



# ALPACA MONTHLY NEWS

EDITOR: FRANCIS RAINSFORD

## EDITORIAL

### MANAGING ONE OF PERU'S ECOSYSTEMS - THE NEVER-ENDING STORY OF ALPACA FARMING vs MINING ACTIVITIES

Whenever problems involving issues of social conflict arise in Peru it is practically inevitable that the mining sector is to the fore.

Whereas mining investments can be a source of great wealth to neighbouring local communities with the provision of employment and social programmes such as road improvements, the building of new classrooms for schools, medical clinics etc., it can also generate deep resentment in matters affecting the environment - mainly in the field of water management.

As a rule mining operations consume vast quantities of water, often in areas where the supply is limited. Unfortunately, too, and despite sophisticated water treatment processes in many cases, contamination of surrounding land is often a cause of grave concern.

None more so than when mining companies and alpaca farmers are forced to be unwilling neighbours.

A generalistic view of these two protagonists is that, on the one hand, there is the wealthy mine and, on the other, the poor alpaca farmer. This being the starting platform, the onus is on the mine to conduct itself in a socially responsible manner in order to keep the peace. Usually, this is achieved by good works such as donations to the improvement of educational and medical facilities in the neighbouring community.

For the alpaca farmer, his existence is one of attempting to overcome an economic trap of trying to earn his living from a natural resource that has been in decline for at least four decades in terms of the quality of its product.

Specifically, an alpaca that is producing an inferior fibre quality that can only be sold at low prices does not provide its farmer with sufficient income to live nor to reinvest in his herd. This scenario gets progressively worse as each season passes.





Countless studies conducted in Peru during many years have highlighted the importance of strengthening the country's alpaca population with improved selection and genetic techniques and the fibre processing industry has indicated that it is prepared to pay better prices for better quality fibre.

The road to a better future has been clearly signposted but the investment required to bring this about has been sadly lacking. As a result, Peru's alpaca farmers

find themselves fighting a losing battle to survive whilst their mining neighbours have the luxury of being able to extract a product that never seems to be out of demand and commands ever stronger prices.

It's high time that a happy ending is found for the seemingly never-ending story of how best to share and conserve one of Peru's fragile ecosystems with equal opportunities for the parties concerned.

## CAMELID CLIPS

An initiative involving the Peruvian government's commercial promotions body, the Comision de Promocion del Comercio y las Inversiones (Promperu), and the Peruvian Embassy in the USA resulted in a fashion parade of alpaca garments that took place on 20th November in Washington DC.

Promperu's head, Juan Luis Reus, explained that the event was named "Peru Fashion Night" and was also presented in New York and New Jersey following Washington DC.

The objective was to bring alpaca to the attention of more consumers in the US and the garments displayed were exclusively from a group of designers and manufacturers from the Region of Cusco showing collections for Autumn-Winter 2014.

10 producers in all from the Textile Manufacturers' Chamber in Cusco participated, among them designers Varignia Garcia, Grethel Gonzales and Itala Testino.

The US market is presently worth around US\$ 20 million per annum - mainly in yarns – and Peru's Am-

bassador in Washington DC, Henry Forsyth, expressed the wish that "Peru enter the fashion world in the USA not only in garments but designs, too."



*Alpaca garments by Itala Testino on the catwalk*





A report in the UK newspaper, the *Daily Mail*, on 22nd October records a horrific textile industrial accident in Wenzhou, eastern China's Zhejiang Province that could have been even worse than it was.

An operative in a cotton mill somehow became clamped in a fibre opening and blowing machine.

The emergency services were called to help free him and, when they arrived at the factory, they found that

he was unconscious but was being held upright by the machine.

They had to use expansion tools to prise the machine apart so that he could be freed.

He was taken to hospital where he regained consciousness and told doctors he had no memory of how his head came to be trapped.



© REX/HAP/Quirky China News





*Members of staff from “Pacomarca” distribute blankets bought with funds sent by UK alpaca breeders*

The extreme winter conditions that affected the central and southern parts of Peru during the months of July, August and September have now finally ended, along with the state of emergency that was declared in nine of its regions.

Help for alpaca farmers affected by the conditions came from as far afield as the USA and the UK.

In the USA, the Alpaca Stud and Bozdown Alpacas raised US\$ 5,600.00 at their Alpaca Classic and which has been managed by Grupo Inca to buy blankets and other necessities for farming communities.

Likewise, the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA) together with Quechua Benefit and the National Alpaca Farm Day also raised funds for purchasing blankets and antibiotics for similarly affected farming communities. Quechua Benefit dispatched doctors to the Province of Carabaya in November to

deliver the aforementioned blankets and administer the antibiotics.

In the UK, a group of alpaca breeders got together and collected funds which were used to purchase blankets for farming communities in the District of Llalli in the Region of Puno.

The distribution of these blankets was organized by members of staff from “Pacomarca”, the alpaca genetic improvement centre run by Inca Tops S.A. in the District of Ocuvi in the Province of Lampa.

Statistics being centralised by the Ministry of Agriculture from Regional Agriculture authorities indicate that the livestock mortality figure was nearly 27,000 with some 6,500 alpacas and 5,000 llamas included in the total.



*A big ‘thank you’ to UK alpaca breeders from farming communities in the District of Llalli in the Region of Puno.*





*Garrison Bespoke's bulletproof suit being put through its paces at a firing range in Canada.*

Textiles for today's executive - a bulletproof three-piece suit.

News was released last month that a Canadian tailoring company, Garrison Bespoke, has combined style and safety using lightweight carbon nanotube technology to absorb impact from bullets fired from handguns and prevent punctures from knife attacks.

The luxury suit, retailing around US\$ 19,000.00, is seen as an investment in safety by a few select customers who wish to avoid being killed while travelling abroad.

The idea of the suit was born following a conversation

with a client who was shot in a foreign country seven months ago.

As purveyors of fine tailoring, however, the company could not simply use bulky Kevlar, the typical combat protection material used in police and regulation military gear.

So they reached out to contractors who previously provided elite body armour to US Special Forces in Iraq using nanotube technology.

Once a suit has been custom-tailored, six thin nanotube sheets are slipped into the lining of the back of the suit jacket and in the front of the vest, allowing the fit to remain crisp and clean.

Although more sheets can be added for extra protection, comfort and ease of movement would be compromised.

It's not the first unconventional project the company has embarked on - Garrison Bespoke has commissioned all kinds of special suits, from crushed-sapphire tuxedos to an outfit that can be worn underwater.

To date, there have been at least six enquiries from private individuals and staffs of international world leaders hoping to tailor their respective country's president or prime minister.

The original client who was shot was the first person to buy the company's bulletproof suit.

**THE IAA WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL  
ITS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS A VERY  
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**



## IAA ALPACA MONTHLY BULLETIN

The IAA Alpaca Monthly Bulletin is aimed at keeping members informed of news from the IAA. We encourage any member to supply articles of interest to update members about developments in the Camelid world. Articles with a human interest angle are particularly welcome.

Please submit to the Editor:  
[francisrainsford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:francisrainsford@yahoo.co.uk)



Asociación Internacional de la Alpaca  
International Alpaca Association  
Campaña Paisajista 106, San Lazaro  
Cercado, Arequipa Peru  
Telefax +51 54 229344  
<http://www.aia.org.pe>, [www.thealpacamark.info](http://www.thealpacamark.info)  
E- mail: [aia@terra.com.pe](mailto:aia@terra.com.pe)