

Meeting with PLADES

Consultants and Educators for women workers of transnational companies and migrant workers.

Jose Marcos Sanchez Zegarra, President, Giovanna Larco Drouilly - Women's program director.

PLADES Objective: to organise, facilitate educational programs.

Represents workers in the same sectors as CEP.

Methods: "Study circles" -- discussions sharing of international topics such as globalization. Summaries are translated from various languages into Spanish and available on PLADES web site.

Basic Concept: To provide "space" for workers to meet, share and develop leadership.

PLADES evolved into "Social Watch Group"

Giovanna started with 5 and now has 20 trained women leaders, of which 13 are from unions, excluding mining sectors. These leaders are committed to the issues of equality and status of women.-Note: Transnational companies sent women employees to discussion circles whereas unions did not.

Following a two-year program, women who originated from "Mothers' Clubs, "Glass of Milk Clubs" "Soup Kitchens" select projects then start up a business. Examples: Day Care Centres, Cultivation of medicinal plants for production. For example, one project in Cusco has developed into "real business"- registered and certified plant products with a German company.

The organisation of the Andean Region Sector-"Andean Regional Trading Bloc" had been active in the last four years but did not send women. Nov.20, 2000 PLADES facilitated co-ordination of women's focus groups in Lima- discuss issues and plan to lobby Trade Centrals.

Plan was to set up meeting the same time as the Andean Region's council meeting- resulted in the consideration of sending two members, one which an alternate member could be a woman.

Organised March of Peasants to promote awareness of rural issues. Water issues. Rights of ownership etc.

PLADES is also financed by the Canadian Labour congress. As well, works with Dutch organisation FNV-Federation of Workers.