

## A NEW ALPHABET HAS BEEN 'BORN'

February 11 was a red-letter day for the Ashéninka nation of Peruvian Amazonia. All these years, linguistic evidence notwithstanding, this ethnic community has been grouped with speakers of the related Asháninka language to their great disadvantage economically and educationally. Although the populations are roughly equal (around 15,000 each), to this day only five young Ashéninkas are known to have graduated from high school, while numerous Asháninkas are graduating from universities.

In November, a historic Alphabet Congress affirmed a separate alphabet for the Ashéninkas, and on February 11, the following Decree was published as law. Today, with the alphabet settled, the first Grade One primer written by a member of the Ashéninka community can be published, and I have the privilege of formatting it. We hope this week to present it to a District mayor for consideration and printing. Below you can see the alphabet which has been approved, but you can't begin to imagine the delight this edict brought to our author. An alphabet validates your language...makes you as an individual and as a people equal with the rest of the world. An alphabet opens the doors to education...to tools for coping with the 'outside'...to Scripture reading... Juana laughed with pure delight all afternoon.



RESOLUCION DIRECTORAL  
00001-2019-MINEDU/VMGP-DIGEIBIRA-DEIB.

Lima, LUNES, 11 DE FEBRERO DE 2019

### SE RESUELVE:

**Artículo 1.-** Oficializar el alfabeto de la lengua asheninka, aprobado en el "Congreso de Normalización del Alfabeto de la Lengua Asheninka", conforme a las siguientes veintidós (22) grafías:

a	ch	e	g	i	j	k	m	n	ñ	o
p	r	s	sh	t	th	ts	ty	tz	w	y

**Artículo 2.-** Difundir la presente resolución entre las entidades públicas de los diversos Sectores a efectos que puedan dar cumplimiento a lo dispuesto en el artículo 21.2 de la Ley Nº 29735, Ley que regula el uso, preservación, desarrollo, recuperación, fomento y difusión de las lenguas originarias del Perú, que establece que las entidades públicas emplean versiones uniformizadas de las lenguas originarias en todos los documentos oficiales que formulan o publican; así como difundir en las organizaciones indígenas nacionales y regionales, autoridades comunales, distritales y provinciales, investigadores, instituciones educativas y autoridades de los departamentos de Ucayali, Pasco, Junín y Huánuco.

EXPEDIENTE: DEIB.2019-INT-0031420

Esto es una copia auténtica imprimible de un documento electrónico archivado del Ministerio de Educación, aplicando lo dispuesto por el Art. 25 de D.S. 070-2013-PCM y la Tercera Disposición Complementaria Final del D.S. 025-2016-PCM. Su autenticidad e integridad pueden ser contrastadas a través de la siguiente dirección web:

[http://eslnad.minedu.gob.pe/slnadmed\\_3/VDO\\_ConsultaDocumento.aspx](http://eslnad.minedu.gob.pe/slnadmed_3/VDO_ConsultaDocumento.aspx) e ingresando la siguiente clave: C26CEC

[www.minedu.gob.pe](http://www.minedu.gob.pe)

Calle Del Comercio 199  
San Borja, Lima 01, Perú  
T: (51) 415 5808

EL PERÚ PRIMERO

Apologies for not writing last week. With District Mayors and the local Regional Education Office requesting print-ready Grade One readers in the Asháninka, Ashéninka, Shipibo, and Yine languages, as well as the Early Childhood Education Teacher's Guide, our small staff was 'way overloaded, completing final checks. I worked all weekend and still missed several deadlines. This, of course, has been in addition to the workshop where six teams are working on Grade Two readers, and practice teaching sessions so that the authors will know how to teach the lessons they have developed.

The rains and mud continue; teachers still have to take off many days to attend to documents, and, by turn, almost all have been down with colds. Still they persist doggedly, determined to finish their books and see their children reading in their languages. Since more official interest is being shown in the books than ever before, we have hopes of their being published and will appreciate your prayers that this will actually happen for this school year.

Pushing the deadlines but encouraged,

- *Pat*

Dr. Patricia Davis: 7500 W. Camp Wisdom Road, Cowan Apts. 144, Dallas, TX 75236. [pat\\_davis@sil.org](mailto:pat_davis@sil.org)  
Wycliffe: P.O. Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862-8200 4316-10<sup>th</sup> St.N.E., Calgary, AB T2E 6K3