PARAGUAY
THE MAGIC LAND

Prof. Beatriz Bosio

Catholic University of Asuncion, Paraguay

Paris 2005
Paraguay, takes pride in being a multiethnic and culturally diverse society. In our population are represented all the ethnic backgrounds of the planet.
When the Europeans first arrived in the 16th Century, they found a culture that was very advanced in spiritual matters, even though the language was exclusively oral.
When the Spanish priests introduced Christianity, their task was facilitated because the same God was easily made into Tupá. Even today, the way one refers to the Virgin Mary is "Tupa sy" which means the mother of Tupa.
The Guarani even believed that after a virtuous life on earth, a soul was rewarded with a form of Paradise they called “The land without evil” in the search for which they spent their lives.

There was a process of miscegenation, but the language of the Indians remains to this day. This constitutes the only case in Latin America where an Indian language has become a true national language, spoken by a large majority of non-Indian people.
Office, convened an UNESCO International Consultation on Tourism and development in 1999, the results of which were compiled in the book "Voyage to Nature and Culture".
I want to quote Professor Hervé Barre whose essay constitutes the backbone of that book: "The media and tourism thus become a necessary complement to preserve the heritage. When it becomes better known, this heritage reaches notoriety, attracts researchers, tourists and also the financial means for its preservation, and this international support contributes to the defense of cultural diversity and likewise offers tourist variety to satisfy an international demand interested in new destinations full of sense"
PARAGUAY THE MAGIC LAND
PARAGUAY THE MAGIC LAND
This is what Paraguay is trying to do now with “The Guarani World” which is what we offer in terms of “cultural and natural tourism” and that may help make the tourists aware of the continental scope of the Guarani language in terms of toponimics, which would include such terms as Caribbean, Ipanema in Brazil, Yaguaron in Uruguay, Curuzú Cuatiá in Argentina, and so on.
Of the original 30 Guarani populations of the Paracuaria Jesuit Province, seven remain in Paraguay until today. Two of them were declared "Heritage of Humanity," Jesús and Trinidad. For five generations until 1767 the Jesuits led the peaceful settlement of Indians in a perfect social utopia where they lived, worked, created, excelling in music, craftsmanship and agriculture in absolute harmony.
The music you are hearing was composed by a Jesuit missionary Domenico Zipoli, of the Baroque era, who was considered in Europe, before he volunteered for the South American forest, as comparable to Vivaldi.
As evidenced here, Paraguay has a lot to offer in terms of cultural and natural tourism and obviously we have a lot to gain, from a successful program, useful and effective as a tool for development and combating poverty, by creating jobs, while protecting a rich heritage which we proudly hold for the world to behold.
In order for all these plans to become a reality, we will need the help of UNESCO/UNITWIN Network, la Sorbonne, investors, tourists, and the guidance of previously successful experiences in the developing world.
THANK YOU for your attention