

Huancavelica. Young environmentalists gathered at the Second International Congress to issue a Declaration.

Participants of the II International Congress of Young Environmentalists from Bolivia, Peru and the United States, gathered in the city of Huancavelica between the 26th and 30th of January this year. Upon concluding the event they issued a public statement. The paper highlights the commitments these young people have made from this event in Huancavelica, highlighting cultural elements such as our ancestral knowledge of Andean peoples. They say that "young people are committed to recovering our rich cultural practices and knowledge of our ancestral peoples as alternative efforts to interact better with nature and contribute to the solution of our environmental problems."

The following is the Declaration:

**DECLARATION
II INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF YOUNG
ENVIRONMENTALISTS**

HUANCAVELICA

We, young men and women representatives of Bolivia, the United States of America, and Peru, have gathered in the city of Villa Rica de Oropesa Huancavelica, from January 26th to 30th of 2009, to discuss the theme: generating learning processes of the environmental conflicts in the countries of Bolivia, Peru, and the USA."

We recognize that the environmental problems of our countries are the product of the ways in which we behave towards nature, as we produce without thinking about the future or humanity.

It is in our hands to solve these environmental problems but we need environmental education and culture, accountability, and strong community involvement.

We also believe that it is our duty to point out that the local, regional, and national authorities responsible for environmental health benefits to the peoples of our countries are not doing enough to solve these problems.

All this leads to the degradation of the environment in which we live, which deteriorates our quality of life, impeding our development.

As young people with great expectations for the futures of our countries, we pledge to inform, raise awareness, educate, and sensitize the people around us to the importance of care and protection of the environment.

We pledge to demand of the appropriate authorities the implementation of existing environmental laws and regulations to address these apparent problems.

We support the Andean world view and knowledge and are asking the authorities in Peru related to the administration and management of water to respect the fundamental principles of the fundamental right to the access and use of water of the Andean populations. We ask that they undertake a process of orderly and participatory bi-regional planning between Ica and Huancavelica using ecological and economic zoning criteria of catchments areas shared by both regions.

In addition, we request that the national authorities and regional government use strict monitoring and control in the face of non-compliance of environmental standards by mining companies and populations located in the headwaters of the rivers in the Huancavelica region, as they are the main causes of water pollution.

Finally we are committed to recovering our rich cultural practices and knowledge of our ancestral peoples as alternative efforts to interact better with nature and contribute to the solution of our environmental problems.

Huancavelica, January 30, 2009

