Memory of the World during the "International Seminar "Planning and safeguarding Archives", celebrated in Quito, Ecuador (May 18th and 19th, 2017)

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The International Seminar "Planning and safeguarding Archives" was organized by the National Archive of Ecuador. Around 190 national archivists from public institutions met in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with experts from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Mexico, to analyze best practices, procedures and concrete experiences focused on prevention, reducing risks, minimizing damage and designing emergency plans in archives and libraries during disasters, such as earthquakes, fires, floods, military or political conflicts.

At the inaugural session, the Ministry of Culture and Heritage received from the UNESCO Office in Ecuador, the Memory of the World Certificate for Latin American and the Caribbean 2016, conferred to the "Jamaica Letter", known as a "Reply of a South American to a gentleman of this island", written by Simon Bolivar in 1815 (images 1, 2).

The Seminar included a conference to promote Memory of the World in an international, regional and national level (image 3). This was an excellent opportunity to talk about the history of the Program, to highlight some examples of the heritage already registered, to give some recommendations to present nominations and to emphasize the importance to create a National Committee on Memory of the World in Ecuador.

The meeting included a visit to the National Archive of Ecuador, where the institution keeps the Memory of the World Certificate for Latin America and the Caribbean 2002, conferred to the documentary heritage titled "Instrucción que han de observar el Corregidor de Lojo y Botánico químico para el acopio y remisión a España de la mejor quina", dated in 1790 and presented jointly as "Memoria científica de América Andina, las expediciones e investigaciones científicas en Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador y Perú, siglos XVIII-XIX" (image 4).
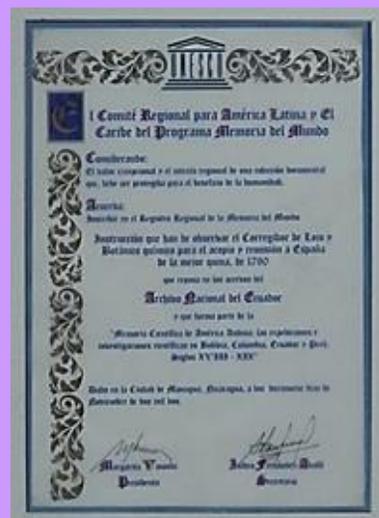

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