



México Down Under



Embassy of Mexico in Australia | Bulletin No. 16

Letter from the Ambassador

Mexico: An Environmentally Responsible Country.

For several decades, Mexico has worked internally and in the international field in favour of a healthier and more sustainable world environment.

Back in 2010, Mexico hosted in Cancun the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Cancun Climate Change Conference produced the basis for the most comprehensive and far-reaching international response to climate change the world had ever seen to reduce carbon emissions and build a system which made all countries accountable to each other for those reductions. Ever since then, Mexico has accompanied very closely the COP process.

In order to contribute to reach a Global Agreement for the COP 21, to be held in December this year in Paris, last month, Mexico communicated to the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change its mitigation and adaptation commitments for the period 2020-2030.



Unconditionally, and in compliance with the directions and priorities of the General Law on Climate Change, Mexico voluntarily committed to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and compounds by 25%.



This commitment includes a 22% reduction in direct emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorocarbon gases relative to the baseline or trend growth in productive activities and urban services that generate it. As well as to reduce by 51% the emissions of black soot particles,

whose global warming potential in the short term can be up to 3,200 times greater than carbon dioxide. This short-lived contaminant, also called black carbon is a greenhouse compound that comes mainly from incomplete combustion of heavy fossil fuels. It is associated with air pollution morbidity and mortality at an urban level, so its reduction will also have significant benefits for public health.

This reduction also means that Mexico will be able to detach its economic growth from the emission of greenhouse pollutants such as carbon dioxide, which will mean a 40% reduction in carbon intensity of the GDP. Under these considerations, it is estimated that Mexico will reach a peak greenhouse emissions gases in 2026, thus trying to achieve the decarbonisation of its economy.

This voluntary reduction can be increased to 40% if a comprehensive Global Agreement can be reached in Paris to secure financial support for mitigation actions in developing countries and to ensure strategic technology transfer in sectors with higher emission rates.

Mexico has included in its 2030 commitments an adaptation component with the priority to protect people from extreme weather phenomena that are linked to changes in global temperature, and to increase strategic infrastructure resilience of the country and the biodiversity of our home ecosystems. To this end, the most relevant defined goals are: to increase the adaptive capacity of the 160 poorest municipalities of the country, the establishment of early warning systems and risk management at all levels of government, and achieve a zero rate of deforestation.

With these actions, Mexico becomes the first developing country to announce voluntary commitments to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, and sums its commitment to reach a new agreement in Paris later this year, with the aim to enable to maintain the overall global warming below 2 degrees Celsius. Mexico calls on the international community, both developed and developing countries, to join with their contributions to the global effort to bring actions to stop climate change.

 COMING SOON



Free trade with Panama imminent, says envoy

Panama City.- The free trade agreement that Mexico and Panama signed last year will come into force very soon, said José Piña Rojas, the Mexican ambassador.

"It's imminent," added the envoy. Trade between the two nations has doubled over the last 10 years to about \$1 billion, he said, but the agreement will boost it further.

Mexican investments in Panama amount to \$2 billion, and about 30 major Mexican companies have a presence in the country.



Centenario satellite to be launched from Kazakhstan

Mexico City.- Mexico will launch the Centenario satellite into space from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on April 29. The satellite is to be used for national security purposes, including attention to the country's vulnerabilities and risks.

"The Centenario satellite will probably launch operations within 10 months. First, its orbital position has to be located before the process of the deployment of the antenna and the checks for its operational effectiveness," said Gerardo Ruiz Esparza, secretary of Communications and Transport.

Global Mexico

THE MINING INDUSTRY IN MEXICO: A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

Revista “Negocios” ProMéxico (By: Mariana Morales)



Mexico's production value makes it the 14th biggest mining producer in the world. In 2012, the value of Mexican exports of ores and concentrates represented 1.7% of the world total. In addition, the country has consolidated as an important investment capital destination; according to Metals Economics Group, in 2013 Mexico ranked fourth in the world as a recipient of investment for exploration, with 6% of the total capital invested in this area, and, for the fourth consecutive year,

first in Latin America. A report published in 2013 by Behre Dolbear, which evaluates 25 countries around the world, puts Mexico in fifth place for best mining investment conditions worldwide and third in Latin America, behind Chile and Brazil. The Fraser Institute, meanwhile, considers Mexico as having the second most important mining potential in Latin America in terms of best practices in industry regulation, behind only Chile. Investor confidence in Mexico and the industry's capacity to respond to world demand for huge production volumes is reflected in the leading role the country plays in important mineral segments. According to information from the Ministry of Economy's Office of Mining Regulation, in 2012 Mexico ranked as the world's leading silver producer; the second most important for bismuth and fluorite; the third for celestite and wollastonite; fifth for cadmium, lead, diatomite and molybdenum; seventh for gold, zinc and gypsum; eighth for barite and graphite; ninth for salt and tenth for copper. These positions not only reflect Mexico's competitive advantages. They are also indicative of the attributes that make it a production powerhouse and an attractive investment destination. For Mario Cantú Suárez, General Mining Coordinator at the Ministry of Economy, among the most important of these attributes is that "Mexico has a strategic geographic location, and belongs sharing a border to with the biggest market in the world; it has communication and transportation routes and access to the most important trade routes in the world, with possible connections to the Pacific Rim and Europe, and privileged access to 45 countries that amass more than 1.2 billion people, representing 61% of the world GDP." "The country has solid public finances, important international reserves and controlled inflation levels that generate a stable macroeconomic framework which fosters favorable conditions for business growth and expansion," he adds. Speaking of the conditions that favor mining investment



and development in Mexico, Cantú Suárez emphasizes that, “There is an advanced regulatory framework, on a par with those of major mining powers, which gives legal certainty and security to the industry, with clear rules and efficient administrative processes.” As if that were not enough, the mining industry has extensive and timely public geological information, thanks to the work of the Mexican Geological Service, enabling informed decision-making and favoring investment.



Mexico has “a portfolio of mining projects to draw national and international investors; promotion of strategic partnerships between sector companies and mining concessionaires to encourage the use of resources and develop exploration through cost-sharing and joint investment; the geological-mining heritage, consisting of over 70 years of research and exploration in national territory,” says Cantú Suárez. If we add to the above, in the words of the General Mining Coordinator, “the broad, technical and professional labor base, with the experience and capacity to meet needs across the mining production process, and a broad base of goods and services suppliers that enable the production chains necessary to further develop the activity,” the conditions for industry development seem optimal. “In recent years, mining sector investment has reached historic levels, motivated by the advantages our country offers; between 2007 and 2012 it topped 25.6 billion dollars, and is estimated to be more than 8 billion dollars in 2013,” indicates Cantú Suárez. Investment is just one side of the coin. On the other, are the riches generated by the mining activity. According to the latest economic census by the National Statistics and Geography Institute (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía, INEGI), 2,791 production units operate in the Mexican mining industry. Up to the third quarter of 2013, mining contributed 0.9% of the domestic GDP, and between 2010 and 2012 non-oil extraction grew at an average annual rate of 11.8%, one of the most dynamic in the Mexican economy. Along the same lines, the mining industry is an important job creator. Figures from the Mexican Social Security Institute (Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social, IMSS) up to November 2013, show that Mexican mining employed over 338,000 people. “Employment in the mining industry has been sustained by investment flows that continue to materialize when projects whose construction began months earlier, draw to a close, as well as prospecting activities around the country,” explains Cantú Suárez.



The Mexican government is aware of the importance of mining to the development of the national economy. That is why “A general strategy of sector development is underway to drive productivity and production capacity, along with an active policy of investment promotion and support for market diversification. A key piece is the strengthening of the domestic market, through support for greater integration of the production chain and for the broad subsector of small and medium-sized mining businesses,” explains Cantú Suárez. The outlook is not simple. The International Monetary Fund estimates that 2014 will see a decline of 5.6% in the price index of metals and in some cases supply surpluses are already being recorded, given the limited growth of demand. In addition, the industry has been faced with rising costs for some years. “In this situation, one of the great challenges is to maintain the momentum of the industry in the international arena, strengthen the advantages of investing in the country and provide support to sector players to enhance their production capacity,” says Cantú Suárez. “Companies should widen their product range to achieve self-sufficiency in mineral consumption while diversifying markets and leveraging specific niches for new uses, generating products with higher added value,” he adds.

There remains much wealth to explore in Mexico, enough to maintain the country among the top places in the world for investor preference and quality of deposits. The key lies in the ability of companies and authorities to drive the development of investment in the sector, the country’s production capacity and the competitiveness of mining companies. “To face these challenges and within the framework of the National Development Plan 2013-2018, policies have been developed aimed at increasing competitiveness and investment in the mining sector, strengthening the country as an investment destination, driving the creation of clusters and streamlining the issue of mining concession titles,” Cantú Suárez concludes.

This month Mexico will participate in the Latin America Down Under Conference 2015. This event will be held on the 20-21 of May at Sheraton on the Park Sydney. For more information, please visit www.latinamericadownunder.com

GLOBAL MEXICO

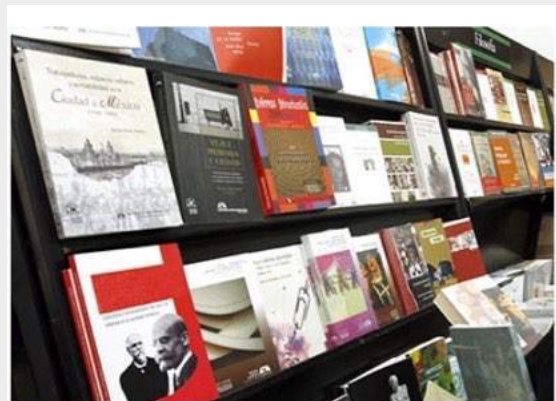


Frida Kahlo love letters on sale in New York

New York.- The Doyle auction house will invite bids on April 25 for love letters sent by the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo between 1946 and 1949 to her Spanish lover José Bartoli.

The letters include some 100 pages with sketches, photographs, pressed flowers and other mementoes that Kahlo sent to Bartoli, whom she met in New York.

Bidding for the letters is expected to run from \$80,000 to \$120,000.



Mexican writers in London Book Fair

London.- Mexico is the guest nation of the April 14-16 London Book Fair, featuring writers who include Elena Poniatowska, Enrique Krauze, Jorge Volpi and Juan Villoro.

As part of the United Kingdom's Mexico Year, the cultural program includes leading representatives of the contemporary Mexican publishing industry, and visitors to the fair will have opportunities to meet and get to know new Mexican writers.

CONNECTED MEXICO (*)

Telecommunications Reform is making its contribution to the development of Mexico. Already it has made it possible to have Digital Education and Training Centres and today, the country has 65,000 public spaces connected to broadband Internet free of charge. We will reach the goal enshrined in the Constitution, so that by the end of the administration, there will be 250,000 well located spots connected to the internet.

In just over a year since this Reform was enacted, the country has recorded a 16% increase in Internet users. Today, 47.4 million Mexicans have access to this tool. In the past two years, mobile broadband connection has risen from 21 percent to 40 percent of the population.

It has been announced that at the beginning of the new school year, another million tablets will be delivered, bringing the total to nearly two million. This will allow children from an early age to join the digital age, access the Internet and learn how to use the various programs and mechanisms that are available through a tablet.

This new technological tools will provide the means for every Mexican to design a road map for his/ her life, a dignified map that will enable him/ her to achieve another great objective we have as a country: that of a prosperous Mexico.

All these efforts are being made by the government in keeping with the constitutional mandate to achieve a Connected Mexico. They are designed to close the digital gap in our country and achieve what certainly is the challenge of our century: Digital literacy, ensuring that all Mexicans have access to information technologies. To achieve this goal the program Connected Mexico was designed

Connected Mexico will have many positive effects in Mexico, among which the most important are:

Connected Mexico will close the digital gap to support fairness and reduce social inequalities. It is expected that as more individuals have access to broadband internet, more citizens will be able to enjoy fully freedom of speech, health services and education.

Connected Mexico also improves the coverage and quality of all public services. When a growing number of schools, public health centres, libraries, office buildings and other public spaces have access to broadband internet services, they will be positioned to offer better services and expand their coverage.



Connected Mexico also represents considerable savings for government expenditure. By centralizing the acquisition of a large number of internet services for thousands of public spaces, better prices will be insured. This Project will benefit from already existing infrastructure, current technological resources and previous investments. All these will contribute to an efficient expenditure.

Connected Mexico conducts a wide range of activities to support digital inclusion that have a focus on certain groups of people such as women and youths. These activities include the following:

1. **Training programs for digital promoters:** In each **Mexico Connected** spot there is a person responsible for its administration and performance, the digital promoters. There are courses available for them to ensure that they are well positioned to support everyone attending.

2. **Migrant Woman:** This program aims to raise awareness of the problems posed by migration to women and families and promotes the use of information and communication technologies among the migrant population. It contributes to a better understanding of the problems confronted by migrants and strengthens its human rights perspective. Through a chat system, its webpage offers support in real time and through the number 01 000 01800 80. It also offers four apps for mobile phones: “Chat Mujer Migrante”, “¡Ayuda!”, “Manos Amigas” and “Guía Legal Pro Mujeres”.

The platform Migrant Woman has received a price from the World Summit of the Information Society.

3. **Connected Mexico Spot:** President Enrique Peña Nieto inaugurated the National Network of Community Training Centres and Digital Education, “Connected Mexico Spots,” to promote access to new technologies across the country to narrow the digital gap through digital skills training. The launch of the National Network, fulfils a commitment and supports digital inclusion, so that Mexico is not left behind and its population is incorporated into this new era and will be able to use all IT tools to improve its quality of life.

Connected Mexico spots will be established in every state. There the public will not only be given the opportunity to have Internet access free of charge, but also to be educated and trained in the use of these technologies.

(*) With information from: <http://en.presidencia.gob.mx/connected-Mexico-free-internet-access/> and <http://Mexicoconectado.gob.mx/index.php/sobre-Mexico-conectado?idArticulo=58>

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What is Mexico?



OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS, MEXICO WILL EXPERIENCE A DEMOGRAPHIC BONUS

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Mexican Landscape

ADVANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REFORMS IN MEXICO



During his participation in the II CEO Summit of the Americas, President Enrique Peña Nieto said that, “Mexico postponed several structural changes for years, but, “Some of them have now been achieved. In democracy, we achieved an agreement to implement them, and today we are concerned with materializing and implementing all these reforms, which will give Mexico greater growth and prosperity for its people.”

Within the framework of the VII Summit of the Americas, in a forum that also included presidents of the United States, Barack Obama; Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, and Panama, Juan Carlos Varela, Peña Nieto said that, “In the Mexican government, we are now implementing the reforms undertaken on the basis of the course defined for our nation, which enables more Mexican to benefit from their creativity and entrepreneurship.”

He recalled that, after the government was the main employer in the region, “Mexico decided to open up to the world. It decided to compete with the world through its entrepreneurs. Mexico decided to participate in other global markets with its entrepreneurs.”

Likewise, he announced that 70 percent of the investment of Mexican businessmen and entrepreneurs is in Latin America and throughout the Americas region.



PRESIDENT PEÑA NIETO HAS DONE OUTSTANDING WORK IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INSECURITY AND VIOLENCE: BARACK OBAMA

At the event, President of the United States Barack Obama referred to the issue of combating insecurity and violence, in which he considered that governments should act regionally rather than in isolation.

He said that on this issue, “President Peña Nieto has done an outstanding job with us, to coordinate more effectively.” He added that, “Personal safety, reducing corruption, good government and governance are economic and security issues.”

Regarding economic and regulatory issues, the US president declared: “I greatly admire the work Enrique has done in the energy sector in Mexico. It is a very sensible thing to do but also very difficult. What he saw, and what all of Mexico recognized, is that this sector will not be efficient without the input, innovation and investment of the private sector.”

For his part, President of the IDB Luis Alberto Moreno, who chaired the CEO Summit, said that the Mexican president, “Has achieved in two years what many governments in Mexico failed to do in six in terms of structural reforms and changes to bring Mexico closer to this modernity, which has always been his dream.”

IN DEMOCRACY, IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE REFORMS: EPN



The president highlighted the importance and relevance for a society and its prosperity of the participation of its entrepreneurs.

Mark Zuckerberg, founder and CEO of Facebook, asked if governments are willing to open up spaces of opportunity for the participation of entrepreneurs. President Peña Nieto replied: “In the case of Mexico, that is precisely what we want.”

He explained that some of, “The reforms you have referred to are specifically oriented to opening up greater opportunities for participation for the entrepreneurs of our country and those who decide to invest in Mexico.”

The Mexican president said that, “Enabling our entrepreneurs to participate in a regional and global market depends on their having greater capacity in their countries of origin. Therefore, he said, “In Mexico, that is what we want to achieve: strength in this capacity, strength in our competitiveness, and for this to enable our entrepreneurs to participate in other markets.”

He stated that, “I would like to make it quite clear that the Mexican government has this commitment. And beyond any situation, today we are working in a very clear direction on the materialization and implementation of the reforms achieved to enable the entrepreneurs of our country to grow and have scope for growth and presence.”

He explained that the government he leads, “Decided that it was necessary to add more capacity and, above all, new measures, new mechanisms and new tools to enable Mexico, on this new route, to have greater economic growth and wealth generation for its people.”

He said that, “Major reforms of a structural nature had been postponed, yet in democracy, through political agreement between the different political expressions of Mexico, it was shown that it is possible to achieve reforms, many of which are aimed at boosting economic growth, while one very important one has been implemented in education.”

The president said that, “Mexico’s great challenge is now to move from education coverage, which in the last century was quite weak and poor, to coverage with quality education, because that is where the greatest strength lies, in the training of human capital.”

He listed the reforms adopted so far during his administration, noting that, “A very important one that was undoubtedly paradigmatic for Mexico was Energy Reform, which made it a paradigm that the Mexican state should retain ownership of hydrocarbons, yet now opens up the opportunity for the private sector to participate in the entire production chain of the energy sector.”

The Mexican president declared that, “This is a new model that breaks with one established over 70 years ago and certainly also provides opportunities for entrepreneurs and businessmen to create wealth and well-being in Mexico in this window of opportunity.”



President Enrique Peña Nieto further explained that in Mexico, programs have been launched for young entrepreneurs aged 18 to 30 years to have access to a first credit, “And obviously because of that, Telecommunications Reform, which is very in tune with what Mark Zuckerberg said regarding the fact that the great challenge today is achieving greater connectivity by our population, and Internet access.”

He stressed that, “In Mexico we are not only working towards this goal. In Mexico, it is a constitutional mandate, which therefore grants the right to Internet access. Of course, there are opportunities here for participation by domestic and foreign businessmen who wish to invest and accompany this effort and obligation of the Mexican State.”

He said that the challenges of connectivity, “Which now involves digital inclusion or Internet connectivity is the new literacy of our era” since a vital tool for achieving development and prosperity in our societies is the use of information technology, investment in science and technology and investment in innovation.

CINCO DE MAYO: HISTORY, PRIDE AND FIESTA



Depiction of the Battle of Puebla. May 5th, 1862 Fuente: Cuartoscuro

May 5th is widely regarded as a typical Mexican celebration. Its popularity, particularly in the United States, has led many people to believe that this is when we celebrate our national day.

While this is not correct (celebration of independence takes place in September 16th), Cinco de Mayo is indeed an important historical landmark for Mexico, as it

is when we commemorate one of our biggest military victories against foreign intervention.

On May 5th, 1862, in the state of Puebla – central Mexico–, Mexican soldiers fought shoulder to shoulder with members of the Zacapoaxtla indigenous people against the French Army, that had been dispatched by Napoleon III in the context of the French occupation of Mexico. As a young nation still in process of consolidation, Mexico faced several military threats from external sources along the XIXth century. The resilience of its people allowed it to develop, in spite of adversity, a sentiment of national unity and patriotism.

With an estimated 4 thousand troops led by General Ignacio Zaragoza, the Mexican contingent defeated a more numerous and better equipped enemy, led by Comte de Lorencez, in one of the biggest military victories that is recalled in our history. While another five years would pass by before the French occupation ended, today it is widely evoked as a reminder of the struggles that the country has overcome to build an independent Mexico.

Most interestingly, Cinco de Mayo has been widely embraced by Mexicans living abroad- particularly in the United States- as a symbol of cultural pride, one that has expanded beyond its original meaning, generating enthusiasm not only among Mexicans, but also within other Latino communities. Furthermore, its celebration has come to embody the festive spirit of the Mexican identity: colours, flavours and music.

While not as broadly known in Australia, Cinco de Mayo sparks interest and enthusiasm in many cities and communities: most notably, the Cinco de Mayo festival in Brisbane and numerous events in food and entertainment venues along the country.

We encourage all our Mexican and non-Mexican friends to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, enjoying our many culinary delights, while commemorating this important historical event.



Celebration of Cinco de Mayo in Washington, DC

Source: The Smithsonian Magazine

Visit Mexico

SEA TURTLES

ALMOST ALL THE SPECIES OF SEA TURTLES IN THE WORLD NEST IN MEXICO. THAT IS WHY MEXICO HAS TAKEN VARIOUS MEASURES TO PROTECT THEM.

Mexico: Land of Sea Turtles



In the world there are eight different species of sea turtles, of which, seven nest on Mexican beaches. To protect them, Mexico has adopted specifications for their protection, restoration and the management of their population. The species found in Mexican waters are: the loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*); black or green (*Chelonia mydas agassizii*, *Chelonia mydas*); hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*); Kemp (Kemp's ridley sea turtle); olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and the leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*). The

flatback sea turtle (*Natator depressus*) is endemic to Australia.

Protection Measures

The Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) established measures for the protection of sea turtles in the western coast of Baja California Sur, during the process of fishing for other species of commercial interest, including:

- The establishment of a Temporary Refuge in a Partial Fishing Zone, where measures are applied to reduce the possible interaction of fisheries with marine turtles.
- Commercial fishing activities in the established area can be made only with authorized fishing gear.
- Sports and recreational fishing may take place only in the form of "catch and release".
- Fishing for domestic consumption may be made only with nets and hand lines used individually by the fisherman.
- Additional measures to prevent interaction with sea turtles in fishing processes. It states that in the case of bycatch, the turtle should be released in suitable conditions for survival.



Loggerhead Sea Turtle

The loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), is one of six species of sea turtles found in the Mexican territory. It lives in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans. In Mexico, it lives in the state of Baja California, and reaches the states of Quintana Roo, Campeche, Yucatan, Veracruz, Tabasco and Tamaulipas. It is considered an endangered species.

The adults of this species perform migrations between nesting beaches and feeding areas. However, the young ones tend to stay for long periods in the North Pacific Ocean or the neritic environments of Baja California, in Mexico.

Of the hard-shelled sea turtles, the loggerhead turtle is the largest of them all. Adults often they have marine organisms such as barnacles (crustaceans that grow fixed to a substrate) and algae in their shells.

The life cycle of the loggerhead, involves a long migration (about 11,500 Km.). During the journey, the species stopover in at least three countries: Japan, USA and Mexico. As a result, each country has implemented conservation actions, from protecting beaches where females nest, to impose limits on the number of turtles caught in established fisheries.



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Mexicans Down Under

SILVIA ESTRADA FLORES, A MEXICAN WITH IDEAS THAT TRAVELLED FROM SPACE TO THE FIELDS OF THE WORLD.

I was born in Tlalnepantla de Baz, State of Mexico, on the 13th of April 1967. I studied primary and secondary in the public school system. When I was 13 years old, my family moved to Cuautitlan Izcalli, where I lived from 1980 up to the year that I left to study in New Zealand.



When I was in the third year of high school at the “Centro Universitario Dr. Emilio Cardenas”, in Tlalnepantla, I participated in the contest organized by the Ministry of Communication and Transport (SCT) in January 1985, which aim was to select experiments from student and professional categories to be carried out during the space mission which would set in orbit the second Mexican satellite. A committee formed by the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT), the Secretariat of Public Education (SEP), by NASA and the SCT formed a jury to select the best project proposals. My experiment titled “*Bacteria and Bacteriophages growth in microgravity*”, won the student category. After months of preparation, I was present at the launch of the Space Shuttle Atlantis in its Mission STS-61-B on the 26th of November 1985. The Atlantis lifted off from the NASA Kennedy Space Centre with Doctor Rodolfo Neri Vela on board to set in orbit the satellite “Morelos II”. Doctor Neri performed the selected experiments, including my own. I was 18 years old and it was then when I decided that research would be an important part of my life.

I went on to study at the University pursuing a degree in Food Engineering at the Faculty of Higher Education of Cuautitlan (FESC), UNAM. In 1991, I received a recognition from CONACYT and Diario de Mexico (Mexican newspaper) as the best student in Food Engineering as well as the medal “Gabino Barreda” from UNAM.

A year later, I received a scholarship granted by UNAM to pursue PhD studies at Massey University in New Zealand, graduating in 1997 with the theme *Mathematical Modelling of Industrial Refrigeration Systems*. I went back to FESC where I worked as a Lecturer during four years. After a year in Mabe (a domestic appliance manufacturer in Queretaro, Mexico), I moved to Australia in 2001 to take on a researcher post at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Sydney. In this role, I was Project Leader of the Cold Chain and Refrigerated Transport Division for seven years, publishing book chapters, scientific articles and commercial reports about food supply chains, refrigerated transportation, food freezing and other subjects.





In 2007 I decided to leave CSIRO and started my own industrial consultancy. As a consultant, I worked for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the University of Melbourne, CSIRO, SafeFood Queensland and other public and private organizations in the areas of Food Safety and Food Refrigeration. In 2008, the Logistics Association of Australia acknowledged my work in the area of Perishable Food Logistics.

In 2011, I decided to take the role of Project Manager in Bayer CropScience (of the German company Bayer) in Melbourne, where I worked for two years in the development and launch of new crop protection products. I am now living in Adelaide and I am Program Manager for the Competitive Foods Initiative.

This initiative is a collaboration between the Government of South Australia and Food South Australia (an industry association), which aims to increase the competitiveness of the food industry in the State through the formation of 'clusters', the provision of grants and vouchers for innovation projects and the use of new technologies in the sector.

I firmly believe that having developed my career outside Mexico, and in Australia specifically, has made me feel even prouder of my Mexican origins, and also of the institutions which supported me throughout my professional and personal development. I am very grateful to UNAM, my family and fate, for giving me an opportunity to return a little of what I have received throughout my life so far.



More than 40 companies interested in oil tenders

New York.- More than 40 companies have sought access to the geological data on the first round of oil exploration and production contracts offered by Mexico, said Juan Carlos Zepeda, director of the National Hydrocarbons Commission.

The companies that have shown interest include Chevron, British Petroleum, Colombia's Ecopetrol, and the recently founded Mexico-based Sierra Oil & Gas, Zepeda told The Wall Street Journal.



Mexico is major supplier to aerospace industry

Montreal.- Mexico has established itself as a major supplier to the aerospace industry, because its manufacturing costs are lower than those of the United States, said Joel Enriquez, the director of ProMéxico in Montreal.

During his participation in the Aeromart expo, Enriquez revealed the presence of more than 300 aerospace companies in 18 of Mexico's states.

In 2005 Mexico only had 60 companies in the sector.

Eleven Mexican companies took part in Aeromart, which runs from March 30 to May 3 in Montreal.



UNAM identifies plants that can combat Chagas

Mexico City.- Researchers from the National University, the UNAM, discovered that 80 plants contain substances that combat Chagas disease, which kills about 45,000 people a year in poor countries.

"The research has made interesting progress. Some substances have considerable anti-parasitical activity, more even than those of the recommended drugs, as well as having a low toxicity," said researcher Ricardo Reyes Chilpa.

Dear friends,

If you have any question or comments regarding this publication please feel free to contact us at embaustralia@sre.gob.mx

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