



México DownUnder



Embassy of Mexico in Australia | Bulletin No. 4

Letter from the Ambassador

The "Aztecs" in Australia

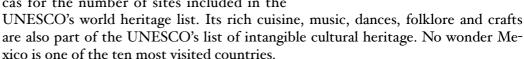
Luckily Australia and Mexico are two countries closely linked by intense and growing bonds of friendship and cooperation. We are two democracies that share internal values and work together in favour of the noblest international causes; two countries that have growing and mutually profitable trade, investment and cooperation; two proud nations that have decided to share their rich and diverse cultural heritage as a way of promoting mutual awareness and further bringing our people together.

With the kind presence of His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov, Governor of Victoria, the honourable Heidi Victoria, Minister for the Arts of Victoria, Professor Margaret Gardner, President of the Museums Board of Victoria, and Dr Patrick Greene, CEO of the Melbourne Museum, on April 8, 2014 the magnificent "Aztecs" exhibition was opened to the Australian public.

At the same time, the National Museum of Popular Cultures in Mexico City opened the Australian exhibition "Live Jewelry from across the Pacific", sponsored by the Australian Government and Victoria Arts, which opens a dialogue on how we can connect our folk traditions to the concerns of our day.



The Aztecs exhibition is an outstanding example of the cultural wonders that Mexico wants to share with his Australian friends. But there are many more; Mexico is the sixth country in the world, and first in the Americas for the number of sites included in the

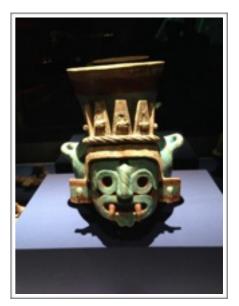


Although the Aztecs or Mexicas were the last great Mesoamerican empire and owe much of its art, culture and civilization to the aboriginal nations that preceded them, they are the people after whom the whole country was finally named.

They are deeply rooted in the collective imaginary of the contemporary Mexicans and foreigners. The Mexican national emblem, an eagle standing on a cactus and devouring a serpent in a small island in the middle of a lake, is also a depiction of the fulfilment of the prophecy of the God Huitzilopochtli to the Aztecs for the

foundation of their capital city in 1325, the Great Tenochtitlan, and current Mexico City.

The Aztec capital amazed the Spanish conquerors in early 16th century. The chronicler Bernal Diaz del Castillo, who accompanied Hernan Cortes, wrote: "... and ever since we saw so many cities and populated valleys in land and water ...we were surprised and we said that it looked like the things from stories...In fact, some of our soldiers said that if what we were looking was from a dream... I don't know how to tell it, seeing things that are never heard of, nor dreamt as we were looking at them."



Today, the Aztec aesthetics and culture continue to fascinate people from all over the world. I sincerely invite the people of Australia to visit the Aztec exhibition, that will be opened at the Melbourne Museum until the month of august, and from September 2014 to january 2015, Aztecs will be exhibited at the Australian Museum in Sydney.

I conclude this letter citing the words of the ancient indigenous historian Chimalpahin, which are now sculpted at the entrance of the Aztec hall of the National Museum of Anthropology: As long as the world will endure, the fame and glory of Mexico-Tenochtitlan shall never perish.







Global Mexico

MIKTA METS IN MEXICO



The Foreign Ministers of Australia, Julie Bishop, Mexico, José Antonio Meade; Indonesia, Marty Natalegawa; South Korea, Yun Byungse and Turkey, Ahmed Davutogluheld a two-day meeting on the 13 and 14 of April in Mexico City. The group, informally known as MIKTA, analysed global issues and strategies to promote their bilateral and group relations. This is the second time in the last six months that the foreign ministers have met. The meeting was held at the Chapultepec Castle in México City. Its aim was to strengthen cooperation and contribute to finding solutions to major global challenges. This included the post-2015 development goals, cybersecurity, climate change, human rights, migration and the reform of the United Nations Security Council, among others.

The encounter consisted of two main sessions. During the first session, they discussed the benefits of a dialogue for their countries. The ministers noted that the

gradual transformation of the international system has opened a window of opportunity for their countries to take on a constructive and conciliatory role for dealing with pressing international problems, including frequent consultations on situations that may affect international peace and security. They said that this dialogue and their commitment could help strengthen their relations and establish better cooperation, including on global governance, trade, and development.

In the second working session, the ministers discussed the current international political situation, including Syria, Ukraine and the Korean Peninsula. As well as relevant global issues, such as the growing collective efforts to make development cooperation more effective, the post-2015 development agenda, cyberspace security, climate change, human rights and migration and reform of the United Nations Security Council.

Following those commitments, during the retreat, the ministers agreed to meet this year in September in New York, on the sidelines of the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly. Australia will convene a meeting for informal consultations among the leaders in November during the G20 Leaders Summit in Brisbane. In September, the Republic of Korea will take over the coordination of the dialogue from Mexico and will facilitate next year's consultations and organize a ministerial level meeting in the first half of 2015.

As a side event, but in the framework of MIKTA, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of México, José Antonio Meade met with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop for a bilateral dialogue. They discussed the negotiation of the Transpacific Partnership (TPP) and Australia's involvement in the Pacific Alliance (integrated by México, Peru, Chile and Colombia), as an observer. They remarked on the meeting between President Enrique Peña Nieto and Prime Minister Tony Abbott during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in October 2013. The Foreign Secretary expressed Mexico's interest in strengthening the bilateral legal framework in order to forge stronger ties with Australia.

In addition, during her visit to Mexico, Minister Bishop met with key government and business leaders to pursue the government's economic diplomacy agenda, by boosting trade and investment links with Mexico. The Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs wrote an article for Excelsior, one of the more important newspapers in Mexico, where she described Mexico as a natural partner for Australia with a promising relationship.*

*http://www.excelsior.com.mx/opinion/columnista-invitado-global/2014/04/15/954111



Mexican Landscape

The Renewable Energies Industry in Mexico (*)

Installed Capacity

In 2012, installed capacity for the generation of electric energy from renewable sources was 14,501 MW, of which 86% is for public service and 14% for concessionaires. It is estimated that by 2026, the total installed capacity for electricity generation from renewable sources will have surpassed 30,000 MW.

To satisfy the total demand for electric energy to 2026, the Federal Commission of Electricity (CFE, state owned company) estimates an increase of 44,532 MW9 in the National Electric System (NES). The public sector plans to install 8,531 MW in renewable energy (RE), representing 19.2% of the national electric grid.

The country has 253 stations in operation and under construction for the generation of electric energy from renewable sources. RE projects are present in 90% of the states with Oaxaca (wind) and Veracruz (biomass) having the highest number of projects.

Mexico has a capacity of 5,951 MW, taking into account stations in operation and under construction. Close to 75% of the capacity is concentrated in the states of Oaxaca, Baja California, Tamaulipas and Veracruz. It should be noted that by law, private participation in hydropower projects is only permitted in those with an installed capacity of up to 30

ENERGÍAS RENOVABLES Renewable energies Transnational equipment suppliers and project developers such as Acciona, Iberdrola, Energies Nouvelles, Vestas, Sanyo and Gamesa, consider Mexico to be an attractive destination to invest in the RE sector. Furthermore, Mexican companies have diversified their business towards the sector with small-scale projects, equipment manufacturing and marketing.



The installed capacity of wind energy in operation reached 1,289 MW in 2012, of which only 7% is operated by the CFE, while the remainder is operated by concessionaires under self-supply schemes, small producers and independent producers. Mexico has 40,268 MW10 of wind energy potential, representing more than the installed capacity of the entire NES. However, currently only 3.2% of that capacity is being utilized. The regions with most wind energy capacity are: The Isthmus of Tehuantepec (Oaxaca) where most of the country's wind farms are located, with 1,248 MW in operation. The state also has eight projects under construction totalling 1,251 MW. Due to the excellent wind conditions, this area is one of the most privileged in Mexico and the world.

La Rumorosa (Baja California) has a wind potential of more than 5,000 MW. There are currently four projects in operation and under construction totalling an installed capacity of 258 MW. The Coast of the Gulf of Mexico currently has projects in operation and under construction amounting to 477 MW in the states of Tamaulipas and Veracruz.

In the North and Central Regions, Nuevo León has 274 MW which are expected to start operations in 2014 at the latest. San Luis Potosí has a wind station under construction for a total capacity of 200 MW. Another area with wind potential is the Yucatán Peninsula which has excellent wind currents on the coast of Quintana Roo and the island of Cozumel.

Some of the main wind park developers in Mexico are Iberdrola, Acciona, EDF, Renovalia, Eyra, GSEER, Mcquaire (Preneal), Enel, Next Energy de México, Geomex and Sempra Energy.

Mexico is among the top five most attractive countries in the world for investing in solar photovoltaic energy projects, surpassed only by China and Singapore. The country is part of the "sunbelt"13 with radiation above 5 kWh per square meter per day. Furthermore, Mexico has the largest manufacturing base of photovoltaic modules in Latin America.



Mexico has a total installed capacity of 36.8 MW in solar photovoltaic projects, mainly in rural and industrial electricity supply applications. Several projects are under construction that will have a total installed capacity of 141.66 MW.

Mexico has an annual capacity to produce more than 312 MW from photovoltaic modules (surpassing Brazil, Chile and Argentina). Some of the leading photovoltaic energy developers are Abengoa, Abener, DelSol Systems, Microm and Iberdrola.

Mexico ranked fourth globally in geothermal energy generation in 2012. Baja California is the state with the largest share in the sector, with the Cerro Prieto station, which accounts for close to 75% of total installed capacity in the country. In the state of Michoacán, the French company Alstom established the Geothermal and Renewable Energy Cluster; together with the main players of the public sector, companies and universities. One of the goals of this project is to contribute to improving the environment, and economic, social and technology development in the region.

Hydro generation capacity is managed by both the public sector (CFE) and the private sector. In 2012, the CFE recorded an installed capacity in operation of 11,555 MW, distributed in 72 stations, including stations of 30 MW or less. The private sector has 17 stations distributed in seven states and with a total capacity of 152 MW.

Bioenergy has an operating installed capacity of 645 MW, of which 598 MW are from bagasse and the rest from biogas. In 2012, more than 62 operating co-generation and self-supply electricity projects were registered.

From 2003 to 2012, Mexico received approximately 7,343 billion USD in FDI in the RE industry, mainly in the states of Oaxaca, and Baja California. The main investor countries are Spain, the United States, Denmark, France, Russia and Israel.

Please read more about this exciting and vibrant industry in Mexico at: http://www.promexico.gob.mx/en_us/promexico/Energia_medio_ambiente_e_infraestructura

(*) With information from: http://www.promexico.gob.mx/en_us/promexico/Energia_medio_ambiente_e_infraestructura



Mexico on the Move

FOREIGN SECRETARY JOSÉ ANTONIO MEADE MEETS WITH THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

Foreign Secretary José Antonio Meade met today in Mexico City with the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), Ban Ki-moon during his official visit. This is the fifth visit of the UN chief, which confirms Mexico's importance at the multilateral level.

During the meeting, the two officials discussed the excellent relationship between Mexico and the UN and the challenges facing the UN in peace and security, development and the environment. Foreign Secretary Meade reiterated the importance that Mexico, as a founding member of the UN, gives to multilateralism and to the role to be played by the UN in addressing the crises that affect the international community.

The Foreign Secretary and the Secretary-General stressed the importance of addressing global challenges such as climate change and they discussed the preparations for adopting the UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda and for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the first Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty. They both agreed that Mexico and the UN must continue to cooperate closely to achieve substantive progress on these issues.

The Secretary-General acknowledged the progress made by Mexico in human rights and confirmed that Mexico, as a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants, faces challenges in migration. He also stressed Mexico's leadership on nuclear disarmament and the achievements of the Nayarit conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, which was held last February.

Foreign Secretary Meade stressed the important role played by the Mexicans who work for the UN agencies and said that having more Mexicans in senior UN positions is a priority for Mexico.

The Secretary-General's visit to Mexico confirms the important role played by Mexico in the multilateral arena as a responsible global actor.



Magic of Mexico

MEXICO CITY

One of the oldest cities in America, Mexico City received the recognition of Heritage City in 1987 due to its Historic Center and the Xochimilco National Park. The Historic Center, called the heart of the city, was recognized for its historical and cultural value, being a peerless example of an urban settlement, and because it confirms the merger of two cultures in its buildings, houses, streets and cathedral. Meanwhile, Xochimilco holds the title of World Heritage Site due to its chinampas, which show the exceptional work performed by its ancient inhabitants to build their habitat on a less than favourable territory.



First Stop: The Zócalo.



The Zócalo is the ideal spot to begin your sightseeing in Mexico City. Once the main centre of the Aztec capital Tenochtitlan, this is the beating heart of Mexico's capital. Within a few meters you will discover pre-Hispanic ruins and majestic colonial buildings. In the surrounding streets you will encounter a cross section of Mexico City's population: business executives, workers, and fashionistas, as well as vendors, buskers and Aztec dancers. Tourists and locals alike wander these streets where Mexico's past and present intersect.

The main square of the city is called the Zócalo but its official name is Plaza de la Constitución. It takes up a whole city block and is among the largest squares in the world where people gather for civic and cultural events and celebrations throughout the year. Over the years the Zócalo has undergone several different incarnations; inside the Zócalo subway station you can see scale models of its many different phases.

The Palacio Nacional (National Palace) is another of the must-see tourist attractions in Mexico City. This beautiful colonial building, located to the east of the Zócalo, is the very site where the palace of the Aztec ruler Moctezuma once stood. The walls above the main staircase and along the corridor of the second floor are covered with

murals by Diego Rivera, who depicted the history of Mexico from before the arrival of the Spaniards through to modern times. This series of murals, entitled "Mexico a través de los Siglos" (Mexico Through the Centuries) was painted between 1929 and 1951 and highlights the most dramatic moments of the nation's past. Other areas of the National Palace that are open to visitors include the Treasury, historical presidents' quarters and a botanical garden.



Mexico City's cathedral, the Catedral Metropolitana, located north of the Zócalo, went through seve-

ral construction phases. The variety of architectural and artistic styles combine to create a fascinating testament to the passage of time. The cathedral is also replete with colonial religious art and beautiful gilded altarpieces. Time for a break? Head to the terrace bar at the Gran Hotel Ciudad de Mexico, located across the street from the southwest corner of the Zócalo, for a refreshment and a spectacular view of the square.

Bellas Artes Palace.

You won't want to miss Mexico City's imposing Palacio de Bellas Artes (Bellas Artes Palace), located about seven blocks the west of the Zócalo, next to the Alameda Central Park. Immediately you will see why this grandiose domed Palace is among the most important of the city's myriad sites and attractions.

Commissioned by President Porfirio Diaz to replace the previous National Theater that was demolished in 1901, Italian architect Adamo Boari began the project in 1904. The original plan was to finish the construction in time to celebrate the centenary of Mexican Independence in 1910, however work on the building was stalled initially due to construction



issues and then the outbreak of the Mexican Revolution. At the end of the Revolution, Mexican architect, Francisco Mariscal, continued the project, and the landmark was finally inaugurated in 1934.

The Palace hosts exhibitions and theatrical performances and is the main venue of the Ballet Folklorico de Mexico. Beyond theater, the Palace also promotes visual arts, dance, music, architecture and literature. There are two museums housed within the building: the Museo del Palacio de Bellas Artes (Bellas Artes Palace Museum) that hosts temporary exhibits; and the Museo Nacional de Arquitectura (National Architecture Museum) that occupies the top floor of the building. There are epic murals on interior walls on the first and second floors by some of Mexico's greatest artists, including Diego Rivera, Jose Clemente Orozco, David Alfaro Siqueiros and Rufino Tamayo. On the ground floor you will find a restaurant and bookstore.

One of the highlights of the Palace is the glass curtain in the main theatre. Designed by Mexican artist, Dr. Atl, aka Gerardo Murillo, and built by Tiffany of New York, this impressive stage curtain is a stained-glass foldable panel representing the landscape of the Valley of Mexico with its two great volcanoes, Popocatepetl and Iztac-chibuatl.

Get a bird's-eye view of the Palacio de Bellas Artes and other popular Mexico City attractions from lookout terrace located on the 44th floor of the Torre Latinoamericana, across the street.

Chapultepec Park Stroll.

Covering an area of more than 1,600 acres, Bosque de Chapultepec (Chapultepec Park) is Mexico City's largest oasis and one of the loveliest places to visit. Chapultepec Park, divided into three sections, is home to forests, lakes and several important sights and attractions, most of which are located in the first section near the Paseo de la Reforma, Mexico City's main thoroughfare.

Situated at the end of a long paved path near the main entrance to the park, the Monumento a los Niños Heroes (Monument of Young Heroes) is one of Mexico City's most important monuments. Built in 1952, it honours six young cadets who refused to surrender to American troops during the Battle of Chapultepec in 1847.





From the monument, follow the road leading to the top of Chapultepec Hill and you'll arrive to the Castillo de Chapultepec (Chapultepec Castle), formerly an imperial palace and presidential residence. Today, Chapultepec Castle houses the country's National History Museum. Outside you'll have marvellous panoramic views overlooking Mexico City.

More attractions located within this first section of Chapultepec Park include the Chapultepec Zoo, Botanical Gardens and several interesting museums such as the Modern Art Museum, Tamayo Museum and National Museum of Anthropology. The greatest museum in Mexico—and arguably one of the finest archaeology museums on the planet—the National Museum of Anthropology is so vast that it's often difficult to tour all of the exhibits during a single visit. Plan accordingly.

Another of the top tourist attractions is a cultural performance known as the rite of the voladores (flyers). This ancient ritual, believed to have originated in the state of Veracruz, is performed daily just outside the main entrance to the National Museum of Anthropology. It involves four men wearing tradi-



tional costumes and playing instruments while "flying" from the top of a tall pole to which they are attached by ropes. A fifth man remains at the top of the pole playing a flute and drum.

After visiting Chapultepec Park, enjoy a leisurely stroll along the Paseo de la Reforma. Several interesting Mexico City sights and attractions are located along this main boulevard including the Monumento a la Independencia, La Diana Cazadora and El Caballito, as well as numerous high-rise buildings, luxury hotels, shopping centres and the U.S. Embassy. A wide pedestrian promenade extends along the middle of the boulevard, making it easy to explore this area of the city on foot. On Sunday mornings the Paseo de la Reforma is closed to traffic to accommodate the city's cyclists.

Xochimilco.

Xochimilco, besides being famous for its canals and trajinera boats, has one of the most traditional nurseries in the city. The name of this area in Mexico City is a toponym of Nahuatl origin which can be translated as "Place for the sowing of flowers" or "Field of flowers".



Visit the Madreselva (Honeysuckle) Market, one of the most traditional markets, which is located in Lomas de Tonalco, calzada Xochimilco, Tulyehualco, where you will be able to find all kinds of flowers, plants, shrubs and some other hard to obtain plants such as birch trees. Another good option is the Cuemanco Plant Market, the largest in Latin America, with an area of 13 hectares. Here you will be able to buy at very affordable prices because the-

re are no middlemen, the producer sells directly to the customer. Buy an orange or lemon tree and plant it at home; you will also be able to find cacti, orchids, bonsai trees, and a large variety of other plants.

During Holy Week, one of the most popular feasts in Xochimilco takes place, the feast of The Most Beautiful Flower in the Communal Farming Region, which this year will take place from March 17 to March 24. This event aims to reassess the beauty of the mestizo women in Mexico City, and highlight the origins of the people who still have communal farms in Xochimilco. The fair includes many activities, most of which are free.



Mexicans Down Under

PIANIST IRMA ENRIQUEZ



I was born in Mexico City, studied a Bachelor in Piano at the UNAM-School of Music, a Diploma in Art-UNAM and worked at the National Centre of Arts-CENIDIM as a researcher. In Spain I did a Master course in Art - University of Navarra. I worked as a piano and music teacher for several years, privately and at Montessori schools, counting amazing people in my life as family, students and friends. I have always been involved in conferences and seminars for piano, pedagogy and art in general.

Married to an Australian man, I came to Australia at the end of 2000, and began my aussie-mex family. In Sydney I opened my music studio, and became an active member of the Music Teachers Association of NSW, member of the New Music Network, and the Australian Hispanic Women Business Network (AHWBN). My first contribution with Mexican music in Canberra was in 2001 and 2002, promoting Mexican Concert Music for piano solo and chamber music, as part of some exhibitions.

In the pedagogical area, I have incorporated some aspects of music therapy, and took training in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA Therapy) method for motivating children with Autism.

With the idea to create a solid musical presence in Asia Pacific region, through the rich and diverse repertoire that Mexico has, in 2009 I formed Duo Deconet with a Venezuelan violinist Henry Avila, promoting contemporary Mexican and Iberoamerican musical heritage. Our hard work paid off, as Duo Deconet are considered the chamber musician pioneers of the 21st century for Latin American music in Australia. Australia has given me a second home and nationality, but also the multicultural credence as part of the Latin American community.

In 2010 the AHWBN, gave me the yearly award in recognition for Outstanding Achievement in the promotion of her Hispanic Heritage in Australia. I was nominated in Mexico for the National Prize of Arts 2011 for the initiative and intensive promotion of Mexican and Latin American Contemporary Concert Music in Australia with constants premieres.

In 2011 I became an associate professor at the Australian National Centre for the Latin American Studies ANU-ANCLAS, where I have been participating constantly in conferences, productions and concerts, for Mexican and Iberoamerican music. We have currently two CDs, 'Mexican Concert Music' and 'Laberintos: Nine Iberoamerican composers' the letter with Urtext digital classic, an international

Mexican company. <u>www.duodeconet.com.au</u>

Today, I can say that the contemporary musical presence of Mexico has gained momentum, with a strong identity and a good presence in Australia. I have been involved in several projects with many artists from Mexico, Latin America, Spain and Australia, counting amazing experiences that have created artistic initiatives and new projects to come in the near future

Our community is not as big as our Latin-Americans fellows, but is well defined and is recognised per our rich culture, quality and constant discoveries of our never ending transformation of souls in the arts.



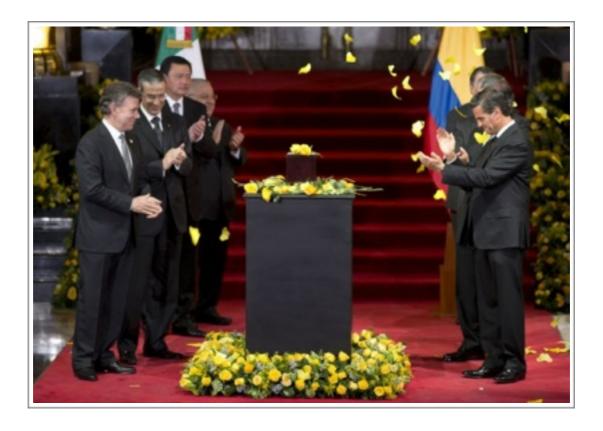
MEXICO CONVEYS ITS CONDOLENCES TO THE GOVERN-MENT AND PEOPLE OF COLOMBIA ON THE PASSING OF GA-BRIEL GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ

On behalf of the Mexican government, the Foreign Ministry conveys its condolences to the government and people of Colombia for the death today in Mexico City of Gabriel García Márquez.

Born in Aracataca, Colombia, García Márquez made Mexico his home for several decades, which, as expressed by President Enrique Peña Nieto, enriched the life of our country.

Throughout his residency in Mexico, this universal Colombian left an invaluable literary legacy and cultivated a long list of friendships.

Mexico joins Colombia, Latin America and the entire world in mourning the decease of García Márquez, and it hopes that time will heal the grief of his widow, Mercedes Barcha, his children, family and many friends.



On the left the President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, and on the right the President of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto.





Mexico breeds more than 140 different kinds of chiles

production of endorphines.

Green chiles have more vitamin C than citrics.



Capsicum annuar



#MexicoGlobal





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

Rafael Ignacio Montoya Bayardo **Head of Political Section**

Gerardo Serrano Gasca Consul and Cultural Attache

Mauricio Rubio Ancona Administrative Officer

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Staff

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