

**KENVALE student speaks at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Institute For Peace Through Tourism (IIPPT) Australian Chapter conference held on Saturday 15 July 2006 at the Avillion Hotel, Sydney.**

IIPPT is a not-for-profit and UN-accredited NGO founded in 1986 by Louis D'Amore. In the mid-1980's when major global issues in the world particularly between the East and West, along with a deteriorating environment, the increasing gap of have and have-not regions of the world were rising, the IIPPT was formed to promote peace through travel.



The promotion that “Every traveler is potentially an Ambassador for peace” is now being spread throughout the world to the numerous industries affected by tourism. This covers airlines, travel agents, educational institutions and many more.

Kenvale College of Tourism and Hospitality Management participated in Australia's 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference, “*Tourism-Agent for Peace?*” with Mia Nahm, Industry Placement Manager speaking about how the College promotes service projects where students have the opportunity to participate in getting involved for a 2 - 4 week service project to help those in need.



Under the title of “Volunteer Tourism” Mia spoke about how students are challenged to discover themselves by participating in these service projects where they face a very different environment from their

everyday life and where they are pushed to think about their values, especially when they encounter that they are happy despite not having the essentials of life. Students find fulfillment in the giving of themselves – their talents, time and capacity to relate to those in need- during the volunteer tourism projects and they return transformed. This transformation is mainly in the attitude of a greater sense of gratitude for what is taken for granted many times in the possession of material goods, a family environment and in relationships with people we love.



To exemplify a Volunteer tourism service project, Cassandra Hawdon, a first year Advanced Diploma of Tourism and Hospitality Management student spoke about her three years of continued



volunteering in a service project in Bridgewater, Tasmania. Although typically one might think that a service project is aimed at developing nations, Cassandra spoke about how she found a way to give and

receive back so much more, by participating in the Bridgewater service project where the main aim was to share valuable time and affection with underprivileged youth living in this low socio-economic sector of this State.

Kenvale College of Tourism and Hospitality Management aims to assist every individual achieve their best through personal development programs. Service projects as part of volunteer tourism achieves in part this goal.