



The Linguapax Prizes are awarded every year by the Linguapax Institute to linguists, researchers, professors and members of the civil society in acknowledgement of their outstanding work in the field linguistic diversity and/or multilingual education. Nominations of people having contributed to improve the linguistic situation of a community or country are specially appreciated. The nominations for the Linguapax Prizes are sent to the secretariat of the Linguapax Institute along with a biographical note of the candidate and remain confidential among the members of the jury. This year the jury of the Linguapax Prizes, formed by the members of the Advisory Committee of the Linguapax Institute, has decided to grant de award to Ms. Natividad Mutumbajoy among a final list of more than thirty candidates.

Natividad Mutumbajoy

She is a native Inga woman in Colombia, South America, widow of the late Inga shaman, Don Roberto, who has tirelessly worked to foster multilingual education, involving Inga language, in the trying circumstances of abject poverty and an ongoing year civil war. With the support of the Amazon Conservation Team, she has promoted the study of the Inga language through a school, Escuela Yachaicury, she and her community created in the remote hamlet of Yurayaco, Caquetá department, Colombia.

The Yachaicury School has been formally recognized by Colombia's Ministry of Education. In addition to her work with the school, she also produces an Inga language radio show that is broadcast in the region; the radio station is wholly indigenous-run and is also out of Yurayaco.

Further, she is a stalwart of the Inga cultural renaissance that is taking place well below the radar in the foothills of the Colombian Amazon, having been one of the guiding lights leading to the creation of the Inga-self-governing association involving five Inga communities.

