

Supplement: August to December, 2007

Introduction

This section covers the activities of the Foundation and the Spanish school from August to December, 2007, which is intended to bring our reporting in line with the requirements of the Ecuadorian state for the reporting of foundations.

Yanapuma Spanish School

Summary

In the second half of 2007 the school continued to grow maintaining an overall average from August to December of 5 students per week (up from 4 in the first half of the year, September was the busiest month with 11 new students, while August was the quietest month with only 2 new students. In all 102 weeks of classes were taught in this period.

Scores on the survey administered to every student at the end of their classes remained constantly good, reflecting a high level of student satisfaction. The most significant points to improve were punctuality of the teachers and the quality of the in-class activities offered. But both of these reflect the fact that new teachers were hired who took a little while to get used to the way that we work, and in neither case was the lower score on these points very significant. These points were counterbalanced by the perceived quality of the materials and instruction, and an overall high rating of the quality of the organization in general. These points were particularly appreciated as they had been the focus of attention in our efforts to improve the school.

Activities

- In August Betty Benitez was hired full time as a teacher. She spent time when not teaching developing materials and exercises. This resulted in the publication of an exercise book for the basic level, which is the most common level of study at the school. Work was continued to develop intermediate and advanced level materials.
- In October Doris Amores was hired as a full time teacher. In addition to teaching she also works on the development of materials and to coordinate activities of the school with students.
- A redesign and relaunch of the website www.yanapumaspanish.org resulted in a gradual but sustained increase in its visibility on Google. It was translated into French, Italian, German, Dutch, and Danish. The relaunch was combined in investment to link the site to prominent sites to further raise the profile. This strategy began to pay off as the website has begun to attract more and more independent students, all of whom react well to the message presented on the website of a Spanish school with a social and environmental conscience that donates all its proceeds to the work of the foundation.

- The school began to attract students who preferred to study in some of the communities that the foundation works with and to go on the two organized programs that we run in Puerto Lopez and La Chimba. These programs worked out successfully although we became aware of the need to have a suitable pool of teachers that are prepared to travel.
- The Immersion Package began to arouse more interest too in the second half of the year. Complaints from students about the amount of time it took to travel to the daycare centers resulted in a search for closer options. A daycare center in the historic center turned out not to be feasible because students complained that it was run by someone with very old-fashioned views about education that made it feel like it was not a good place to work. Finally we settled on sending students to the Baca Ortiz children's hospital, a short walk from the office, where they have a suitable program in which students can spend time with children who cannot leave hospital for a variety of reasons.
- A new program was developed towards the end of the year, named the "Gateway to Latin America" program. The idea is to promote Yanapuma as a reliable first stop for young visitors coming to Latin America for the first time. We offer them classes, secure accommodation, safety briefings and an introduction to latin history and culture before they go off traveling on their own. The program will be launched in 2008.
- Also under discussion was the idea of starting internet based classes for students who want to get a jump start on their studies before arriving in Ecuador, or for those who simply wish to study from their home country with a teacher. The advantage is that this service can be offered at a competitive price from Ecuador. This may be developed in 2008.

Evaluation

Overall the second half of 2008 was a very successful period in the development of the school. Lessons were learned by catching problems while they were still small and working to develop administration, materials, activities, etc to a suitably high level of professionalism. Increased visibility of the webpages began to result in significantly higher bookings for the first months of 2008. A priority for the coming year will be to develop more diverse sources of students as the Spanish school continues to develop as a reliable source of finance for the work of the foundation.

Yanapuma Foundation

Summary

During the second half of 2007 the foundation continued to develop well, receiving many new inquiries from potential interns and volunteers. We continued to work on producing a development manual that reflects the values and aspirations of the foundation, producing the first draft shortly before Christmas.

We also worked hard to develop materials to prepare and integrate new employees, students, interns, and volunteers into the foundation.

The results of these activities were the production of:

- The first draft of our development manual, outlining the 7 axes along which we work, and the methodology of the foundation in approaching research and problem analysis

- A preparation package for new interns,
- A structure package that outlines exactly how the foundation works, how to find relevant information, and how to report in an organized and logical fashion.
- Contracts and working agreements for students, interns and volunteers.

Current versions of these documents are available online. Also see appendices III and IV.

Sara Di Maria from Denmark joined Yanapuma staff for a six month period, starting in October. Her role is to help develop the infrastructure of the foundation (she was instrumental in developing the documents listed above) and to work on our development model, intern information systems, as well as work with students and interns and develop project plans.

The projects in the community of Bua were well received and served to generate a high level of confidence in the foundation. In the communities of La Chimba and Siecoya Remolino very little further work was done, due to lack of time and human resources. La Chimba was a destination for Spanish students and Cultural Exchange visitors. We also had a student living there from Asuza Pacific University for three months. Similarly another Azusa student spent 3 months in the community of Estero de Platano on the Esmeraldas coast, which created an opening for Yanapuma to begin working there. We continued sending groups to several communities including Chichicorumi, Peribuela, and also a new project on the Esmeraldas coast at Caimito run by George Fletcher, a biologist working to establish a biodiversity corridor and sustainable farming practices in the area.

Our attempts to provide remedial services for the community of Wachimak in dealing with domestic violence came to nothing due to political differences between interested parties.

Activities

- Yanapuma bought the paint to repaint the school in Bua and to paint the new classrooms that have recently been completed
- Training workshop by medical doctor organized in Bua for parents on nutrition, hygiene, etc.
- Work completed on new, sealed water system for the school in Bua, organized by Nick Bundle from the UK. Yanapuma bought the materials and Nick supervised the work with parents.
- Yanapuma took part in a work day in Bua to clean up the community
- Donation received for Don Soto daycare center, by Dutch nurse working there, of \$1600.00
- Donation received for Puka Chicta school, near Chichicorumi, by Dutch volunteer who is teaching English there for 6 months. \$2400.00
- Staff of Yanapuma had a meeting in La Chimba with several farmers from the community. We brought along an agricultural expert to assess the viability of planting a new crop, or rather a very old crop that is finding a new market. The first step is to try a small test before planting on a larger scale. The project is expected to take a couple of years before we know if it is viable or not.

- Meeting was held in La Chimba to discuss future collaboration on tourism project and with women's group, and possibly school
- Yanapuma began working with FUNGERES, a foundation that is developing a recycling project in the historic center of Quito, and which plans to start another in the Mariscal area.
- In November and December the foundation went through a process of consolidation and reorganization internally, which resulted in significant changes, and in production of the documents mentioned in the section above.
- We began to work on setting up a framework for communities and projects to become legalized through CODENPE, which specializes in the development of legal frameworks for indigenous groups. This is needed in virtually every community that we work with.
- We took the decision to hire a full time coordinator for the projects in Bua, who will be based there full time. Interviews were held and Giovanni Toapanta, an agronomist, was hired to start work in the new year.
- At a meeting in Bua Yanapuma presented its potential projects for the coming year, which was well received.
- We arranged for an agricultural expert with INCCA (Instituto Nacional de Capacitacion Campesina) to discuss with the farmers of Bua how to improve their agriculture and set up a 200 hour training program. It was decided to focus on production of organic cacao and bananas.
- A Christmas fundraiser was set up to raise funds for equipping the new classrooms of the Abraham Calazacon school in Bua with the aim of raising over \$1000.00
- Plans continue to develop with Engineers Without Borders to visit Bua and design a project to solve the sanitation and water problems of the school.
- We continue to monitor the ecotoilets that were constructed in Bua in July. So far they are performing well, and there are only minor criticisms.
- Intern, Emily Williams, carried out an investigation into possible links between use of chemicals in agriculture and health problems in the community. The principal result was that many expressed a desire to find alternative less chemical-dependent methods.
- A visit to Estero de Platano on the coast of Esmeraldas resulted in a commitment to begin working there, initially in the development of tourism, and as a place to send students.
- A new group volunteer project in Caimito, close to Estero de Platano proved successful under the guidance of George Fletcher, a biologist who is working there to promote sustainable agriculture and develop a conservation corridor.
- Approximately 10 interns, students, and long-term volunteers were active in the communities and in Quito during the second half of the year. This is in addition to the 8 who were already here during the summer period that ended towards the end of August.
- With the help of an intern, Brittany Mitchell, we brought out our first two newsletters (see appendix II)
- Just before the end of the year the possibility arose through the governor of the Tsachila of funds for the improvement of the museum. A draft proposal was quickly put together that was favorably met. But the project began to

increase in scope to encompass a project of deep cultural rescue of the entire Tsachila culture, attempting to unite the seven very disparate communities.

- Several new opportunities arose towards the end of the year:
 - Solimar International is working with USAID, the Ministry of Tourism of Ecuador, The Nature Conservancy, National Geographic, and others, to promote Ecuador as an ecological destination to protect national parks. We are discussing having their employee based in our office
 - Thinking Beyond Borders will visit in January to discuss sending groups of 16 students as part of a global studies program
 - Ecociencia, an Ecuadorian scientific research organization contacted us to discuss making an agreement to work together.

Evaluation

Internally, Yanapuma gained in strength during the second half of the year due to the concerted efforts of Sara and the other interns working with us. They gave us critical but constructive feedback, through which we were able to define the structure and operation of the foundation more effectively. This process resulted in a little less focus on working with the communities, but this was felt to be necessary in order to be able to work more effectively in the future.

Two communities, Bua and the project at Kamak Maki in Chichicorumi, expressed a great deal of confidence in Yanapuma, commenting that they found us straight forward to work with in comparison with other foundations that they had dealt with. At the same time we became aware of the need to consistently reinforce the philosophy and methods of the foundation for those in these communities that are not fully aware of how we work, in order to maintain clear communication and transparency in our work.

The development of the foundation began to gather its own momentum with new opportunities arising. In 2008 we will work towards realizing these opportunities and growing as a foundation.

Appendices:

- I. Financial Statement August to December 2007
- II. Newsletters
- III. Preparation Package for New Interns and Volunteers
- IV. Structure Package
- V. Spanish Schol Survey Results