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. The Four Quarters are: NorthEast: Antisuyu, SouthEast: Qollasuyu, SouthWest: Kuntisuyu and NorthWest: Chinchaysuyu. Yachay Wasi means House of Learning in Quechua.

Yachay Wasi Project in the Andes:

Recovery of The circuit of four lakes

The saga continues...see pg 4

Lake Mosogllacta, Dept of Cuzco
Photo by Luis Delgado Hurtado

INTELLIGENT DESIGN? ...

by Eliane Lacroix-Hopson

Born in France 88 years ago, by law, I went to pre-school at 6. I was delighted to learn that the earth was like a balloon, spinning on its axis days and nights, going around the sun each whole year... So, when I went to Sunday school, I told the priest that I did not believe the Genesis story, I was expelled from the class. My mother spanked me and I had to apologize to the priest, but I didn't change my mind ever since.

Biblical scholars agree that Genesis has been written after the Captivity in Babylon, now Iraq, and these stories reflect the Babylonian/Egyptian cosmogony, events said to have happened 10,000 years ago while astronomers put the Big Bang at some 13 to 15 billion years ago. Consequently, creationists don't have much chance to displace science in school.

The new “Intelligent Design” is more subtle and pretends to explain life and human beings as the work of an “Intelligent Designer” without calling him “God.” This Designer is a kind of Genie concerned with the detailed intricacies of His creation and looks a lot like the God who created Adam and Eve in Eden, and only belongs in Sunday school.

The proponents of both “knowledges” stand against Darwin scientific theory of evolution. They do not “believe” in evolution and want their Intelligent Design to be taught in science classes.

(cont. on pg 3)

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Yachay Wasi participated in the fourth session of the Forum which took place from 16 thru 27 May 2005 at UN Hqrs in NYC. It was held at the beginning of the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People and at the onset of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the United Nations...

Three photographs by Yachay Wasi president Luis Delgado Hurtado featuring Machu Picchu were part of the Indigenous Arts Exhibit in the United Nations Visitors Lobby - 17 May - 3 August 2005 (more pg 5)
News from Yachay Wasi

In Peru:

Delegation from Cuzco
Following a tradition of many years, a delegation of Yachay Wasi members from Peru was invited by Yachay Wasi in NYC to be Observers at the Fourth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) at UN Hqrs in NYC in May 2005. For the first time, their visas were first denied by the US Consulate in Lima, but, due to the intervention of the US State Dept and the Secretariat of the PFII, finally granted.

“Hatun Nan”, the Great Path... toward higher learning
Luis Delgado Hurtado has been trying to have some of the students in Acopia and in Cuzco participate in Hatun Nan, a project of the Universidad Nacional de San Antonio Abad del Cusco and the Ford Foundation, benefiting Indigenous youth.

ITCIP in Cuzco
The next session (in Spanish) of the International Training Center of Indigenous Peoples (ITCIP) will take place in Cuzco, Peru in January 2006. ITCIP is based in Nuuk, Greenland. Luis Delgado Hurtado, President of Yachay Wasi, is an executive board member of ITCIP. For more info: www.itcip.org

Bed and Breakfast in Cuzco, Peru...All year around...(see cover pg)
Luis Delgado Hurtado is very dedicated to the goals of Yachay Wasi and volunteers his time and energy toward them. He also hosts a Bed and Breakfast in his home in Cuzco and guides international tourists to the wonderful sites in and around Cuzco, including Machu Picchu.

In New York:

Yachay Wasi participated in the following UN meetings during the year:
Commission for Social Development 43rd session - 9 to 18 February 2005
Commission on Status of Women 49th session Beijing + 10 - 28 Feb-11 March 2005
Commission on Sustainable Development 13th session - 11 to 22 April 2005
Regional Workshop Indigenous Practices - UNEP/CBD - 14 - 15 May 2005
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues - 16 to 27 May 2005
UNDP GEF SGP Programme for Indigenous peoples - 20 - 21 May 2005
Informative Interactive Hearings of General Assembly with NGOs- 23, 24 June 2005
58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference - 7 to 9 September 2005

Yachay Wasi’s first intern in NYC
Anne-Marie Gribnau from the Netherlands volunteered in February 05 after seeing Yachay Wasi website. Ms. Gribnau works in NYC as an urban planner/geographer.

Yachay Wasi featured in international magazine
El Ruisenor/the Nightingale is a Baha’i quarterly bilingual magazine: Spanish/English, published by Armando J. Alzamora in San Fernando, CA which establishes a link between the US and Spanish speaking peoples and countries. As Yachay Wasi officers, we were happily surprised when receiving the June 2005 issue to see a very good story introducing YW activities and the biography of YW founders with two photographs by YW president Luis Delgado Hurtado. Mr. Alzamora is of Peruvian background and said to have enjoyed this contribution to our work. We certainly appreciate Mr. Alzamora’s friendly gift.

Inka Legacy in West Village
Fourteen photographs from Luis Delgado Hurtado’s “Inka Legacy” were on exhibit at Curves of Manhattan from 24 April thru 14 May 2005. Ms. Pamela Caputo, owner and director of this health club in the West Village, holds various events as part of community awareness. Marie-Danielle Samuel is a member of this club. This was a prelude to the major UN exhibit on Indigenous Arts in which Luis’ work participated for the first time. See page 1, 5.
INTELLIGENT DESIGN? ... (from pg 1)

Time magazine (August 15, 2005) had an informative article on “Evolution War” but asks scientists the question: “Can you believe in God and in evolution?” This is a stupid question.

God does not depend on public opinion.

God IS, no matter what people “believe” God to be, and what people “believe” is not necessarily the truth.

God is a spiritual entity, if He was not we will not exist as we are spiritual beings in the making.

“Evolution” is science. Science is a knowledge to “study” not to “believe” in: We are living in the age of science. From our kitchen to computers, on the road, at sea and in space, we depend on science. If science were wrong, we would still travel on horseback and the nuclear bomb would not exist.

The 7th cent. Koran recognizes science to be inspired by God and, rescuing Greek philosophy which was banned by St. Augustine (5th cent.), ushered in a most advance civilization which influenced the 16th cent. Renaissance and the advance of science in Europe. In this historical perspective, creationism and intelligent design belong to the Middle Ages.

The Bahá’í Writings (1844-1921) state: “Science is the first emanation from God toward man.”

Scientists do not “invent” nor “discover” anything. They are inspired and disciplined students of the scientific laws of the Creation and what we call “evolution” is God’s Eternal Creation.

“Evolution” is the fundamental fact of the cosmos or universe. Stars and planets are born, evolve and later explode in spectacular novae. On planet Earth, people are born, evolve and die in due time. Plants, insects and animals, and Earth itself go through the same process and such for billions of years. Creationism nor intelligent design do not stand against these scientific facts while God’s evolutionary Creation is awesome.

Darwin’s scientific theory of evolution (1859) attempted to apply the knowledge of evolution to biological processes. This theory is confirmed by an extensive fossil record and recently by the knowledge of genetics which demonstrates the fundamental evolutionary processes from plants to human beings, including the fact that, genetically, apes are 98% close to man.

However, biological evolution is just part of the universal evolution which is the process of transformation of energy through which all universal phenomena take place.

French priest-scientist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin was the first to build a scientific theory of biological evolution based on the knowledge of the universal transformation of energy: “The Phenomenon of Man” (1938-40) published posthumously in 1955.

This theory is a magnificent edifice encompassing all known fundamental physical forces: Gravity, the two Nuclear Forces and Electro-magnetism and their equivalent in biological, psychological, social and historical evolution. This theory of transformation of energy is the scientific confirmation of the Bahá’í Teachings of Eternal Creation, and both are thoroughly studied in my book Creation, Evolution and Eternity... leading to the discovery of LOVE as the universal energy of the cosmos, from the stars and planets to humans and animals.

Teilhard de Chardin was the leading French paleontologist associated with the discovery of the “Peking Man” (1929-30’s) and the Church made of him another Galileo, forbidding him to publish his writings in 1947 and he was practically exiled to New York City in 1951, where he died Easter Sunday 10 April 1955.

His 27 books were published posthumously by an international committee of 32 scientists and 24 personalities while associations were created in Europe and in the United States to support and study his writings.

This year, the 50th anniversary of his death has been commemorated, first at the United Nations and in New York area universities, to continue in universities over the country during the year.

I contributed an essay titled “Father Pierre Teilhard de Chardin” to the Association magazine “Teilhard Perspective,” Fall 2004 issue.

In front of the Bahá’í’s vision and Teilhard’s genius the intelligent design concoction is pitiful, reducing the Divine Eternal Creation to a Sunday school exercise for children.

A number of scientists are responding to this ridiculous assault on science, including an article: “Intelligent Design and Space Exploration Don’t Mix” by Seth Sostack, Senior Astronomer with The Mountain View, CA-based SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Institute. (adAstra, Magazine of the National Space Stt. Fall 2005.)

Adapted from: “Creation, Evolution and Eternity A Bahá’í’s Perspective on Religion and Science A Philosophy of Science Study.”

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UNESCO INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on
“Conserving Cultural and Biological Diversity”
30 May thru 2 June 2005, Tokyo, Japan

This Symposium, an activity of the World Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan, aimed to highlight the interrelationship between the natural and cultural diversity of the planet. Information and views were exchanged on how to conserve and manage sites which are sacred to Indigenous communities and how to protect the traditional knowledge of these communities living near these sites.

Members of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues participated in this event.

The declaration which resulted recommends the “integration of actions to promote the protection of sacred sites and cultural landscapes of Indigenous peoples in the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People.”

ANCIENT RITE IN CUZCO TO DECLARE COCA LEGAL....

Under pressure from Andean peasants, southern Peruvian authorities declared the coca plant a local treasure.

The occasion was marked with a colorful rite witnessed by some 2,000 coca growers in the town square of Cuzco, ancient capital of the mighty Inka empire that considered coca sacred.

The law issued on that day declared coca as part of Peru’s regional heritage and named three valleys in Cuzco as legal production zones.

© Eliane Lacroix-Hopson, 2001, Yachay Wasi Inc.
Yachay Wasi Project in the Andes:

Recovery of the circuit of four lakes

The saga continues....

by Marie-Danielle Samuel

This project aims to stop the pollution of four mountain lakes in the Dept of Cuzco in the Andes. One year ago, Yachay Wasi had just completed a study and we were hopeful that funding would be forthcoming.

Intensive fund raising was conducted, but the results were disheartening. We did receive pledges from various sectors of our co-sponsoring NGO Rotary International, but several meetings with UNDP/GEF Small Grants Program, the logical UN agency to support this environmental project, did not bring any results. It seems that each party wants the others to make the first move, meanwhile seasons come and go...

In March 2005, the project was registered as a Partnership with the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and on 12 April 2005, Yachay Wasi manned an Information table at UN Hqrs during CSD 13th session.

Recovery of the circuit of four lakes

Yachay Wasi co-founder Eliane Lacroix-Hopson and intern Anne-Marie Gribnau during CSD-13 at UN Hqrs, NYC

Quipus are the mysterious bundles of knotted threads that served as the Inca empire's means of recording information. The code of the quipus has long since been forgotten, and the only major advance in understanding them was the insight, made in 1923, that the knots were used to represent numbers.

Two Harvard researchers, Gary Urton and Carrie J. Brezine, believe they may have decoded the first word - a place name - to be found in a quipu. This could resolve a longstanding controversy by establishing that quipus included a writing system and were not just mnemonic devices.

This would help explain the "Inca paradox," that among states of large size and administrative complexity the Inca empire stands out as the only one that apparently did not invent writing. The paradox would be resolved if indeed the quipu encode a writing system as well as numbers.

NY Times 16 August 2005

THE INKA TRAIL

The Peruvian government proposed shutting down one of its top tourist attractions, the Inca trail, from January to March to protect it from damage during the rainy season. It is now only closed in February.

The trail, a demanding walk lasting several days through Andean mountains and dazzling cloud forest leading to the Inca citadel Machu Picchu, is popular with adventurous tourists from around the world. Some 2,500 people a day visit Machu Picchu, though there are no exact figures on how many walk the trail.

The U.N.'s cultural body, UNESCO, warned in 2003 that it could remove Machu Picchu from its list of World Heritage sites unless Peru improved upkeep of the site and its surroundings.

Reuters, 10 August 2005
A photograph by Luis Delgado Hurtado is featured on the cover of a brochure published by the United Nations Department of Public Information for the occasion of the 2005 Fourth Session of the UN Permanent forum on Indigenous Issues. Entitled “Supporting Women of the World” it was released in English and Spanish.

Luis Delgado Hurtado tries to convey thru his photographs the love he has for his Inka heritage and for his people. His works have been shown at museums, colleges, community centers in USA and at the United Nations during the past twenty years.

A “chullo” from the Q’ero nation was also contributed by Yachay Wasi

Photos by Marie-Danielle Samuel

Forum Observers celebrating exhibit opening 17 May 2005

2 photos by Miguel Ibanez

Yachay Wasi members at UN PFII 4th session: (L to R): Julia Arce Calla, Cuzco; Marie-Danielle Samuel, NYC; Dennis Mercado, Lima; Eliane Lacroix-Hopson, NYC; Luis Delgado Hurtado and Sandra Ramos Delgado, Cuzco.
THE AMAZIGHEN OF MOROCCO
by Eliane Lacroix-Hopson

The Amazighen (Free Men) also known as Berbers are the first inhabitants of North Africa Morocco and Algeria. Their history started in the 12th cent. BC, they survived the Roman Empire becoming early Christians, and even contributed two Popes in the 2nd and 4th cent. They became Muslims during the 7th cent. Arabian conquest and created Morocco with the invaders, settling in the brown and red mountains South of Marrakech and over about 40% of the country and representing 40% of the population. In Algeria they occupy the eastern part of the country.

Domained by the Arabs, they never stopped resisting assimilation relying on their identity, history, culture and language: Amazigh and their script: Tifinagh.

Their well educated members were part of the Moroccan elite, though always 2nd class citizens under an Arab king. They learned French during the French Protectorate (1913-56) and many emigrated to France were they started grocery businesses sending money to the old country, helping their people to organize themselves in local associations around 1980 until 1991, they started to ask for recognition of their culture and language.

The leaders were arrested in 1994, but end of the 90’s they could ask for “human rights” and in 2000 a Berber Manifesto was favorably received by the young King Mohammed VI.

In 2001, IRCAM (Royal Institute for the Amazigh culture) is created. Morocco is recognized as a two peoples country, history and both languages are taught in school.

Much has to be done to help life in the countryside: schools, medical support, water, etc... and funding. 80% financing come from government agencies, and the villagers must provide 20% as workers on the projects.

However, this evolution is not easy and resisted by some Arabs. The progressive movement is sustained by the local associations and the culture which creates several successful summer festivals: music and arts in various locations.

On the international level, since 1979 the Amazighen participate in the Moroccan Organization for Human Rights. In 1994, they help to create “IPACC” the first group of Indigenous Peoples of Africa. The World Amazigh Conference unites 70 Amazigh associations of Indigenous Peoples of North Africa and Immigrants in Europe and America. Mr. Hassan Id Balkassm, from the start, a leading member of this African and international movement and presently Member expert of the IRCAM, since 1993 attended United Nations Human Right and international conferences, as well as the sessions of the Working Group on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Geneva.) He participated in the first and second sessions of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York (May 2002 and 2003) and in 2004, representing African Indigenous, he has been appointed by the President of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to the Permanent Forum for a three-year term starting January 2005, with a Human Rights portfolio.

As a French-American growing up in France during the French Protectorate of Morocco, this writer is delighted with these historical developments, and as an Indigenous NGO at the United Nations supporting the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Yachay Wasi welcomes Mr. Id Balkassm in his new appointment.

Adapted and translated from Dominique Lagarde
L’EXPRESS INTERNATIONAL
No. 2817, June 27 to July 3, 2005.

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Dept. of ECOSOC/UN Sept. 17, 2005

2005 world summit
by Marie-Danielle Samuel

The 2005 United Nations World Summit was held in New York City, the “Capital of the World”, from 14 thru 16 September 2005.

Heads of States and prime ministers from 154 countries, assembled at United Nations Headquarters, gave their views on Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s call for UN renewal “In Larger Freedom” and the Millennium Development Goals* which need to be achieved in the future years.

They commented on a 40 pages “Draft outcome document” dealing with sustainable development, the environment, a Peacebuilding Commission, a new Human Rights Council, terrorism, the establishment of a democracy fund and interaction with civil society.

This document was approved by the outgoing 59th General Assembly on 13 September and was adopted by the World Summit on 16 September. UN Document A/59/L.70

An earlier draft of this document had no mention of Indigenous peoples. On 15 June 22 and 24, Informative Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector took place. Subsequently, member states made extensive additions to the document including three references to Indigenous Peoples, including calling for the adoption of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

* MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS established by UN in 2000:
1 - Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2 - Achieve universal primary education
3 - Promote gender equality and empower women
4 - Reduce child mortality
5 - Improve maternal health
6 - Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7 - Ensure environmental sustainability
8 - Develop a global partnership for development

The World Summit was followed, thru the weekend, by the General Assembly general debate (17 - 23 and 26 - 28 September).

Yachay Wasi considers that preserving the Environment is of the utmost importance and that any development should be sustainable which means that development activities must be undertaken with the seventh future generation in mind.
Curators’ assumptions on Machu Picchu

Excerpt from YALE DAILY NEWS September 12, 2005:

Exhibit unearths 1911 expedition by Roshan Sethi

In 1911, the Yale Peruvian Expedition led by archaeologist Hiram Bingham came upon the well-preserved remains of an ancient Incan city cradled between twin peaks. The city was Machu Picchu, and it has since gained a nearly iconic status as one of the most fascinating archaeological sites in human history.

On Sept. 9, objects and pictures from the original expedition were put on public display at the Peabody Museum of Natural History.

Richard Burger, director of graduate archeological studies, and Peruvian archaeologist Lucy Salazar are co-curating the exhibition. Burger gave a lecture, after which the two held a book signing.

Machu Picchu, at the height of Incan civilization, was a palace retreat for the Incan emperor and his noble elite. After the 16th-century Spanish incursion of South America, residents of the mountain city were forced to flee. The city, though abandoned, somehow survived in nearly immaculate condition until its discovery three centuries later.

The exhibit was completed only two years ago. It opened briefly in New Haven and then went on tour across the country. The exhibit, which had its official opening Sept. 10, will likely be shown for a year.

The following comment by Marie-Danielle Samuel was sent to the editors of Yale Daily News:

Contrary to the ASSUMPTIONS of the curators of this exhibit, the Indigenous descendants of the Inkas consider Machu Picchu a sacred site. To say that it was a palace retreat is only imagination, as Machu Picchu remains a mystery.

I was also surprised to see that this Yale exhibition already "unearthed" at Yale Peabody Museum in January 2003 had not only returned to Yale but would be lingering on for another year or more...Does this mean that the Peruvian government has to wait on and on for the return of the artifacts?

(Peru wants Yale University to give back Machu Picchu relics - Associated Press March 6, 2003).

A "WEST BY EAST " VISION by Eliane Lacroix-Hopson

Religions are dominating the world and are a source of conflicts and ignorance based on the fear of death.

Though Biblical religions are united by the God of Abraham and Moses, each religion pretends to have the true key to eternal life and cannot tolerate a different vision of Paradise. By this bizarre notion of eternal life, the earthly life of millions have been cut short in tragic wars across history.

In North Ireland, for decades, Catholics and Protestants have driven hundreds to their grave. Not long ago, the Balkans were devastated by a Christian-Moslem conflict.

While European countries are blindly coping with millions of Moslem immigrants, Moslem fundamentalists are assaulting the entire world in various bloody attacks in the name of a promised martyrdom....

Consequently, in this country, Christian fundamentalists are attempting to invade the classroom and dominate science as analyzed in this newsletter "Intelligent Design?..."

Yet, this general madness does not make sense as historian Arnold Toynbee remarked that religions are "the chrysalis of civilizations" and history demonstrates that it is the evolution of religions which led to the evolution of civilizations as each one stems from the best of the former.

In this regard, the breakthrough came with the Moslem Civilization sweeping around the Mediterranean Sea from the Middle East to Spain and Sicily, ending the European Dark Age and leading to the advent of the Renaissance and a science age.

This historical background inspired the leaders of the Center for Contemporary Culture in Barcelona, Spain, to create the exhibition "West by East" as reported by Alan Riding, New York Times European Arts Correspondent (September 3, 2005.)

This exhibit is organized by a Moslem, Abdelwahab Meddeb, a Tunisian poet and university professor in Paris, France, who recruited nine artists and five writers, of various Moslem countries living in France. One of them, Algerian photographer Touhami Ennadre, happened to be in New York on Sep. 11, 2001, and uses one of his photographs in the show as a conclusion to this sweeping vision of an East-West historical love-hate relationship.

The show justly starts with the maps and writings of the 12th cent. Arab geographer, Al-Hidri who worked for the Sicilian King Roger II and his extensive work gives a sweeping vision of the developments leading to the 13th cent. Napoli University, cradle of the 14th-15th cent. Renaissance.

From this history, contemporary artists rely on their own experience to illustrate their vision of a living relationship between East and West which could influence events to a rich creativity rather than blind destruction.

In Barcelona Center of Contemporary Culture until September 25, the exhibit will go to Valencia, Spain. Other European and American countries will benefit from such educative show.
YACHAY WASI, INC.
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New York, NY 10040-2450

'ABDU'L-BAHA IN NEW YORK THE CITY OF THE COVENANT
Copyright 1999 © Eliane Lacroix-Hopson
This out of print book has just been reborn in a
Second Edition by Baha’i Publications Australia 2005
and will be released in November.

YACHAY WASI on ebay...
Handmade jewelry and crafts from the Andes, postcards featuring Luis Delgado Hurtado’s photographs, etc...are being offered on ebay by Mono Adventures, a partnership with Yachay Wasi.

On sale on ebay, our book
“Creation, Evolution and Eternity”
by Eliane Lacroix-Hopson © 2001
which is also being sold on Amazon.com and is enrolled in the Search inside the Book program

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