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SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE

An initiative is born: the Curative Education Congress in Quito

How intentions grow from encounters

It needs initiative and contacts for intentions to become reality, which is also why the Social Sciences Section's annual meeting was on the theme of 'initiative' (see p. 6). The history of the seventh Ibero-American curative education congress 'Human Dignity' in Ecuador (July 2012) shows how initiative can grow from a string of encounters.

In anthroposophy we are connected through ideas but also through actual meetings. When my wife and I went to visit my native Ecuador in 2008 we met Rosa Frei whom we knew from the teacher training seminar in Dornach. She drew our attention to Maritza Leiva, an anthroposophic doctor in Ecuador's capital Quito. A few days before we flew back we met her and asked what we could do for Ecuador. There were many possibilities. Leiva was hesitant at first. After a few weeks she enquired if we still meant it and suggested a curative education conference. At the curative education conference that took place soon after at the Goetheanum we proposed a seventh Ibero-American congress for curative education and were able to make contact with Rüdiger Grimm of the Curative Education and Social Therapy Council and with Michael Glöckler of the Medical Section.

Under the aegis of Unesco

When the Goetheanum agreed to the proposal an organisation committee was formed in Quito under the direction of Maritza Leiva, in which the country's three main regions are represented: the East (Oriente) by Maria Elena González from Puyo, the central region with Quito (Sierra) by Maritza Leiva and the coastal areas with Guayaquil (Costa) by Patricia Ordoñez. The preparation group spread the various tasks between them, such as finding funding, making contact with workshop leaders, looking for rooms etc. I have been involved as contact person in Basel from the beginning. Apart from Michael Glöckler and Rüdiger Grimm we found



In front of the Iglesia San Francisco in Quito

other speakers, among them Becky Rutherford, Manfred Trautwein, Carina Vaca Zeller, Basil Williams and Andreas Fischer. The organisation committee has also formed a study group that works on contents. Ismenia Iniguez will speak on behalf of Unesco – as patron of the congress – on the 'Culture of Peace'. The vice president of Ecuador, Lenin Moreno, who is in a wheelchair after an accident, and education minister Gloria Vidal Illingworth are expected to join the ranks of supporters.

The example illustrated how initiative can grow from karmic relationships. Who knows what new contacts will arise from the congress, especially if participants decide to travel through Ecuador afterwards.
| Anibal Moreno, Basel (CH)

Info/Support

www.pedagogiacurativa.com (Spanish)
www.cp-quito-2012.com (German)