

## EMBAMEX SWEDEN JULY NEWSLETTER

### STATE BY STATE: MICHOACÁN

Cradle of amazing ancient civilizations, such as the Purépecha Empire, which have greatly



Top: Morelia's historical centre.

Photo credit: [www.mexicodesconocido.com.mx](http://www.mexicodesconocido.com.mx)

enriched Mexico, Michoacán is one of the most extensive, interesting, and beautiful states in Mexico. Among its many attractions are five World Heritage sites, eight Magic Towns and the natural phenomenon of the Monarch butterflies, who migrate every year from Canada to spend the winter in the state territory.

Michoacán's constellation of lakes has always played an important role in the development of its people, in addition to offering beautiful, breathtaking views. Pátzcuaro Lake allows visitors to observe traditional Michoacán fishermen catching fish with their huge nets. This lake has seven islands, out of which Janitzio is most famous, because of its picturesque village and the fact that every year, it hosts one of the most famous Day of the Dead celebrations in Mexico. These unique Day of the Dead festivities are well known; Lake Pátzcuaro is filled with candlelight, and the streets are full of people walking towards the cemetery, which is covered in offerings and flowers. The whole island becomes wrapped in a mystical, spiritual environment, permeated with pre-Hispanic customs. (Cont...)

Right: Lake Pátzcuaro, Michoacán.

Photo credit:

[www.mexicodesconocido.com.mx](http://www.mexicodesconocido.com.mx)



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The Purépecha people, who are still present in the state, carefully guard their ancient traditions, such as their regional dances, their incredible crafts, and their delicious cuisine, which includes *carnitas*, *corundas*, and milk sweets.

Historical sites can be found in each corner of the state, whether in its beautiful colonial architecture, in Morelia; in its fascinating archaeological sites, such as Tzintzuntzan; or through the cultural, artistic, and humanistic heritage left by artist Tata Vasco during his struggle to help the people of Michoacán.

Beautiful natural sites abound in Michoacán, such as the Barranca del Cupatitzio National Park, in Uruapan, and the ruins of the village of San Juan de Paricutin, which was buried by lava in the early 1940's. Waterfalls, lush vegetation, regional wildlife, and the local legends are the components of its fantastic and irresistible scenarios. An adventurous visitor will be able to find sports activities such as rappelling, zip-lining, wall climbing, and mountain biking in many locations.

In short, a trip to Michoacán is a visit to a rich and fantastical land, full of traditions and life, which will surely provide unforgettable experiences at every turn.



*Traditional fishing with nets in Michoacán.  
Photo credit: [www.visitmexico.com](http://www.visitmexico.com)*



*Traditional folkloric dance "Danza de los viejitos"  
(Dance of the Old Ones).*

*Photo credit: [blog.mexicodestinos.com](http://blog.mexicodestinos.com)  
Text credit: [www.visitmexico.com](http://www.visitmexico.com)*

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### GUADALUPE NETTEL AT THE GÖTEBORG BOOK FAIR

Mexican author Guadalupe Nettel will be present at the Göteborg Book Fair in September, where she will participate in two seminars, on Friday 25 and Saturday 26.

On September 25, at 17:30 hrs., Ms. Nettel will participate in a dialogue with journalist Erik de la Reguera.

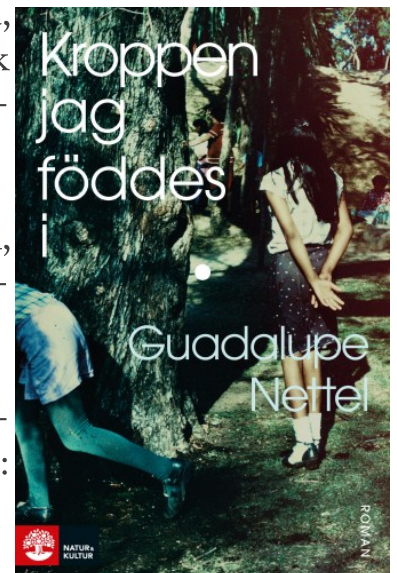
On Saturday 26, at 14:00 hrs., Ms. Nettel and Spanish novelist Milena Busquets will hold a talk moderated by Swedish culture journalist Stefan Ingvarsson titled, “How Close to Yourself Can you Go?” Here, the authors will talk about their respective novels, and about how close to reality a writer can get, and about the line between fiction and selfhood.

Nettel’s novel “The Body I was Born In” is a confessional, fictionalized account about her childhood in a dysfunctional family, with parents who enacted many of the 1970’s progressive ideals.

Please visit the Göteborg Book Fair’s website for more information regarding the programme and tickets: [www.bokmassan.se](http://www.bokmassan.se)



*Guadalupe Nettel.  
Photo credit: Lisbeth Salas.*



*Cover for Swedish language publication of Ms. Nettel’s new novel.  
Photo credit: Natur och Kultur.*



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### ANTONIO O'CONNELL AT ÖREBRO OPEN ART FESTIVAL



OpenART is Scandinavia's biggest public art biennial, running for twelve weeks in Örebro, Sweden, from June 14 to September 6.

Contemporary art from all over the world is temporarily displayed in the city center, for everyone to experience without an admission ticket. The public space becomes, under OpenART, an intensively shared space.

Antonio O'Connell is an installation artist and architect based in Mexico City. He studied architecture at the Universidad Marista and obtained a Master's degree in fine arts at UNAM University, Mexico. He has worked as an independent architect, but his inclination towards experimental architecture led him into the realm of contemporary art. His reflections concern the contrasting characteristics of architecture between pragmatic function and its ontological function, the last being what links architecture with art.

For more information, please visit the [Open Art homepage](#) and [artist page](#), as well as the artist's [webpage](#).

*Photo credits: Antonio O'Connell.*



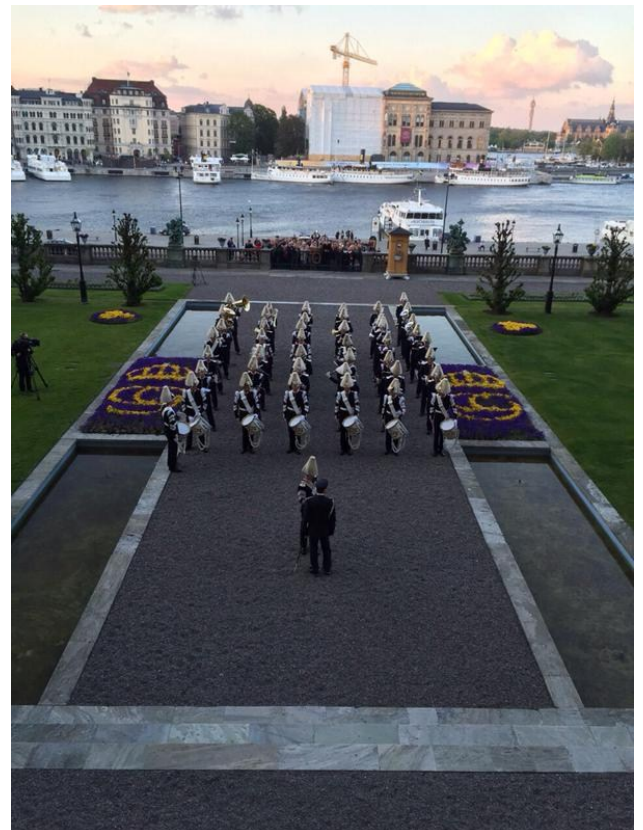
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### AMBASSADOR GASCA PLIEGO ATTENDS NATIONAL DAY CEREMONY

On June 6, Ambassador Agustín Gasca Pliego attended the official event commemorating Sweden's National Day, which was chaired by King Carl XVI Gustaf. The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven as well as by the leaders of the political parties represented in the Swedish Parliament. The Head of State made a speech recounting the historical facts that led to this celebration, and referred to the Swedish flag as a symbol of national identity. He also mentioned that this year, all municipalities in Sweden conducted a ceremony to welcome people who recently acquired Swedish citizenship.

The King concluded by saying that Swedes should be grateful for peace, democracy, and prosperity, and made a call to continue to take on the necessary responsibilities to offer the same conditions to the next generations.

After the ceremony, Ambassador Gasca attended a reception at the Royal Palace, where he had the opportunity to greet King Gustaf and the Royal Family.



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### MEETING WITH VICE MINISTER OF LITHUANIA NERIS GERMANAS

The Vice Minister of Lithuania, Neris Germanas, visited Sweden on June 17 to participate as a keynote speaker at an event organized by the Swedish Association of the United Nations (FN-Förbundet), to discuss Lithuania's experience as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. This event was organized within the framework of the current campaign to promote the candidacy of Sweden to a non-permanent seat of said Council for the period of 2017-2018.

During this visit, Ambassador Gasca Pliego met with Vice Minister Germanas and with the Ambassador of Lithuania in Sweden, Eitvydas Bajarunas, to discuss potential opportunities for growth and cooperation in the bilateral relationship between the two countries.



*Vice Minister of Lithuania Neris Germanis and Ambassador Gasca Pliego.*

## EMBAMEX SWEDEN JULY NEWSLETTER

### UNDERSECRETARY OF COMMUNICATIONS IN WORKING VISIT TO SWEDEN

Undersecretary of Communications of Mexico, Monica Aspe Bernal, made a working visit to Sweden on June 22. During the visit, Ambassador Gasca Pliego and Undersecretary Aspe participated in the seminar “Broadband for All,” organized by the Swedish telecommunications company Ericsson, and held at the Conference Centre of the Swedish Royal Academy of Engineering.



*From left: Ambassador Agustín Gasca Pliego, Undersecretary Mónica Aspe, and Minister Mehmet Kaplan.*

Undersecretary Aspe also held several meetings with Swedish officials and business leaders to convey the progress of the recent telecommunications reforms in Mexico, and to talk about the general terms of the broadband network project currently being launched.

Among others, she met with the Swedish Minister for Urban Development, Housing, and Information Technology, Mehmet Kaplan, to discuss good practices in internet access. Undersecretary Aspe explained the aims of the government project “Red Compartida” (*Shared Network*), which seeks to increase coverage of mobile services and broadband, foster competitiveness, and reduce costs by allowing new users to participate in the telecommunications market. For his part, Minister Kaplan explained how Sweden has managed to become one of the top countries in the world in internet connectivity, but also noted challenges faced by isolated populations who demand internet service.

Also in the framework of the working visit, Undersecretary Aspe and Ambassador Gasca Pliego met with the Minister for Development and Nordic Cooperation Maja Fjaestad. The officials discussed Mrs. Fjaestad’s recent visit to Mexico, at the beginning of the month, and agreed to continue further dialogue to exchange information on sustainable urban development projects.

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### SPECIAL PROGRAMS 2015 CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Discover Mexico as a new player in the global knowledge society and the opportunities that this unique destination offers for education and research.

The Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation, AMEXCID, annually grants international scholarships to students, researchers, scholars, and artists from more than 180 countries.

AMEXCID invites foreign nationals interested in studying, teaching, researching, and creating art in Mexico to apply for a Mexican Government International Scholarship under the following Special Programs:

- Visiting Professors.
- High-Level Conferences.
- “Genaro Estrada” Scholarship for Specialists in Mexican Studies.
- Artist Residences.
- Media Residencies.
- Improving the Quality of Mexican Higher Education Institutions.

**NOTE:** Applications will be accepted at the Embassy from April 10 to August 14, 2015 for programs beginning between May and October, 2015.

For more information, please visit the Special Programs government website [here](#).

### 19° DRAWING CONTEST FOR CHILDREN "THIS IS MY MEXICO"

The Institute for Mexican Citizens Abroad (*Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior*, or IME) issues an open call for participants in the 19th edition of the Drawing Contest for Children “This is My Mexico” (*Este es mi México*). This year’s theme is “My Favorite Corner of Mexico.”

Submissions of drawings are being accepted from June 10 to September 21, 2015 at the Embassy of Mexico, on Grevgatan 3, 114 53, Stockholm.

Please visit the following [link](#) to watch a video showing work from previous years of this contest, with testimonials by some of the children who have participated in past editions of this event.

