photos that others in Ecuador can use to monitor this mine and analyze other large scale mines.

Sonora, Mexico: We are in the early stages of joining a new project that analyzes mining and other environmental impacts on the Rio Sonora and that stresses community outreach, citizen science and education tools to communities that have been impacted by the Cananea and other mine discharges. In

early 2023 we will better define how E-Tech will work with Sonoran researchers funded by CONACYT, the Mexican government commission for science for community benefit.

Uganda: E-Tech, particularly Bill Powers, continues to provide support for the Environmental Defenders group that is battling the East Africa Pipeline project. We've given a little financial support and Bill has been providing engineering analysis of the pipeline human rights and environmental impacts.

People news: Paxty Tananta, the director of E-Tech Peru, has also joined the (separate) board of E-Tech International. He is also currently the official representative to the Peruvian government and PROFONANPE of the E-Tech/COAM consortium. We miss environmental scientist Evelyne Blondeel and

hope to rekindle a sometime. Diana strategic planning and toxicologist, left E-family after an She is doing a small Madre de Dios and advising E-Tech Peru in Mario Zuniga has been Tech Peru as part of platform for the Loreto expects to continue Alison Hospina is a within the



working relationship Papoulias, our water quality expert Tech to be with exhaustive 2021 run. contract for us in expects to be the coming year. conferring with E-Puinamudt, the federations and doing the same. core coordinator PROFONANPE

training of the federations while in E-Tech Peru. Cliff Jones has taken on responsibility for GIS work in Ecuador and Peru projects and cleaning up our clunky website. Laurie Silvan has taken on a lot of E-Tech organizational support and increased her responsibilities as an advisor to E-Tech on projects in Peru and Ecuador as well as being a consultant on the new Rio Sonora project that is operating with Mexican government funding. Our very deep thanks to Steve Emerman, Dave Chambers, Eliana

**Ecuador's Mirador Mine Tundayme tailings dam. A steep dangerous candidate -when complete-for world's tallest. Built in an isolated saturated rainforest and earthquake zone on indigenous territory.**

Jimenez, and attorney Julio Prieto for their tireless work with Chief Scientist Ann Maest in implementing the great work in Ecuador. To Jim O'Brien and Noemi Gonzales of Flo2D for their assistance in making strong Mirador mine tailings dam failure modeling tools available in Ecuador. To Peter Rodriguez for his reports from the 4 cuencas of Loreto. To Agustin Robles of the Instituto Tecnológico de Sonora for his brave efforts to address social and environmental pollution problems in the Rio Sonora. Congratulations to Ricardo Segovia and Elana Evans for their new baby and to Lupita de Heredia for again being a grandmother. A big thank you to Chief Engineer Bill Powers for his assistance to our struggling NGO colleague Robert Agenonga in Uganda. To our board. And to funders Full Circle, Swift Foundation, Pachamama Alliance, Lush Charity Pot, Wick Family Fund, Tim Spears and the Bess Timmons Foundation, to all of our generous individual donors including Christine Curtis. Goodbye to my dear friend Bob Wick and friend and donor Annie McGreevy. Thank you for your efforts--all of you--it warms the heart.

Dick K

Figure 1E-Tech/COAM training of Kukama for employment to remediate Maranon River territory. October, 2022. Photo: Peter Rodriguez, Federation FEDIQUEP



E-Tech returning to Rio Sonora, Mexico, water sampling and outreach with new collaborative project in 2023

