Imagining First Nations:
From Eeyou Istchee (Québec) to the
Seediq and Truku on Taiwan

AWI MONA (CHIH-WEI TSAI) AND SCOTT SIMON

In Canada, indigenous communities have gained recognition as First Nations endowed with specific and potent constitutional rights. This legal status has made Canadian First Nations into models for indigenous demands around the world, including in Taiwan. The goal of this paper is (1) to reflect on Canadian and Taiwanese examples to understand how indigenous communities have constructed national identities and achieved recognition as First Nations with inherent legal rights; (2) to explore how indigenous peoples in Canada and Taiwan have achieved recognition as participants in democratic politics and as sites of constitutional rights; and, last but not least, (3) to appreciate what lessons they can learn from one another.

AWI MONA (蔡志偉, Chih-Wei Tsai) is an assistant professor in the Department of Indigenous Development and Social Work, National Dong Hwa University, Taiwan. Awi Mona specializes in public international law, international human rights law, indigenous peoples law and policy, and Austronesian studies. He has chaired a number of indigenous participatory research projects concerning indigenous customary laws, traditional territory mapping, and self-government. He can be reached at <awimon@mail.ndhu.edu.tw>.

SCOTT SIMON is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Ottawa. He specializes in the political anthropology of indigeneity and development in the Austronesian communities of Taiwan. He has served as coeditor of the Canadian Journal of Development Studies and is author of two books on the social and political dimensions of development in Taiwan. His next book about indigenous Taiwan, called Sadyaq Balae! L’autochtonie formosane dans tous ses états, will be published by the University of Laval Press in 2012. He can be reached at <Scott.Simon@uottawa.ca>.

© Institute of International Relations, National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan (ROC).