RUNASIMI (Quechua) is the Inka language still spoken by the descendants of this ancient civilization. The Inka empire was called TAWANTINSUYU (the Four Quarters) and extended from modern Colombia thru Tierra del Fuego.

Yachay Wasi admitted to Operational Relations with UNESCO (see page 5)

Yachay Wasi invited to WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON THE AMERICAS (see page 5)

RECOVERY OF THE CIRCUIT OF FOUR LAKES in the Peruvian Andes

Yachay Wasi’s Environmental and Sustainable Development project finally began to be implemented in September 2007.
The Recovery of the Circuit of Four Lakes is registered as a PARTNERSHIP with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.
This Partnership in Sustainable Development is composed of major groups: Indigenous Peoples, NGOs and Local Communities.

The First phase of the project received a grant from Rotary International.
It consists of cleaning the waters and banks (over ground and underground) of Lakes Acopia and Pomacanchi.
Project leader is Alberto Delgado Araoz. Coordinator is Engineer E. David Perez Mercado. Environmental Biologist is Carla Zuzunaga Palomino.
On Saturday November 17, 2007, Rotary Club del Cusco President Federico Alarco and past President Flavio Miraval, met with project coordinator E. David Perez Mercado and Luis Delgado Hurtado, President of Yachay Wasi, to inspect work accomplished. A positive review was given.
On November 23, 2007, Yachay Wasi representatives met with Dr. Alejandro Soto Reyes of the Compania de Television Cusquena (CTC) who aired news of the project and of the beauty of the Circuit of Four Lakes on his Sunday show. (see photo on pg 3)  (cont. on Page 4)
News from Yachay Wasi

In Peru:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT:
Work on the Recovery of the Circuit of Four Lakes started in 2004 by Yachay Wasi has finally begun. (See pages 1, 3 and 4 for details). Yachay Wasi wants to thank Katina Jones in Australia who, as 2004/05 Governor of Rotary District 9500, pledged the initial grant and is still following the project. Yachay Wasi also wants to acknowledge the dedication of his president Luis Delgado Hurtado who is not financially rewarded by grant obtained, but continues to motivate participants while he overseas each detail of project.

WHITE HOUSE INVITATION:
Yachay Wasi officers were taken by surprise by a June email from the US Embassy in Peru inviting Luis Delgado Hurtado to travel from Cuzco, Peru to Arlington, VA to attend the White House Conference on Americas hosted by President and Mrs. Bush (see page 5).

UN PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES:
Nataly Mujica, Economist, was invited by Yachay Wasi in NYC to travel from Cuzco to attend the 6th session of UN PFII (14-25 May 2007). Musician William Luna also returned and performed during the Cultural event and reception.

TENNIS INSTRUCTION IN ACOPIA: Teaching the children the art of tennis (see pg 3)

BED & BREAKFAST in Cuzco, Peru...all year around...(see back cover)
Luis Delgado Hurtado, who volunteers for Yachay Wasi, hosts a B & B in his home in Cuzco and guides international tourists to the wonderful sites in and around Cuzco, which include Machu Picchu.

In New York:

UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE:
Following its April 2007 admission in the Operational Relations of UNESCO, Yachay Wasi was invited to attend UNESCO General Conference (16 October—3 November 2007). Yachay Wasi VP & Main Rep. to UN Marie-Danielle Samuel traveled from New York to her native city Paris to attend the first 10 days of this bi-yearly conference. Having struggled thru 4 years of application process, she enjoyed this UNESCO welcome...(see page 5)

IN SUPPORT OF THE UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:
On 2 August 2007 at the NYC Bahá’í Center, Yachay Wasi organized an event to inform the General Public of the recent months’ struggles by Indigenous representatives to have this Declaration adopted by the UN GA. Filmmaker Rebecca Sommer contributed a showing of her film “Work in Progress: Discussions on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”. The GA adopted the Declaration on 13 September 2007 (see pages 6 & 7).

LETTER TO DEPARTING SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI ANNAN:
Yachay Wasi was able to hand deliver a letter of gratitude to the Executive Office of Secretary-General Kofi Annan in December 2006. Letter was later confirmed as received. Stating that it had been an honor for the officers of Yachay Wasi to work with the United Nations during Mr. Annan’s 10 years term, letter also emphasized his visit to the Sacred Site of the Inkas (see pg 3). The reference to Machu Picchu was repeated in person by Marie-Danielle Samuel, Yachay Wasi Main Rep. to UN, as she had the opportunity to shake Mr. Annan’s hand and wish him well. This took place at the end of a ceremony at UN Hqs on 19 December 2006 where SG Kofi Annan received the Inter Press Service News Agency (IPS) International Achievement Award for 2006.

LETTER TO DEPARTING SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI ANNAN:
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Cuzco - New York - Saint-Lucia:
The ALDET CENTRE-SAINT LUCIA, also an Indigenous NGO in Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council, and Yachay Wasi in Cuzco and New York City are planning an International Conference on Indigenous Sacred and Cultural Sites in Cuzco, Peru for April 2009. (see Back cover)
Yale to return Machu Picchu artifacts to Peru
by Marie-Danielle Samuel

On August 9, 2007, the International Day of World’s Indigenous Peoples, US Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy Karen Hughes visited Lima to say that USA was returning to Peru 350 pre-Columbian artifacts which had been smuggled and recovered in Miami. She also stated that she supported the talks between Yale University and Peru regarding the bones and objects taken from Machu Picchu more than 90 years ago.

On that same day, CNN aired that Yale will provide Peru with an inventory of the artifacts for the first time. Yale holds thousands of objects, including fragments of pottery, stone work, metal pieces, and bone excavated from the site.

One month later, the Los Angeles Times announced that “Yale agrees to give up more than 300 pieces, but the scope of the accord is unclear.” A deal was reached by Peru with Yale University to return some of the thousands of artifacts carted away by Hiram Bingham III, the swashbuckling historian and explorer who stumbled upon the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu almost a century ago.

But doubts have surfaced about the scope of the accord and about Yale’s right to retain certain parts of the collection for “ongoing research,” as a university statement said.

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“It’s good that the pieces are to be sent back, but it’s absurd that this doesn’t cover all of them,” said Luis Lumbreras, former director of Peru’s National Institute of Culture. “If Yale wants to continue studying the pieces, they can come to Peru.”

When the decision became public here, media reports indicated that Peru would get most or all of its artifacts back. But Yale since has reiterated that a substantial part of the collection will remain on the university’s New Haven, Conn., campus. - LA Times - 18 September 2007.

In November 2007, Edgar Miranda, Mayor of Machu Picchu repeated his request that the Inka artifacts be pada in a museum to be built in Cuzco.


FUTURE TENNIS INSTRUCTION IN ACOPIA

Luis Delgado Hurtado is an accomplished tennis player who has won awards in Cuzco. Every time he is in New York City, he plays in the parks and visits sport shops in search of bargains in racquets and other equipment. In September 2007, he met tennis instructor Emmanuel Allel.

Mr. Allel is French-American. He was teaching tennis in France. He became interested in Luis’ work and in his plans to teach tennis to the children of the Andean village of Acopia.

To this end he donated professional racquets and other gear to this project and talked about the possibility to visit the village in the future.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan left the United Nations at the end of 2006 after 10 years at the head of this international body.

His charismatic presence is missed by Yachay Wasi representatives. His dignified and soft spoken presence graced the halls of the UN.

Mr. Annan always acknowledged the sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues by a statement and occasional participation.

On 12 November 2003, he was the first UNSG to travel to Machu Picchu where he praised the

UN photo/Paulo Filgueiras
doncendants of the Inkas. His visit symbolically coincided with the closing of Yachay Wasi Second Encounter of Indigenous Communities in the High Andes in a near village.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE POTATO

The United Nations named 2008 the International Year of the Potato. The Year was launched at a UN press conference on 18 October 2007, featuring Jacques Diouf, Director-General, Food & Agriculture Organization and Ismael Benavides, Peru’s Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. Diouf stated that the International Year will allow to raise awareness of the importance of potatoes, which originated in Peru, but since then have spread all over the world. Mr. Benavides said that Peru’s Iberian conquerors took the potato to Spain, where it was grown in the Southern part of the country. Within 200 years, it had spread to Northern Europe.

The International Potato Centre is located in Peru.

GM POTATOES BANNED IN CUZCO

Issued in July 2007, Cuzco regional government’s Order 010 intends to protect the genetic diversity of thousands of native potato varieties. It forbids the sale, cultivation, use and development of GM potatoes.

In November 2006, the Andean Parliament passed a resolution declaring the Andean countries free of genetically modified potatoes.

From left, Dr. Alejandro Soto Reyes, CTC with Luis Delgado Hurtado, Sandra Ramos Delgado and David Perez Mercado of Yachay Wasi

11.23.2007
Environmental education of communities around these two lakes is taking place while the work is being done. Technical assistance is needed for the recycling of solid waste: pharmaceutical discards, plastic, etc. This solid waste is being retrieved from the lakes waters and banks and temporarily stored in a field.

**OVERVIEW OF ENTIRE PROJECT:**

During a study funded and conducted by Yachay Wasi in August 2004, the extent of contamination of the lakes and of the impact on the environment in the area was investigated. Laboratory tests were performed on the waters of Lake Acopia (near banks and center of lake). During the fieldwork around the four lakes, coordination was realized with local mayors to establish prior and informed consent.

This environmental and educational project is geared to the recovery of the “Circuit of Four Lakes” located in the province of Acomayo, in the department of Cuzco, in the Andes of Peru. These lakes are Laguna Acopia near the village of Acopia, Lagunas Pampamarca and Asnacocha near the village of Mosoqllaqta, Laguna Pomacanchi near the village of Pomacanchi. These villages and many smaller communities located near these lakes rely on these waters. There are 36 Indigenous communities living near these lakes with a 2002 estimated population of 25,516 inhabitants. The lakes are located at an altitude of 3600 meters.

The contamination of these lakes has been a growing problem over the past few years. The lakes waters are not used for drinking, but the fish, a daily staple from these lakes, can become a potential health hazard.

Project has the goal to clean the lakes waters and banks of these four lakes of existing solid trash and to prevent further chemical contamination from modern detergents and pharmaceutical discards; to recover the biological diversity, flora and fauna representative of this important site; to educate and assist the communities on ways to prevent future contamination, which will include building better septic tanks and laundry facilities in some villages.

The **First Phase of the project** is partially funded by a grant from Rotary Foundation in USA matching the 2005 initial pledge by District 9500 of Rotary International, Australia. Matching grant was approved in December 2006. Funds were received by Rotary Club del Cusco in August 2007. The Club manages the Rotary grant locally in cooperation with Yachay Wasi, Cusco which implements the work. Additional fund raising is being done in order to proceed with subsequent phases of the project.

Yachay Wasi, as the lead partner, manned an information desk at UN Hqrs on 7 May 2007 in the Partnership Fair during CSD-15, the 15th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, as it did in 2006 during CSD-14 and in 2005, during CSD-13.

A video clip “Yachay Wasi Tratamiento Medio Ambiente de las 4 Lagunas” filmed in August 2007 by Justin Lipson, filmmaker, journalist, director of Justice Productions, can be viewed at blip.tv/file/423883 or, with more photos, at www.yachaywasi-ngo.org/lakesproject.htm
Yachay Wasi invited to WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON THE AMERICAS

Luis Delgado Hurtado, President of Yachay Wasi, travelled from Cuzco, Peru to attend the White House Conference on the Americas on July 9, 2007 in Arlington, VA. It was hosted by President and Mrs. Bush.

The Conference brought together non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and foundations to discuss and highlight the vast array of societal interaction between the United States and its neighbors to better the lives of the region’s citizens.

Yachay Wasi was among a few Peruvian NGOs invited courtesy of the US State Dept. Other Peruvian NGOs were COPEME, Cantas del Peru, Calandria, Asociacion Los Andes de Cajamarca and the Andean Center for Excellence in Teacher Training (Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia).

Luis was first flown from Cuzco to Lima to rejoin his colleagues at the US Embassy in Lima, Peru. They were welcome by the officers of the Embassy Public Affairs office and then met with the US Ambassador at his residence.

With US Ambassador to Peru J. Curtis Struble (4th from left) Lima, Peru - 7 July 2007

In Arlington, President Bush opened the Conference leading a “Conversation on the Americas”, a panel of organizations representatives. Mrs. Laura Bush delivered a keynote address “Celebrating the Americas”. Various members of the President’s Cabinet spoke also, including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of Treasury Henry Paulson. Karen Hughes, Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy’s address was entitled “Expanding the Circle of Opportunity in the Western Hemisphere”.

Yachay Wasi admitted to Operational Relations with UNESCO

In March 2007, UNESCO Director-General approved the admission of Yachay Wasi in UNESCO Operational Relations. This was followed by an unquestioned review by UNESCO Executive Committee session in April 2007 and the Executive Committee’s final approval on 4 October 2007.

Yachay Wasi applied for admission in December 2002. This was a long process, but its outcome is highly appreciated by Yachay Wasi officers. Since its creation in 1993, Yachay Wasi has been in contact with UNESCO. The first acknowledgement from UNESCO came by letter in May 1995 praising Yachay Wasi’s newsletter (quarterly at the time). Two of Yachay Wasi co-founders and officers are French Parisian and have lived their lives in a UNESCO culture medium. Thru the photographic art of its Indigenous co-founder and president, “culture”, the primary focus of Yachay Wasi had already been demonstrated in yearly cultural events and exhibits since 1985.

The first active collaboration with UNESCO was a public event at NYC Baha’i Center in December 1995 revolving around UNESCO World Heritage sites in Peru. This was followed by trips to Paris UNESCO Hqrs, from 1997 on, during which Yachay Wasi co-founders established a good relationship with UNESCO officers in various sectors.

In 2000, Yachay Wasi partnered with UNESCO Culture of Peace sector to promote their Manifesto 2000 and was mentioned in the first newsletter of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World 2001-2010.

Following Yachay Wasi’s first Encounter of Indigenous Communities in the High Andes in June 2001, its president was invited to attend UNESCO workshop (November 2001, Winnipeg, Canada) meeting on WHIPCOE, the proposed World Heritage Indigenous Council of Experts, which was defeated by UNESCO World Heritage Committee in December 2001.

In May 2002, Yachay Wasi, whose representative at the time was the vice-chair of the NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World’s Indigenous Peoples, organized its first Panel discussion on Indigenous Sacred Sites (NY University) which informed on the loss of WHIPCOE. The Director of UNESCO NY Office and a representative from UNESCO World Heritage Centre were among the speakers. These events gave Yachay Wasi the incentive to apply for UNESCO relations.

On 21 May 2003 at UN Hqrs, NYC, the First World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development was sponsored by UNESCO in collaboration with Yachay Wasi.

The ongoing Recovery of the Circuit of Four Lakes project in the Peruvian Andes, which demonstrates Yachay Wasi additional interest “Sustainable Development” including environmental education, fosters additional relations with the Science Sector and the Education Sector of UNESCO.

Yachay Wasi was invited to attend UNESCO General Conference at its headquarters in Paris (16 October—3 November 2007).

Marie-Danielle Samuel, co-founder and Main Rep. to UN, was there for the first 10 days and appreciated this long awaited welcome.
United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

On 13 September 2007, after more than two decades of debate, the General Assembly adopted this declaration which outlines the rights of the world’s 370 million indigenous peoples and outlaws discrimination against them.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was approved after 144 Member States voted in favor, 4 against: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United States, 11 abstained: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burundi, Colombia, Georgia, Kenya, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Samoa, Ukraine. 33 absent countries: Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Israel, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Morocco, Nauru, Palau, Papua & New Guinea, Romania, Rwanda, St Kitts-Nevis, San Tome Principe, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Tajikistan, Togo, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu.

A non-binding text, the Declaration sets out the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, as well as their rights to culture, identity, language, employment, health, education and other issues. The Declaration emphasizes the rights of indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen their own institutions, cultures and traditions and to pursue their development in keeping with their own needs and aspirations. It also prohibits discrimination against indigenous peoples and promotes their full and effective participation in all matters that concern them, and their right to remain distinct and to pursue their own visions of economic and social development.

In a statement released by his spokesperson, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on governments and civil society to ensure that the Declaration’s vision becomes a reality by working to integrate indigenous rights into their policies and programmes.

History:

In 1985, the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, a subsidiary of the UN Commission on Human Rights, began a draft on this Declaration. During the International Year of the World’s Indigenous Peoples, the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, Austria (14-25 June 1993) called for the completion of this text. This “Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People” (DDRIP) was officially released as UN Resolution 1994/45.

In early 1995, The Commission on Human Rights established the Working Group on the DDRIP which was composed of Indigenous representatives and member states. Their task was to finalize the text for its adoption by the UN General Assembly. Working Group met yearly in Geneva for twenty years. Its chairman was first Jose Urrutia, Peru thr 1998, then Luis Enrique Chavez, Peru, 1999 thr its last session (Dec. 2005/Febr. 2006).

In March 2006, the UN General Assembly created the Human Rights Council which replaced the Commission on Human Rights. During its first session in Geneva, its 42 members voted to adopt the Declaration on 29 June 2006. What was expected to be an easy adoption by the General Assembly at the beginning of its 61st session became a controversy as the African States asked for added revisions of the text. What followed was nine months of lobbying on the part of Indigenous representatives, and sequesions of dialogues between the supporting and opposing member states.

What resulted was a slightly amended text which was positively voted by the General Assembly. During this period, Yachay Wasi supported the actions of Indigenous representatives, including holding a public information meeting (see pgs 2 & 7), as this Declaration had to be adopted.

However, since 1996, Yachay Wasi has focused on protection of Sacred Sites. It is unfortunate that the second half of Art. 13 of Draft 1994/45 was deleted in February 2006 after having withstood 20 years of discussions: “States shall take effective measures, in conjunction with the Indigenous peoples concerned, to ensure that Indigenous sacred places, including burial sites, be preserved, respected and protected.”

...MORE MUSEUMS STORIES

by Eliane Lacroix-Hopson

Since our 2006 Yachay Wasi ‘Simin’ The Voice of Yachay Wasi newsletter, “SOME MUSEUMS STORIES”, we have interesting follow ups.

Some of these stories are reluctantly acknowledged by American museums hiding behind the idea that ancient art works belong to mankind. Perhaps, but if such is the case, why museums are paying $ millions for these objects to individuals whom they suspect to be loosers? As the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City agreed to return the Euphronios Krater and other objects to Italy, the Italy’s Ministry of Culture agreed to let the Met exhibit them a few years longer on loan. Since 2005, the Italy’s Ministry of Culture negotiated with the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA, the return of arts objects and is lending other pieces. But the biggest museum story comes from the J. Paul Getty Museum, Malibu, CA, as since 2005, the Italian and Greek Governments are interested in 60 major art works. It is hoped that the return of these objects will help the trial in Rome of Marion True, J.P. Getty Museum’s former curator responsible for these dubious dealings. At this point, there are still 40 works in discussion. Archeology Magazine, Sept.-Oct. 2007 New York Times, 26 Sept. 2007

Finally, as related on p.3 of this Yachay Wasi ‘Simin’, Peru and Yale University reached an agreement on their long running tug of war over Machu Picchu artifacts. In the process, the ownership of ancient objects and works of art is established: they belong to the countries of origin and their people as their collective heritage and this fact should be respected. Actually, the establishment and protection of mankind history is the work of UNESCO, particularly needed to protect Indigenous Peoples’ properties.

The most interesting museum story comes from an unexpected place: AFGHANISTAN!...

Afghanistan today is a rundown country destroyed by decades of invasions and fighting between Russians, Moslem Taliban and competing warlords. The present Karzai’s government survives propelled by a Western countries coalition while some make $million from the poppy fields.

Yet, the real Afghanistan is in its forgotten history as for centuries BC it was the meeting place of caravans from Asia and Greek Civilization. Fabulous treasures of these times were in museums or stood in places like the Bamiyan grand stone Buddhas destroyed by the Taliban in 2001. Museum larger pieces were pillaged or sold by the Soviet invaders.

Before WWII French archeologists were invited to work in Afghanistan and in the 1970’s had found the Begram treasure of statues of Greek influence.

In 1978, Northern Afghanistan, the “Bactrian gold” was discovered in 6 tombs from the first cent. AD, 2200 fabulous pieces which were in the Kabul National Museum. In 1989, the last Communist President in Kabul, fearful of vandalism ordered the closing of the Museum and all the precious gold objects, wrapped in newspaper were taken to the vault of the old royal palace and the many keys were hidden by the Museum Director and curators who kept silent even under fright of torture while losing their job.

In 2004, the Hamid Karzai’s Government was informed of the Museum treasures and decided to publicize the story and make money lending the treasure to museums. It went first to the Musee Guimet in Paris, France which already has many objects from the previous French archeological work. The show was displayed until April 2007 and is now in Turin, Italy.

(Cont. on pg 7)
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UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2008 - 2010

Elections for the next term of the Permanent Forum took place in April 2007 at UN Hqrs, NYC.
Regions represented are Africa; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean; the Arctic; Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; North America; and the Pacific—with one additional rotating seat. Rotating seat is Africa during the 2008-2010 term.

The President of the Economic and Social Council appointed eight members of the Permanent Forum who were nominated by indigenous peoples’ organizations:
Mr. Hassan Id Balkassam (Morocco); Ms. Margaret Lokawuwa (Uganda); Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (Philippines); Mr. Lars-Anders Baer (Sweden); Ms. Elisa Canqui Mollo (Bolivia); Mr. Pavel Sulyandziga (Russian Federation); Ms. Tonya Gonella Frischner (United States of America) and Mr. Michael Dodson (Australia).

Eight government nominated members of the Permanent Forum were elected by the Economic and Social Council:
Mr. Simeon Adewale Adekanye, (Nigeria); Mr. Bartolomé Clavero Salvador, (Spain); Ms Paimaneh Hasteh, (Islamic Republic of Iran); Mr. Carlos Mamani Condori (Bolivia); Ms Liliane Muzangi Mbela, (Democratic Republic of Congo); Mr A A Nikiforov, (Russian Federation); Mr. Carsten Smith, (Norway); Ms Xiaomei Qin, (China)

...MORE MUSEUMS STORIES (Cont. from pg 6)

Since early June, the National Geographic Society had signed a $1million deal to bring the fabulous objects to several American museums in 2008.

From one extreme to another...

From ancient Afghanistan to newborn Abu Dhabi… Oil wealthy Arab Emirates missed a past and dreamed of a well educated future for its people they created a city on the Saadiyat Island on the outskirts of the capital Abu Dhabi. De luxe housing and hotels left space for university and museums. Last year deal with New York Guggenheim Foundation created a museum designed by Frank Gehry (as his usual crazy inspiration) already functional. But Abu Dhabi, which had already a Sorbonne sponsored university, wanted to attract the Louvre from Paris, art pieces and name, to the horror of French purists. Well, as the proposal developed reaching some 900 million euros all French museum became involved to provide art pieces to a Louvre Abu Dhabi in a building designed by French architect Jean Nouvel.

The New York Times February-June 2007
Express magazine, August 2007
Le Monde, November 2007

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE by Marie-Danielle Samuel

On 24 October 2007, during UNESCO General Conference in Paris, the 184 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention elected nine new members to its 21-member Committee. Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, Brazil, China, Egypt, Jordan, Nigeria and Sweden were elected for four-year terms. Remaining members are Canada, Cuba, Israel, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Morocco, Peru, Republic of Korea, Spain, Tunisia, United States of America. Next session of WHC will be in Québec, Canada, from 2 to 10 July 2008.

I was able to observe this meeting from the back of the room and had the bounty of being seated next to Mr. te Heuheu, Chief of the Ngati Tuwharetoa Maori Tribe, who was part of New Zealand delegation to WHC for many years and was elected in July 2006 the first Indigenous Chair of the World Heritage Committee. New Zealand’s term ended that day.
From an interview with Mr. te Heuheu’s: “A key objective of my time as Chair is to highlight the importance of community in World Heritage...I am acutely aware of the need to include indigenousness as an integral part of this concept. It is important that communities are actively and meaningfully involved in the identification, management and conservation of all World Heritage sites and resources. Heritage helps people to appreciate who they are.”

World Heritage Magazine, June 2007

I had the opportunity to inform Mr. Te Heuheu of our plans for an International Conference on Indigenous Sacred and Cultural Sites in Cuzco in 2009.
(See Back cover)

Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous Peoples Caucus chair Les Malezer, Australia (left in photo) and Inuit leader Hjalmar Dahl, Greenland, answer questions during Yachay Wasi support meeting at Baha’i Center on 2 August 2007 (pg 2)
International Conference on Indigenous Sacred and Cultural Sites

5 - 11 April 2009 in Cuzco, Peru

With the invited participation of World Indigenous representatives, UN agencies including UNESCO, the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat .... and many other world leaders

Please, contact Organizers if interested in getting involved

Yachay Wasi
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Machu Picchu

Acopia

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