WORKING SESSION 3b

Tapati Rapa Nui – Today’s Past on Easter Island

For the last decades the annually held “Miss Easter Island”-contest – better known as the “Tapati Rapa Nui”– has been promoted by the local authorities as a major cultural event in order to attract tourism. This paper will briefly cover the history of the earlier years to concentrate on the contests under today’s mayor covering three aspects:
1. Through the changes introduced to the event an idea is given of how a cultural revival is intended, what is considered worthy and whether age is of importance.
2. What effect does tourism have on the “Tapati Rapa Nui” and what effect does the “Tapati Rapa Nui” have on tourism.
3. What do the participants consider important of their island’s past and how do they perceive this represented.

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