

REPORT OF A DUTCH VISIT!

I, Heike van Gils, usually write this newsletter in a less personal manner than I consider suitable for the present edition! And this because of my parents' visit to Colombia for three weeks. Ad en Tonny took their airplane to his far destination last October 1st. After a week of jetlag, chaos, many impressions, noise and admiration in the gigantic city of Bogotá (busy, gold museum, street life, best beef, Transmilenio, emerald museum, Candelaria historic centre, botanical garden, etc.), a visit to an enormous salt mine (Zipaquirá) and hours of suffering and watching plants in the unique *páramo* around 3600 metres altitude (near Villa de Leyva in Iguaque National Park, see Newsletter 21), they seemed ready to spend 12 days in tropical heat of San Martín de Amacayacu!



After an emotional welcome by my family, we mostly kept quiet to get used to the overwhelming heat, and to process all those new impressions! Greeting so many people and shaking so many hands! And then slowly the activities: Planting cassave (=yuca) in the blasting sun, patiently fishing fat fish in a fish pond, rolling *chambira* fibres to a string and making bracelets (Ad also!), drinking *masato* while turning over *fariña*, washing clothes the old fashioned way in the river, sawing planks with a chainsaw (for the kindergarden!), watching animals and plants in the rainforest, harvesting crops on the *chagra*, fishing on the river and cleaning fish in the kitchen...



In between all these activities, Ad and Tonny took their time to get to know all Small World Foundation projects: The ancestral lands, the fish ponds, the kindergarden, the 60 toilets and the water tanks. The Tuirupü kindergarden project is most current, so here go the relevant pictures...



MIGUEL



VÁSQUEZ LUNA – R.I.P.

After having fought for the rights of the indigenous people of Colombia for decades, Miguel Vásquez Luna died last 8th of September. Mister Vásquez was the director of indigenous affairs at the INCODER, the government entity that coordinates indigenous land claims. We received the news with great pain in our heart:

Last year Mister Vásquez was the saving angel for San Martin at the INCODER by putting the proposal for an independent status of San Martin's ancestral lands back on the agenda.

In the meantime, his team has almost finished the socio-economic study and the Amacayacu National Park has filed its constructive concept. These are very important steps, but how and how fast the process will continue without Mr. Vásquez is unclear at this moment. There is no replacement yet, and we sincerely hope any replacement will come with the same view on business...

On behalf of San Martin de Amacayacu, the Small World Foundation and all others involved, we have paid our respects to Miguel Vásquez Luna at his last resting place north of Bogotá. We will keep up the good spirits in his honor and we will keep counting on the desired result. Will you put in your energy too?

Would you like to support the Tikuna indigenous community of San Martin together with the Small World Foundation, and stay in touch about the local developments in this remote corner of Colombia?

Please transfer 15 euro yearly (or more!) to the following bank account in the Netherlands:

Bank name: Rabobank
Bank Address: Singel 4
5111CD
Baarle-Nassau
The Nether lands
Account number: 13 27 26 203.
Account name: Stichting SMALL WORLD FOUNDATION
SWIFT/BIC Code: RABONL2U
IBAN code: NL28 RABO 0132 7262 03

Or check out the online contribution module on: www.smallworldfoundation.org/?page_id=68

Please DON'T FORGET TO INFORM US ABOUT YOUR NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS!!
(heike_van_gils@hotmail.com)

The contributions will be spent exclusively on the development and realization of local initiatives in San Martin de Amacayacu in the Colombian Amazon. No wages are being paid to anyone. The expenses will be mentioned as much as possible in the newsletters. For alternative contributions, please contact Heike van Gils at: heike_van_gils@hotmail.com.

For more information about this initiative, please check the website:
www.smallworldfoundation.org.