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Programa “Olhos d’Água”(*) – Summary History

()in Brasil, Olho d’água is the name of the place where the water flows from the soil*

The "Eyes d'Water," was born in April 2005, an action point, baptized with this name and on the island of Colares, in the state of Pará, with the participation of a group of young residents of the island, art educators and photographers. The goal was to produce an exhibition of photos on the theme of water to be presented in May of that year during the Festival d'Oh, in Paris, France. The intense involvement developed by the young natives of Colares in the action resulted in a very expressive work. The exhibition of this work, together with reports about the experiment, conducted along the year of 2005 in Colares, Belém and other regions of Brazil and some European countries, greatly impacted due to the universality of theme.

That led us to think about "Olhos D'Água" as a project that would take similar actions as those which happened in Colares, but more complete and longer ones, for several communities existing in the territorial extension of the Amazon, aiming to create clusters of community preservation and self sustainable sources of water in small rivers that form the largest river basin on the planet, aiming to build the network "**Olhos D'Água da Amazonia.**" Obviously, it would demand a network involving individuals, organizations, governments, etc.etc, working in an integrated way.

While seeking to possible partners on the web, we found hundreds of organizations that work worldwide with the environment and water issues. That was very good, to think that, potentially, the network already existed. Meanwhile we concluded that, before establishing connections in the network, we would have to create local community references and start with what was closer and in the extension of our real possibilities. The first step was to make the Olhos d' Água a referenced program in order to develop and implement local projects.

Thus, Olhos d'Água today is a program of Fotoativa that aims to promote and support educational projects and participatory researches considering multi subjects, in which the phenomenon of the "olho d'água" is taken at the same time and placed as a metaphor for linking various fields of knowledge in order to build a new culture of water. Following this guideline, in this year of 2007, we designed in partnership with the Municipal Education Registry of Belém, the project "Olhos d' Água / Islands'clicks," in order to introduce the head thought of the Olho's d Água program in the Units of Primary Education that serves people who are living in the islands near the town of Belém

For Visible Rights, Panel 2: Best Practices: Photography

Continuing with my participation on the conference held last year in Sao Paulo, I will report the result's sequence of Olhos D' Água project, to exchange perspectives and reflect on "best practices" in participatory photography projects with children/youth on behalf of their rights.

Starting this year, the project Olhos d' Água was turned into a program of reference of the Association Fotoativa to develop and implement educational projects and participatory researches considering multi subjects, in which the phenomenon of the "olho d'água" is taken at the same time and placed as a metaphor for linking various fields of knowledge in order to build a new culture of water.

Following this guideline, in this year of 2007, we designed in partnership with the Municipal Education Registry of Belém, the project "Olhos d' Água / Islands'clicks," in order to introduce the head thought of the Olho's d Água program in the Units of Primary Education that serves people who are living in the islands near the town of Belém. The first goal is to enhance the learning of children attended by these units - which until a few years ago were excluded from the formal education system - through the handling of transversal subjects, aiming an education background which can be more integrated to the social, cultural and economic environment of the local community.

We begin the actions of the Olhos d'Água/Islands' clicks" project, working in an integrated way with educators and students, children of the inhabitants of the islands to enter the educational pathways with photography, from the construction of the **camera obscura** to the practices of photographic records with pinhole cameras.

By the process of learning through the photography the student is encouraged to participate of situations of oral communication by means of different types of texts: stories, songs, poems, etc., enabling itself to gradually express desires, needs, wishes and, mainly, sentiments.

The written language may be encouraged when the student experience an intellectually stimulating environment where it is possible to observe and explore the space with an attitude of curiosity, perceiving themselves as active individuals, who are capable and aiming to provide a change in the educational process.

The photography opportunity of expression and understanding of the daily experienced life is an instrument/ educational resource of great assistance in the teaching-learning process, as it presupposes the development of visual representation of the individual as it contributes to the construction and reconstruction of socio-cultural identity of the student.

It is up to the teachers the ability to mediate and the creativity to exploit and enhance these possibilities of transforming, according to the characteristics of the groups which they operate with, the education ways offered by the project in order to conduct a meaningful interaction between their students and the act of photographing as well as it's results

At the conference, I will have the opportunity to report about the progress of the Olhos d'Água/ Islands'clicks project's activities and provide a sample of has being produced along this process.