



## LEADERSHIP FORUM

Knowledge-Based Economies in  
a Multicultural World

**For Immediate Release:**  
September 17, 2004

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### **Native Leaders, Bank Experts, Elected Officials Gather to Discuss Knowledge-Based Economies in a Multicultural World**

*Seminar in Dirksen Senate Office Building Room G-50 Kicks Off  
Week of Festivities in Washington, D.C.*

WASHINGTON D.C.— Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, American Indians, elected officials, business leaders, development bank experts and non-governmental organizations from the international development field are gathering in the nation's capital to further discuss new approaches to fighting rural poverty. The half-day event will take place at the Dirksen Senate Office Building, room G-50, beginning at 9 a.m. and running to approximately 12:30 p.m.

“This seminar will continue the dialogue begun at the Anchorage Leadership Forum in June of this year on the importance of fostering knowledge-based economies in the evolving global marketplace. Speakers and participants will further explore the belief that is now being proven in development circles around the world: that efforts aimed at strengthening indigenous cultures ensure an economic edge in the global economy,” Alaska Federation of Natives President Julie Kitka said.

The event is being held in conjunction with the long-awaited opening of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

Other participants include representatives from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. The event is being co-sponsored by the Alaska Federation of Natives, National Congress of American Indians, National Indian Gaming Association, University of Alaska, and Harvard University's Center for International Development.

Gale Norton, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, will be on hand from 8:45-9:00 a.m. to greet participants. U.S. Senate President Pro Tem Ted Stevens will deliver the welcome address at 9:00 a.m.

Forum participants will address issues including differing cultural approaches to sustainable development and preserving indigenous cultural and intellectual knowledge with an eye toward how these approaches can enhance one another.