

Letter from the Ambassador

Successful celebration of Mexico's National Day in Australia.

As scheduled, the 204th anniversary of the Mexican Independence was successfully celebrated in various cities of Australia.

The Mexican communities, as well as the Embassy of Mexico, organised several events in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra, and other cities displaying Mexican music, dances, cuisine, traditions, arts, and crafts.

Within Mexico's month, on September 11th, the magnificent Aztec exhibition was inaugurated at the prestigious Australian Museum in Sydney, featuring more than 200 original pieces from the National Museum of Anthropology of Mexico, as well as an outstanding work of curatorship. (See article pages ahead).



On September 13th, attending the invitation of the Mexican community, I travelled to Sydney to celebrate the National Independence along with more than 250 Mexicans and friends of Mexico.



That same day, the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy, Minister Victor Treviño, travelled to Adelaide to accompany the Mexican Community in the event organised by the Mexican Social and Cultural Association of South Australia Incorporated (MexSA). The President of MexSA, Rodrigo Gómez Camacho, the Minister of Multicultural Affairs of South Australia, Zoe Bettison, and the President of the Rotary Club, Merilyn Russell, were part of the more than 250 people that participated in this event.





On Sunday 14th of September, the impressive Federation Square dressed up in green, white, and red to celebrate de Independence of Mexico. In what is already one of the most renowned festivals in the beautiful capital of Victoria, more than 20,000 people gathered in the square to enjoy the Mexican lifestyle. The Organizing Committee, presided by Maggi Alonso, and a group of sponsors among which Mission Foods was the most important, performed an outstanding event full of order, flavour, music, dances, activities, and fun.

On Tuesday 16th of September the Latin American Plaza, in downtown Canberra, the Mexican Flag was raised in a ceremony that gathered the Latin American Diplomatic Corps, along with members of the Embassy and the Mexican community in the ACT.

That evening, the Embassy of Mexico received over 500 Mexicans and friends of Mexico in a festivity that included the Mexico Lindo Dance Group which performed dances from the states of Michoacán, Chiapas, Veracruz, and Jalisco.

In addition, the Mexican Soprano Renata Zilli performed, as part of a tribute to Mexican women composers, the beautiful songs “Bésame Mucho”, “Júrame”, “Mucho Corazón”, and “La Llorona”.

The event was also sponsored by Mission Foods Australia, Lion Co. distributors of Grupo Modelo in Australia. Twelve more companies, importers, and distributors of Mexican products offered samples of their products during the celebrations.



Global Mexico

MEXICO: A COUNTRY WITH GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

A central goal of President Enrique Peña Nieto is to strengthen our country as a responsible global actor, with more presence, commitment, and recognition in the international system according to Mexico's economic relevance, as for its history and diplomatic tradition. International cooperation, as enshrined in our Constitution, is an ideal tool to consolidate relations of our country, not only with nations with whom we have a close relationship, but also with those we seek to further strengthen our bonds of friendship and collaboration.

In Mexico, we are convinced of the importance of cooperation as a tool to address the challenges of development, covering many different areas, from eradicating extreme poverty to consolidating models of sustainable growth, with opportunities and prosperity for the entire population of the world. We are also convinced that cooperation beyond our borders is an essential condition for regional and global stability, thus contributing to the welfare of our own nation.

Reform of the United Nations

Stressing that, "It is time to build a new United Nations for a new century," President Peña Nieto repeated that our country is ready and willing to be an active part of its transformation.

The president said that with everyone's participation, "The momentum and audacity of its Member States, the United Nations can be transformed for the benefit of all of mankind."



He declared that the celebration next year of the 70th anniversary of this institution “Will be a great opportunity to make our plurality an asset and a force for change.”

President Peña Nieto said that in order to meet the challenges of the 21st century, we need a United Nations with a new institutional design: with a renewed commitment to peace and security and, especially, with a broad, inclusive development agenda. “The UN should dare to change for the better,” he said.

In this sense, he considered that one of the guiding principles of the Post 2015 Development Agenda should be economic and social inclusion as well as recognition of the fact that poverty is not solely determined by having an insufficient income, but also by other shortages that prevent personal and collective development.

The President also called for a joint global action to combat bullying and reinforce values during childhood and youth.

He declared that the United Nations needs to address the new problems that threaten the integrity of children and adolescents, by updating its commitment to their rights. “We must act more decisively now so that our children and youth are spared any type of abuse,” he said.

Disarmament and Arms Trading

Noting that the First Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty will be held in Mexico next year, President Peña Nieto said that this will be a great opportunity, “For nations to work together and prevent weapons from harming the world’s children or vulnerable populations.”

He added that the UN should be strengthened so that it can effectively combat terrorism, which harms societies worldwide.



In regard to international peace and security, the president said that the United Nations should prevent arms trafficking and the serious damage it causes our societies. The Arms Trade Treaty, he added, provides the tools to address this growing challenge. “However, it is crucial for all nations to sign and ratify it.”

He mentioned that as regards institutional change, the UN needs a Security Council that will evolve and represent the new global balance, “It is important to reform it to strengthen transparency, accountability and responsiveness.”

He said that the number of non-permanent members of the Council should be increased by creating long-term positions, with the possibility of immediate re-election, based on a more equitable geographical representation. He also noted that “The world needs a UN where permanent members will not be able to use the veto in the event of serious violations of international humanitarian law.”

Today, “Our planet relies on having a more effective, efficient, transparent, representative United National Organization, with greater participation by every society in the world,” he said.

The president stated that is a great honour for him to participate, for the first time as President of Mexico, in the General Assembly of this “universal forum of dialogue, understanding and cooperation,” the ultimate symbol of unity among nations, with which Mexico confirms its historic commitment.

Peace and Security

During his participation last September 24th in the High Level Segment of the General Debate of the 69th United Nations General Assembly, President Enrique Peña Nieto announced that Mexico has taken the decision to participate in the Peacekeeping Operations of this multinational organisation, by performing humanitarian work for the benefit of the civilian population.



“Through this decision, Mexico, as a responsible actor, has taken a historic step in its commitment to the United Nations Organization,” he said.

Mexico’s participation will adhere to a clear mandate of the UN Security Council and comply with the foreign policy guidelines enshrined in our Constitution, he stated.

Mexico, he declared, “Supports and values Peacekeeping Operations, a UN instrument to help countries overcome conflict and create conditions for lasting peace through reconstruction, humanitarian assistance and security actions.”

Health and Global Welfare

Last September 25th the Foreign Ministers of MIKTA (Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey, and Australia) convened at New York to discuss several common concerns, and adopted a joint statement which stresses health as an essential element for human beings to reach their fullest potential and lead dignified lives and for nations to achieve sustainable growth, and, furthermore, is a cornerstone for the security of the international community. It also underlines the belief that the promotion of global health should be addressed from the perspective of the shared interests of the international community.

The statement also welcomes the efforts taken by the international community in a prompt manner to stop the spread of the Ebola virus as soon as possible. In particular, the dedicated work of relevant UN agencies including the World Health Organization, and various international non-governmental organizations such as Doctors Without Borders in Ebola-stricken countries, translating into concrete action their noble spirit of humanitarianism.



Mexican Landscape

A NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR MEXICO (*)



President Enrique Peña Nieto announced work has commenced to build new international airport for Mexico City. One of the most important challenges for Mexico's infrastructure was to find a viable alternative to raise the new airport that Mexico's capital and the country as a whole needed. Its dimension, design, social benefits and spillover effects the new airport will be a transcendental undertaking, symbol of Mexico.

The new international airport will be located in the grounds next to the current structure. It was conceived with the aim of protecting the environment surrounding them as well as the natural resources that belong to future generations. As part of the project, the best means of transportation were considered, as well as the use of renewable energies, use of recycled water and waste management. It will be world leader in social and environmental responsibility.

It will be a green airport that will offer the families that have lived in the vicinity for decades, the possibility of enjoying a regenerated environment and more opportunities for development. It will foster biodiversity by promoting green jobs and businesses. It will be the first airport in the world to achieve Leed Platinum certification, the highest that can be obtained by a sustainable building.

While conceived for the future, the new airport will build in symbolism and history: The entrance to the terminal will feature a garden of cacti and symbols of the eagle and snake, part of the national symbol pictured on the country's coat of arms and flag. The X design is symbolic of the country's name, "México". An X shape is also considered efficient to extend the number of gates. The X shape is employed in the airports of Abu Dhabi, Nairobi, and Seoul.

At 470,000 square metres, it will be one of the world's largest airports on a total lot of 11,400 acres (4,600 ha). It will have three runways to start and will be expandable to up to six runways: two 4.5 km long and four 4 km long. With three runways in simultaneous use the airport will be able to serve up to 50,000,000 passengers per year.





The architects are Sir Norman Foster and Fernando Romero. The entire terminal will be enclosed within a continuous lightweight gridshell, embracing walls and roof in a single, flowing form, evocative of flight.

Designed to be the world's most sustainable airport, the compact single terminal uses less materials and energy than a cluster of buildings. The design ensures short walking distances and few level changes, it

is easy to navigate, and passengers will not have to use internal trains or underground tunnels – it is a celebration of space and light. Flexible in operation, its design anticipates the predicted increase in passenger numbers to 2028 and beyond, and its development will be the catalyst for the regeneration of the surrounding area. The airport is planned on a new site with three runways, and an expansion plan up to 2062 with six runways. When in use, this six runways will mean servicing 120 million passengers each year.

With spans in excess of 100 metres, three times the span of a conventional airport, it has a monumental scale inspired by Mexican architecture and symbolism. The maximum span internally is 170 metres. The lightweight glass and steel structure and soaring vaulted roof are designed for Mexico City's challenging soil conditions. Its unique pre-fabricated system can be constructed rapidly, without the need for scaffolding – the airport will be a showcase for Mexican innovation, built by Mexican contractors and engineers.

The entire building is serviced from beneath, freeing the roof of ducts and pipes and revealing the environmental skin. This hardworking structure harnesses the power of the sun, collects rainwater, provides shading, directs daylight and enables views – all while achieving a high performance envelope that meets high thermal and acoustic standards. The LEED Platinum design works with Mexico City's temperate, dry climate to fill the terminal spaces with fresh air using displacement ventilation principles. For a large part of the year, comfortable temperatures will be maintained by almost 100% outside air, with little or no additional heating or cooling required.

Now, sit back and enjoy the flight. Visit Mexico.

(*) With information from <http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/>



Magic of Mexico

THE SANCTUARIES OF THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY



Every year, with the arrival of winter to the State of Mexico, a well-known orange color appears in the oyamel fir and pine tree forests. A sure sign that the monarch butterfly has arrived, after its journey of more than 2,485 miles from Canada. There are three sanctuaries in the state forming part of the Biosphere Reserve of the Monarch Butterfly. Each one is home to between seven million and 20 million butterflies; just imagine the natural spectacle you are about to witness.

Ecotourism lovers will have a masterful experience when they visit the Ejido del Capulin sanctuary, located in the Donato Guerra municipality, 49 miles west of Toluca. You will have to walk 2 miles on foot from the village of El Capulin. The walk will be almost unnoticeable thanks to the sublime landscape of conifer forests you will be seeing, and the reward will be very rewarding when you see thousands of butterflies fluttering around you among the oyamel firs and pine trees.

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Located on the slopes of the Nevado de Toluca, near Valle de Bravo, is the Piedra Herrada sanctuary. The only way in is on foot or horseback, always accompanied by a local guide. Enjoy a 25 minute walk among valleys until you reach the rest area of the butterflies.

A few miles from the el Oro Magic Town, lies the La Mesa sanctuary. In addition to seeing the natural spectacle offered by the butterflies, spend a day in its tourist stop. Rent a cabin; try the local cuisine while you forget the stress in this peaceful place. Take a bike and explore the paths in this area, or, if you prefer, go horseback riding to the shelter of these colorful insects.

Visit these sanctuaries in the morning, when you can see the butterflies at their most active stage due to the warmth of the sun. Wear warm clothes and use comfortable and anti-slip shoes. Finally, remember that it is very important not to touch the butterflies, not to litter, and not to leave the established paths, thus you will be helping to protect the sanctuary and hence the species.

OPENING OF THE AZTECS EXHIBITION AT THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM



Last September 11, in the oldest and most prestigious cultural institution of this country, the Australian Museum in Sydney, was held the opening event for the exhibition “Aztecs”, which will remain open until late January, 2015.

This is the second city in Australia where the exhibition has been on display, having previously been hosted in Melbourne. Up to date, more than 80 thousand people have visited it. With over 200 items, “Aztecs” showcases diverse aspects and the history of one of the most fascinating and iconic civilizations of Mexico. It’s a unique opportunity to know more about the last Mesoamerican Empire which, over the course of two centuries, shaped and laid the foundation of modern Mexico. It is also a reflection of the rich cultural history

of our country.

During the opening event, which gathered a huge crowd, Ambassador Armando Álvarez highlighted the fact that Aztec culture and its aesthetics are still a source of great interest both in Mexico and abroad. Both the director of the Australian Museum and the Chair of its board, Kim McKay and Katherine Livingston, respectively, emphasized the great interest that both Mexico and the Aztec civilization spark in Australia.

In a parallel way to the exhibit diverse activities will take place, such as conferences, gastronomic events and workshops for kids. We in-

vite all our friends around the country to visit this great exhibit at the Australian Museum.



Mexicans Down Under

SANTIAGO BALLINA GARCÍA HEAD OF THE CONSULAR SECTION AND CULTURAL ATTACHE



As of September this year Santiago has joined the Embassy in Australia as head of the Consular Section and Cultural Attache. As such, he is responsible for providing consular services to the public and helping in our outreach labour. He holds a BA in international relations from Mexico's National Autonomous University and a Master's Degree in International Security Studies from Macquarie University, Sydney. His previous posting was as deputy consul of Mexico in Yuma, Arizona. He has also served as political affairs adviser for the Embassy of Japan in Mexico City and assistant lecturer at Mexico's National Autonomous University.

Santiago will work closely with the Mexican Community in Australia, assisting in their documentation needs and providing consular assistance and protection when necessary. Furthermore, he is committed to develop ties with the associations of Mexicans residing in Australia in social and cultural projects.

Mexican Cultural Events



The Soul of Latin America

The Australian National Centre for Latin American Studies and the Embassies of Mexico and Venezuela present:
THE SOUL OF LATIN AMERICA
6:30pm Thursday October 9th, 2014
Big Band Room, ANU School of Music Building 100, William Herbert Place, Canberra

In combination with the Australian National Centre for Latin American Studies, Duo Deconet will present the music, from an eclectic group of composers from Latin America. The research into the vast legacy of traditional music, and the new work based on structural techniques from the 20th and 21st centuries from each composer, is giving us today the diverse repertoire that emphasises traditional melodies, as well as the motivic use of particular rhythms in their compositions. Duo Deconet has been able to find the influences of Latin America's musical elements in Australia's music. The influences of similar rhythms and melodies have been found in some works in Australian composers.

Music from: Costa Rica, Mexico, Australia, and premieres from Cuba, Ecuador, Peru and Mexico

Duo Deconet: Henry Avila – violin, Irma Enriquez – piano

The concert will be followed by light food and beverages through the kind support of the Embassies of Mexico and Venezuela. Admission is free. No RSVP required.

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Australian National
Centre for
Latin American Studies



El Taller de Música Tradicional Mexicana "**Los Cuervos**", invita a todos los interesados en la interpretación y difusión de nuestra música, a Integrarse a nuestras actividades a llevarse a cabo en el Centro Comunitario de Marrickville, NSW, a partir del mes de Octubre del 2014.

El taller es para personas con conocimientos básicos de cualquier instrumento utilizado en las agrupaciones tradicionales en México, tales como : guitarra, jarana, acordeón, violín, arpa, guitarrón, vihuela, bajo sexto, huapanguera, trompeta, etc, es por cooperación voluntaria y estará organizado para llevarse a cabo semanalmente de acuerdo con la disponibilidad de los integrantes y el espacio dentro del Centro.

Para mayor información y expresiones de interés, por favor envíe un correo electrónico a:

taller.mus.mex.syd@gmail.com

Dear friends,

If you have any question or comments regarding this publication please feel free to contact us at mexicodownunder@mexico.org.au

Se invita a los mexicanos a compartir sus historias de éxito en Australia, mandándolas en no más de una cuartilla arial 12 y con fotografías a vtrevino@mexico.org.au.

Embassy of Mexico Team

Armando Gonzalo Álvarez Reina
Ambassador

Víctor Manuel Treviño Escudero
Deputy Head of Mission

María Luisa González Manjarrez
Head of Trade, Economic, Touristic, International Cooperation and G20

Gerardo Serrano Gasca
Head of Political Section

Santiago Ballina García
Consul and Cultural Attache

Mauricio Rubio Ancona
Administrative Officer

Arturo García Miranda
IT Manager

Staff

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