

EMBAMEX SWEDEN JANUARY NEWSLETTER

MAGICAL TOWNS: PALENQUE

To really get to know get to know the famous ancient city of Palenque, visitors must immerse themselves deep into the history and mysticism of the Mayan Culture and its majestic ceremonial centers. To the north of the state of Chiapas lies both the ancient city of Palenque, built by the Mayans, and the modern town beneath it, which serve as a fantastic starting point to explore the natural wonders that surround them. A road interrupted by waterfalls leads south to the archaeological site of Tonina. If visitors head southeast, passing through the Lacandon Jungle, they will find the vestiges of two other great pre-Hispanic cities, Bonampak and Yaxchilán.

To come to this corner of the world is to touch the heart of the imposing Lacandon Jungle and let oneself be surprised by its sounds, beginning with the welcome given by the howler monkey and by the echoes of the legendary jaguar. Tourists are invited to bathe their senses among the turquoise crystal clear waterfalls and to enjoy the abundant nature surrounding them, which will fill their trip with life and color. The ancient city of Palenque, which lies deep inside the Mayan jungle, was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1987.



Image credit: www.visitmexico.com

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WORKING VISIT TO SWEDEN BY MAGISTRATE JOSÉ LUIS VARGAS VALDEZ

In the framework of a working visit to Sweden, the Magistrate of the Superior Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Branch of the Federation of Mexico (TEPJF), José Luis Vargas Valdez, met with Swedish officials on several occasions throughout his visit, as well as participating in the 26th Ordinary Meeting of the Council of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) on December 6, 2017. He was accompanied during his meetings by the Ambassador of Mexico to Sweden, Agustín Gasca Pliego, and staff of the Embassy.

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Magistrate Vargas with Ms. Anna Jakenberg Brink, Chief of the Democracy and Development Section of Sweden's Ministry for Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Anna Maj Hultgård, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Law and Human Rights; and Mr. Ludvig Daver, official for the Department of the Americas of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.



Magistrate Vargas, Mrs. Emma Sjöblom, responsible for International Affairs of the Swedish Electoral Authority, and Fernanda Rodríguez González, Head of the International Affairs Unit of the Coordination of Relations with Electoral Organisms of Mexico's Electoral Tribunal, TEPJF.

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WORKING VISIT TO SWEDEN BY MAGISTRATE JOSÉ LUIS VARGAS VALDEZ

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Ambassador Gasca Pliego with IDEA Secretary General Yves Leterme and Magistrate Vargas at the IDEA office in Stockholm on December 6.

EIIS-OECD PACIFIC ALLIANCE SEMINAR IN STOCKHOLM

On December 5th, the seminar “The Pacific Alliance - An Emerging Region in a Global World: Towards Better Integration of Regional Policies and International Cooperation” was held in Stockholm with the participation of the Ambassadors of Colombia, Peru, Chile and Mexico as speakers, as well as the presence of Dr. Oscar Villarreal, Advisor to the OECD Sherpa Office before the G20. This seminar was organized by the European Institute of International Studies (EIIS) and the OECD, with the cooperation of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Business Sweden and the Embassies in Sweden of the four founding member countries of the Pacific Alliance.

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EIIS-OECD PACIFIC ALLIANCE SEMINAR IN STOCKHOLM

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In this forum, the dialogue and cooperation of the four members of the Pacific Alliance (PA) with observer or associate countries was promoted; 30 out of 52 observer or associate countries are members of the OECD. To this end, representatives from the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Business Sweden, the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg and the EIIS participated in the four panels held throughout the day. Ambassador Gasca Pliego participated in the panel “Gender Equality in the Pacific Alliance,” in which he highlighted not only the work that the PA Working Group has carried out in this matter, but also “the contributions that the OECD could have on the subject given the research and analysis already carried out for the publication of the text: ‘Gender Equality in the Pacific Alliance: Promoting the Economic Empowerment of Women.’”

The second installment of this panel is scheduled for February 2018.



Ambassador Gasca Pliego speaking during the EIIS-OECD Pacific Alliance Seminar in Stockholm on December 5th.

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CHARGÉE D'AFFAIRES MEETS WITH SWEDISH PARLIAMENT PRESIDENT



Chargée d'Affaires Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez with Swedish Parliament President Urban Ahlin.

The Chargée d'Affaires, a.i. of the Embassy of Mexico in Sweden, Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez maintained fruitful conversations with the Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, Mr. Urban Ahlin, on the occasion of the Seminar with the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), held on December 13, 2017 at the Riksdag. Mr. Ahlin acknowledged that the Swedish political leadership is analyzing the content and meaning of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

CHARGÉE D'AFFAIRES IN DIALOGUE WITH NOBEL MUSEUM DIRECTOR

The Chargée d'Affaires, a.i., Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez, spoke with the General Director of the Stockholm Nobel Museum, Dr. Olov Amelin, and discussed, among other issues, a request presented by the Ealy Ortiz Foundation A.C., from Mexico, which explores the possibility of holding of a workshop on scientific journalism in Stockholm (December 13, 2017).

Chargée d'Affaires Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez with Nobel Museum Director Dr. Olov Amelin on December 13.



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CHARGÉE D'AFFAIRES CONGRATULATES HEAD OF ICAN FOR NOBEL PRIZE

The Chargée d'Affaires, a.i., Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez of the Embassy of Mexico congratulated Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the organization which received the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize, for having obtained the highest award for her dedicated work against nuclear weapons. The ICAN brings together more than 500 NGOs in a hundred countries, and has been warning for years about the dangers posed by this type of weapon. Beatrice thanked the Chargée d'Affaires for her congratulations, mentioning that Mexico has great diplomats, and that she recognizes their position against nuclear weapons. The Chargée d'Affaires and the Executive Director of ICAN held their dialogue on Wednesday, December 13, in the framework of the acknowledgment that the Swedish Parliament made to ICAN.



Chargée d'Affaires Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez with Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

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CHARGÉE D'AFFAIRES AT BOOK PRESENTATION BY DR. LEANDER



The Chargée d'Affaires, a.i. of this Embassy, Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez, with Dr. Birgitta Leander, who gave a keynote address at Solidaritetshuset on Mexico on December 14 of the past year. Dr. Leander commented that she is writing a book in Spanish entitled “*Mi Sueño Mexicano, Recuerdos de un Águila Azteca del Polo Norte*,” (My Mexican Dream, Memories of an Aztec Eagle from the North Pole), which will soon be published.

Chargée d'Affaires Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez with Dr. Birgitta Leander on December 14 at Dr. Leander's book presentation.

CHARGÉE D'AFFAIRES ATTENDS EUROPEAN MAYA CONFERENCE IN MALMÖ

The Chargée d'Affaires, a.i. of the Embassy of Mexico, Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez, welcomed on behalf of the Government of Mexico the researchers, academics and writers of Mayan culture during the Twenty-Second European Maya Conference, which was held on December 15 in the auditorium of the University of Malmö. This event was attended by more than 120 researchers from Europe, the United States, Asia and Latin America.

Read more about the conference here (in Spanish):

<http://www.20minutos.com.mx/noticia/310679/0/cumbre-europea-sobre-cultura-maya-reune-a-120-expertos-en-suecia/>

Chargée d'Affaires Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez gives a speech at the 22nd European Maya Conference in Malmö on December 15.



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CHARGÉE D'AFFAIRES ATTENDS GALA DINNER IN MALMÖ CITY HALL

The Mayor of the city of Malmö Mr. Kent Andersson thanked the Chargée d'Affaires, a.i. of the Embassy of Mexico in Sweden Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez for the support she offered at the University of Malmö's Twenty-Second European Mayan Conference. During the gala dinner held at City Hall on December 15, the Chargée d'Affaires accompanied Mayor Andersson at the table of honor; the latter expressed his interest in, among other topics, strengthening and energizing Malmö's diplomatic and commercial relations with some entities of the Republic of Mexico.

Right: Chargée d'Affaires a.i. Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez at the Table of Honor at Malmö's City Hall with Mayor Kent Andersson on December 15.



Left: Mayor Kent Andersson gives a speech to attendees at the City Hall dinner on December 15.

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CHARGÉE D'AFFAIRES CONGRATULATES HEAD OF DIPLOMATIC FORUM

The Chargée d'Affaires, a.i. of the Embassy of Mexico in Sweden, Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez, spoke with and congratulated the Director of Strategic Projects of the University of Uppsala Lena Wallenstein for the impressive organization of the Diplomatic Forum, which is of particular interest to the diplomatic community. Their conversation took place within the framework of the Seminar on Swedish Politics and its Challenges for the General Elections of 2018, a forum that was organized jointly by the Press Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the University of Uppsala held on December 19, 2017.



Chargée d'Affaires Dr. Audrey Rivrea Gómez with Mrs. Lena Wallenstein at the Seminar on Swedish Politics held in Stockholm.

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CHARGÉE D'AFFAIRES AT SWEDISH POLICY DISCUSSION PANEL

The Chargée d'Affaires, a.i., Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez, spoke with Anders Lindberg, editor of the newspaper *Aftonbladet*, and Olof Kleberg, editor-in-chief of the newspaper *Västerbottens-Kuriren* of Umeå, during the discussion panel “Sweden’s Policy During 2017 and its Future Prospects” at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs on December 19, 2017.



Chargée d'Affaires Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez with editor of Västerbottens-Kuriren Olof Kleberg and guest.



Chargée d'Affaires Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez with Aftonbladet editor Anders Lindberg.

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CHARGÉE D'AFFAIRES ATTENDS NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT AT CITY HALL



On January 1st, the Chargée d'Affaires, a.i., Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez, attended an invitation from the President of the City Council of Stockholm, Eva-Louise Erlandsson Slorach, to the 2018 New Year's Concert, held at the City Hall of Stockholm on that day.



Chargée d'Affaires Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez speaks with Stockholm City Council President Eva-Louise Erlandsson at the New Year's Concert on January 1st.



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CHARGÉE D'AFFAIRES IN COURTESY MEETING WITH HEAD OF IDEA

The Chargée d'Affaires, a.i., Dr. Audrey Rivera Gómez, met with the Secretary General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), Mr. Yves Leterme, during a courtesy meeting they held on January 3rd, 2018.



Chargée d'Affaires Audrey Rivera Gómez with IDEA Secretary General Yves Leterme in Stockholm on January 3rd.