

II World Meeting of Mountain Populations

Quito, Ecuador, September 20-24, 2002

From September 20-24, 2002, in the International Year of the Mountains, the II World Meeting of Mountain Population will take place in Quito, Ecuador. Representatives, men, and women, of 115 countries of the world, will discuss relative aspects to their inhabitant condition in the mountains, which it is the principal concern of the AMPW (Association of Mountain Population of the World).

Own challenges to the mountain populations.

The peoples who live in mountainous areas have not been subject to the attention which has been given to other aspects of mountains, regarding its social conditions, economic, cultural and even political that characterizes them, as well as in contrast to the socio-economic trends that share these populations in different continents. Despite the socio-economic diversity, which is cultural aspects of these populations, they usually share similar relations to the environment, to their damaged emphasis's, to their greatest requirements or difficulties for communications.

In general, the populations of mountain face more difficulties that the populations of the lowlands to access to the networks of trade, for example, by distances, damaged soils, transportation, by the soil characteristics, etc. Requirements or difficulties of production are greater in altitude. The populations of the mountain areas tend to migrate to lower lands. Consequently, mountain areas lose economic, social, and demographic importance, and therefore also loss its political importance in favour of those of the lowlands, its cultures are depreciated and margined.

It is important to take measures in order to counteract these limitations or difficulties. Its cultural diversity and contributions made to the rest of populations of the world should be re-evaluated together with the promotion of these populations so that they are the actors of a sustainable development with real social equity and they achieve the mastery of its future and its environment.

Meeting to debate, and to formulate proposals, links, and joint activities.

The Quito meeting seeks a broad debate on the situation and challenges of the mountain populations of mountain, among these, representatives elected at the various levels of government, starting by local level and researchers. For the APMM it is important to organize a wide debate among sectors, broad and possibly divergent, otherwise is not possible to build consensus and lasting agreements. The Quito proposals should also react to other debates that are carried out in various mountainous ranges of the world, and provide a space to draft proposals that support the action on these populations for a long term, and the decisions of the international entities, the United Nations. The decisions made in Quito will be then led to the meeting in Bichkek, Kirgistan, as it was agreed with FAO both at a recent meeting in Geneva and in Rome.

Preparatory regional meetings.

Several national and regional meetings in the world: (Latin America, Himalayas, South Asia This, Africa of the East, Europe Mediterranean and of the East, Europe of the North, North America), in which the action of APMM is divided, will take place prior to the meeting of Quito. Different issues, following the priorities of the populations of the mountainous of these regions,

are found in preparation, which will then be debated in Quito, regarding management of the natural resources and of the ecosystems; local governments and citizen participation; mountain cities; cultures and identity: management and collective participation of the protected areas; local economic strategies, regional, national, and the challenges of globalization; interaction between mountain communities and global society.

In addition to discuss these topics in their different aspects, the Quito Meeting, will promote the exchange and the constitution of linkages, networks and joint effort spaces both between populations of mountain and with different authority levels, and the researchers or active organizations of the civil society working in this marvellous spaces that are the mountains, in its multiple links and complementarities with populations and low-land areas.

More information:

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