**A Thousand Faces of the Amazon Region to be found in Anthropos**

16th May, 2024, Brno

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The exhibition showcases the cultural and natural diversity of the Greater Amazon region and provides an insight into the lives of the indigenous people of this vast and varied area. It should be also highlighted that the exhibition offers perspectives that are different from the typical European-centered view, because it provides space to the indigenous communities to share their own self-representations. Moreover, members of indigenous ethnic groups have had a significant role in the preparation of the exhibition. Visitors will thus learn about their rich culture, understanding of nature, mythology, religion, cosmology and their interpretation of the world, customs, and rituals.

The exhibition focuses on a number of core themes. Each of them is represented by original exhibits from private collections. These include everyday objects, handicrafts, weapons, ritual and ceremonial artefacts, amulets, clothing, ornaments and various accessories. The exhibition is further enriched with photographs, paintings and handicrafts by contemporary indigenous artists and artisans, including video documentation with descriptions of the meaning of the artefacts. The symbolism of patterns, colours and materials is also explained.

Indigenous people from Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela and Brazil are presented in this context, among them the Shuar, Achuar, Kofán, Huaorani/Waorani, as well as the Shipibo-Konibo, Cashinahua, Ticuna, Tucano, Yanomami and many others. A selection of myths and stories from the Amazon in printed, audio and video animation formats is also included.

Nature, biodiversity, and closely related issues, such as ecology and environmental issues, are another important topic of the exhibition. Typical animals from the Amazonian rainforest are depicted in a special sound system and a video presentation. The dermoplastic pieces will also be complemented by Jan Dungel's illustrations. You can also look forward to live exhibits offruits, specimens of woody plants, and other natural objects. „There will be plant fruits, specimens of trees and other natural plants on display," says Sylva Brychtová, co-author of the exhibition.

"The exhibition is aimed at a wide range of visitors, showcasing the cultural and natural diversity of the Greater Amazon region and providing a glimpse into the lives of indigenous people. Visitors will thus learn about their rich culture, understanding of nature, mythology, religion, cosmology and interpretation of the world, customs and rituals," explains the museum's Director General Mgr. Jiří Mitáček, Ph.D.

The exhibition is intended for a wide range of visitors. Informative banners dealing with the themes of the exhibition are available via QR codes in English and Spanish. A Czech audioguide is also available.

Children can enjoy the interactive elements of the exhibition, such as replica objects, sensory games, toys, arts and crafts, and a set of worksheets with a range of fun activities.

The exhibition is designed to be as inclusive as possible. For visitors with visual impairments, the main points are presented in Braille descriptions. Moreover, a variety of tactile elements are included, such as haptic objects, maps, a model of a traditional shabono, olfactory sensations, and interactive activities, eg. a haptic memory game.

A video guide in Czech sign language is available for deaf visitors.

The exhibition offers an unusual view of the contemporary Amazon Region that can be experienced with all the senses.

Thanks to cooperation with international institutions and experts involved, the indigenous people themselves have been given the opportunity to present their society and culture from their own perspective. Visitors thus get a unique opportunity to view different aspects of life in the Amazon through the eyes of its inhabitants.

A Thousand Faces of the Amazon is a space for intercultural dialogue. It is a project of many collaborating institutions, of which the main partner is the Masaryk University Language Centre. Other partners are the National Museum - Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures, the Teiresias Centre for Assistance to Students with Specific Needs at Masaryk University, the Faculty of Informatics of Masaryk University, ZUŠ Smetanova, the Secondary School of Art and Design and Higher ProfessionalSchool Brno, Zoo Brno, and the station of leasure activities.

Among the foreign institutions that contributed to this exhibition areUniversidad del Azuay,and Universidad Politécnica Salesiana (Ecuador), Universidad Científica del Sur (Peru), and Bournemouth University (UK). The exhibition also features photographs and recordings from Masaryk University's EPSULA project. The photographs by Shipibo artist David Díaz were provided by the Embassy of the Republic of Peru in Prague.

The main authors of the exhibition are Athena Alchazidu, a Hispanist from Masaryk University in Brno, and Narcisa de Jesús Ullauri Donoso, an anthropologist from the Universidad del Azuay in Ecuador, who is also the guarantor of the exhibition. The English commentaries were edited and proofread by Joe Lennon of the Masaryk University Language Centre.

The exhibition includes unique photographs from the archives of Czech researchers and travellers, such as the ethnographer and writer Mnislav Zelený Atapana, and the ethnobotanist Jana Horáčková. Some originals from the 19th and 20th centuries are loans from the National Museum - Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures.

The exhibition is accompanied by a number of special programmes designed for visitors of all ages. There are art and craft workshops, educational programmes for elementary and secondary schools and leisure organisations, as well as special lectures for the general public.

**The exhibition is organised under the auspices of:**

Mgr. Martin Baxa

Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic

JUDr. Markéta Vaňková

Mayor of the Statutory City of Brno

Prof. MUDr. Martin Bareš, Ph.D.

Rector of Masaryk University

Néstor Popolizio

Ambassador of Peru to the Czech Republic

Sônia Regina Guimarães Gomes

Ambassador of Brazil to the Czech Republic

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The main media partner of the exhibition is Czech Television ČT.