



ENCUENTRO INTERNACIONAL – "PARA UN CAMBIO DE CLIMA EN EL TURISMO"
APORTES PARA UN TURISMO RESPONSABLE Y SOSTENIBLE
LIMA, 25 Y 26 DE SETIEMBRE 2008
LUGAR **CENTRO CULTURAL SAN MARCOS** AV. NICOLAS DE PIROLA 1222 – PARQUE UNIVERSITARIO
CENTRO HISTORICO DE LIMA
CONTACTO **VICHAMA PROYECTOS Y CONSULTORIA** VICHAMA@HOTMAIL.COM TEL 51 93465330



Changing the Atmosphere in Tourism

Lima played host to World Tourism Day, an event organized by the World Tourism Organization UNWTO. This year's theme was "Tourism Responding to the Climate Change Challenge." Around this topic, and organized as a counter event to the UNWTO session, some 120 delegates representing civil society groups from Europe, Asia, Latin America and different regions of Peru met in Lima on September 25 and 26.

In the light of the official UNWTO meeting and its challenging theme for the global tourism industry, the seminar "Changing the Atmosphere in Tourism" took place with participants from social organizations, dedicated business people and communities. They discussed their concerns regarding ongoing environmental deterioration through tourism, the state of cultural heritage sites, tourism development, exclusion due to tourism, and the potential for truly sustainable practice in tourism policies on a national and global level.

As a result of this meeting the following joint declaration was issued.

Declaration "Changing the Atmosphere in Tourism"

Peru is an impoverished country whose Government's policies, while ostensibly supporting community development, in fact support the exploitation of its resources by big international investors. Both from the point of view of Peru and from a wider international perspective, we are concerned about the following:

- exclusion of local populations whose own culture and locally devised development plans are disregarded;
- tourism policy dominated by commercial concerns to the detriment of social values;
- lack of promotion of real participation by local communities and their own internal organizational capacities;
- lack of socio-economic, political and cultural indicators and/or criteria in government policies for tourism development and a sustainable society
- domination of pure power interests promoting investment without taking into account the importance of maintained respect for cultural identity, land rights and protection of the environment;
- the generation of cultural projects aiming to satisfy only the demand for "tourism entertainment," while distorting the cultural identity of host communities;
- local populations which are put at risk, for instance, through the sexual exploitation of children, contamination of water, soil, and air;
- current environmental policies existing only as declarations and yet to be put into practice.

As we are facing similar scenarios in tourism development in countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas, we are requesting from the State of Peru, member countries of the UNWTO, stakeholders in tourism and the entire world the **development of real sustainable and solidarity tourism** which includes:

- building and strengthening the capacity of local communities and villages to implement and manage tourism activities themselves;
- charging companies an environmental tax which local communities can use to mitigate the environmental impact caused by tourism activities taking place in their area;
- fulfilling the legislation and agreements to protect local communities' territory and resources used for tourism;
- prioritizing tourism activities initiated by local communities, and not suppressing them through exploitative projects mitigating against sustainable development
- defending those tourism development plans which are in favour of and developed by local people;
- promoting tourism that respects the existing internal organization of host communities, not imposing a foreign model of natural and cultural resource management;
- formulating policies encouraging the recuperation and intensive promotion of cultural identity and intercultural understanding;
- raising funds to maintain projects designed by and in the interests of local communities;
- ensuring complete respect of the right of identity and all consensual human, social, economic, and cultural rights.

Lima, 26 September 2008

For further information, ADDK at infokuelap@yahoo.es