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Project Management News – Peruvian Update

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The tension between the high competitiveness promotion projects and the poverty fighting projects: contradiction or scope definition?

Currently many economical development [projects are being defined and awarded](#) in Peru, but at the same time there are a lot of protests because the social factors of those projects are being avoided or weakly defined. In parallel, many social oriented projects are being developed.

Poverty is still real and painful (40% of Peruvians are still under the poverty line). But opportunities to compete within a global scale are arising. Probably this is because some people think it is impossible to think about exporting software or fashion design if the basic problems of all Peruvians are not solved. Some others think that it is impossible to miss the opportunities of finally being connected with the big markets in the World and all efforts have to be done in order to compete at a high level. Both points of view are launching some arrows one to another qualifying one another as insensible or passive. What should the Peruvian State do first?

This is a typical problem to be solved by portfolio management. Competitiveness oriented projects such as the investment in high cost docks expansion or creation should be very carefully appraised in order to have an integral benefit/cost analysis considering impacts all over the Country. Also the investment to exploit resources in the Amazon forest should be explored. It is not possible to assume that because the first investors are “good high profile or prestigious companies” the rest of the investors are going to be the same.

The Amazon forest investment should learn from all those unsuccessful cases of petroleum exploitation (see other articles at PMForum about this topic). This time the projects might be related to wood and natural gas. It should not be impossible to create a set of rules and procedures to create support of the population to have win-win systems for the natural resources rational exploitation. But without rules, it is impossible to ensure that the environment (understood as a better context for human life and not only as a set of ecological agreements) is going to be respected.

One of the tasks of political authorities and technical leaders are to help to think about what should be the scope of Peruvian development. The scope should be clearly defined as something similar to “reaching minimal human and social conditions that allow Peruvian society to grow prioritizing autonomy of development, local social integration and individual and social capability to institutionalize a proactive society”.

Under this goal, and using project portfolio best practices, it shouldn't be a contradiction to build an airport and develop capabilities to avoid racism or to fight against women inequalities; it shouldn't be a problem to integrate projects such as Amazon rational resource exploitation and native communities' development.

For further information about Peruvian projects please don't hesitate to visit:

- [ProInversion](#) (Peruvian Government Investment Promotion)
- [World Bank Peruvian Projects](#) (Peruvian Projects)
- [Inter American Development Bank](#) (Peruvian Projects)
- [PMI Peruvian Chapter](#)

About the Author



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