

EMBASSY OF ECUADOR IN THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

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ECUADOR HELD A WORKSHOP ON CLEAN MOBILITY IN THE NETHERLANDS WITH EXPERTS ON CYCLING

The clean mobility workshop's objective was to let the Ecuadorian participants learn about the Dutch mobility system and its network of cycle routes, infrastructure and regulations in order to replicate them in Ecuador.

On July 8, 2014, H.E. Miguel Calahorrano Camino, Ambassador of Ecuador in Spain and concurrent to the Netherlands, inaugurated the Clean Mobility Workshop held from 8th to 11th July in the city of Utrecht. This meeting was attended by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, the Ecuadorian National Police and representatives of the Ecuadorian civil society, as well as cycling experts from Dutch public and private organizations who have experience in the practice of clean mobility.

During the first day of the Seminar, the Director of the Dutch Cycling Embassy, Aletta Koster, explained the Ecuadorian participants the system applied in the Netherlands. "It is important to get a safe coexistence among different users, which means reducing, the speed limit where the users (cyclists) are". With regards to the implementation of this system in Ecuador, the Director affirms that this depends on a political will and the motivation of the citizens on adopting the clean mobility as a sustainable form of transportation.



Left to right: Santiago Rosero, Police Attaché of Ecuador in The Netherlands; Miguel Calahorrano Camino, Ambassador of Ecuador in The Netherlands and Spain; Johan Diepens, Director of the Consulting Firm Mobycon; Bas Braakman, cycling specialist of the Municipality of Eindhoven; Diego Puente, founder of Ciclópolis; Martha Roldán, Director of Communications of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador; Omar Montoya, Police Major of Ecuador; Diana Harrington, Councillor of Ibarra; José Luis Jácome, Minister of the Embassy of Ecuador; Carolina Lara, the General Coordination of Rights and Guarantees the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador; Jonathan Zapata, Captain of the Ecuadorian Police, Aletta Koster, Director of the Dutch Cycling Embassy and Mardou Calderón, Translator.

According to the Ecuadorian Ambassador Miguel Calahorrano, some cities in Ecuador

have developed important initiatives to promote cycling across the country. However, the desire to promote this practice conflicts with adverse conditions due to an infrastructure that is yet to be developed.

"On the one hand there is the need for a national plan and local plans to develop the necessary infrastructure for cycle routes, parking, bike rental, etc. Furthermore, a legal framework is required, the implementation of rules for the use of bicycles in the municipalities, and finally, to develop a culture of cycling and respect for the cyclist", said the Ecuadorian Ambassador Miguel Calahorrano.

For the cycling specialist of the Municipality of Eindhoven, Bas Braakman, the most important thing to consider regarding the implementation of a network of cycle routes is to make a design that complies with five requirements: coherent, direct (to avoid wasting time), safe, attractive and comfortable for the user.

Also, as part of this workshop, the Ecuadorian delegation visited the town of Houten to experience a bike ride on the cycle track system of the city.



In the picture: The participants of the workshop ready to experience a bike ride in Houten.

The Ecuadorian delegation met some cycling experts to talk about the best practices in clean mobility in the Netherlands, inclusive cycling, road safety, cooperation and research, one of them Angela van der Kloof, from consulting firm Mobycon, who is a specialist in education and communication to promote cycling. Meanwhile, Emille Vermeulen, Police Officer of the city of Utrecht, advised the delegation on road safety for cyclists.



In the picture: Emille Vermeulen, Police Officer, advising the delegation of Ecuador on road safety for cyclists.

Other highlights of the workshop were the interventions of Hillie Talens of CROW, a Dutch independent research organization in the field of infrastructure, public space and transportation, followed by Jorn Wemmenhove, Campaign and Communications manager of Fietsersbond (Dutch Cyclist' Union), stressing the importance of a pro cycling campaign for the use of cleaner transport in those countries where this concept is still to be developed.

According to Jeroen Buis the main road safety aspects are: traffic speed, traffic volume, and good infrastructure design. "It's about making good cycle infrastructure intersections that are well integrated in the network of city traffic."

On the last day of the workshop, the Ecuadorian delegation presented the experiences they have had in the context of clean mobility within their municipalities, other institutions, and civil society. "It is a must to analyze the local and national needs to generate opportunities to include the bicycle as a means of transport in Ecuador" said Diana Harrington, Municipal Councillor of Ibarra.



In the picture: Ecuadorian participants during the seminar

"The safety criterion is very important and Ecuador has to build its own path," said Police Major Omar Montoya, meaning that public safety should be included in a national plan for the mass use of bicycle in Ecuador. "We should know the current status of Ecuadorian organizations regarding the mass use of the bicycle" said Diego Puente, founder of Ciclópolis, in reference to the next clean mobility seminar that will be held in September in Ecuador with the participation of government and civil society.

For the Ecuadorian Ambassador, the workshop was successful thanks to the support of the Dutch Cycling Embassy. "They have extensive experience in this field and this makes cycling issues to be treated in a clear and simple way", said the Ambassador at the closing of the event.

For more information

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