Letter from the Ambassador

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico Visit Australia

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Ambassador Carlos de Icaza, completed a working visit to Australia from 22 to 26 June, fulfilling a broad and extensive agenda of activities. In Melbourne, he participated in the Third G20 Sherpa’s Meeting, preparatory of the Leaders’ Summit to be held on 15 and 16 November in Brisbane.

In Canberra, the Deputy Minister and the Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Chris Moraitis, co-chaired the Third Australia Mexico Senior Officials Talks, in which they agreed to strengthen the coordination in major multilateral forums, and support increased trade, investment flows, educational-cultural and scientific-technical exchanges. It was noted that Mexico and Australia share interests with respect to the global economic liberalization and regional integration, which is reflected in the participation of both countries in the negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) and the Pacific Alliance (in which Australia has an observer status).
Deputy Minister Icaza also met with the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Peter Varghese, to analyze the joint work on G20, chaired this year by Australia, and also MIK-TA, chaired by Mexico. Subsequently, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs de Icaza was kindly received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Julie Bishop, on a courtesy call at her office in the Parliament of Australia. During the meeting the interests of both governments to deepen and diversify their bilateral and multilateral relations were underlined. They also agreed on the importance of strengthening the political dialogue at the highest level and the contact of leaders of both countries in forums such as the G20 and APEC. Deputy Minister Icaza expressed his gratitude to Minister Bishop for her recent trip to Mexico, congratulated her on the leadership of his country’s presidency of the G20, and extended his best wishes for the success of the Summit of Brisbane.

Finally, Deputy Minister Icaza gave a presentation during the First Mexico-Australia Dialogue, organized by the Australian National University, with the support of the DFAT and the Council for Australia-Latin America Relations (COALAR). The dialogue aims at exchanging views between Government, academic and business sectors of both countries, to identify new actions to further expand friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, on March 14, 1966, Mexico and Australia have developed an intense relationship characterized by high level political dialogue and permanent coordination in the frame of major multilateral forums. Currently, Mexico is the main trading partner of Australia in Latin America and the largest investor of the region in Australia. Both countries are partners in forums such as the UN, OECD, MIKTA, G20 and APEC.
Global Mexico

The 9th Pacific Alliance Summit

President Enrique Peña Nieto hosted the 9th Summit of the Pacific Alliance on June 20 in Punta Mita, Nayarit; where he received the presidents of the other 3 Alliance member countries: Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos and Peruvian President Ollanta Humala.

The summit attained results in the four areas of focus for guiding the integration process: the free movement of goods and services, capital and people, and cooperation. In terms of people, the foreign ministers of the member countries signed an inter-institutional agreement creating a Working Vacation Program that enables youths between the ages of 18 and 30 to travel to any of the Pacific Alliance countries and work to finance their stay for up to one year. The program will begin this August and will issue three hundred visas per year for each country.

Mexico announced that will join the Latin American Integrated Market (MILA), which will enable the Mexican Stock Exchange (BMV) to begin operations with the markets in Chile, Colombia and Peru, bringing the Pacific Alliance even closer to a deeper integration with free movement of capital.

BMV President, Luis Téllez, said that Mexico is now taking the legal steps needed for its full incorporation into MILA, which is now possible due to the Securities Market Act reform adopted in November 2013. Mexico's membership will make MILA the largest stock exchange in Latin America both in terms of capitalization, with USD 1.1 trillion, and in the number of companies listed, which will rise from 565 to 986, an increase of 43%.

The Pacific Alliance Business Council (CEAP) met during the summit and reviewed the Alliance's progress and remaining challenges and made proposals for deepening the process of economic and commercial integration among the members.

Australia was one of the 32 observer countries of the Alliance, with Brett Hackett, Assistant Secretary at the Canada and Latin American Branch of DFAT, as its representative. The observers were invited to hold a dialogue with the Council of Ministers on an agenda of issues that coincides with the Alliance's four priority areas for integration.

Additionally, the Secretary General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), José Ángel Gurría, attended the meeting in order to explore the possibility of establishing cooperation mechanisms with the OECD to further integration and the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), programs for innovation and entrepreneurship and the adoption of an agenda with the observer countries.

The countries of the Pacific Alliance are involved in the most successful process of integration in Latin America. As a bloc, they are the eighth largest economy in the world, with a population of 214 million and an average GDP per capita of USD 10,294. They comprise 37% of the GDP in Latin America and 50% of the regional trade. This demonstrates the stability and economic potential of the four countries.
An Update on Business Engagement

It has been a busy period for promoting Mexico to the Australian business community. One major highlight was at the end of May and early June, when two delegations from Mexico visited Australia on trade missions.

One delegation travelled to Australia to participate in the mining conference Latin America Down Under (LADU), headed by Mr. Mario Cantú, the Coordinator of the Mining Industry.

At LADU, Mr. Mario Cantú spoke with great detail about the opportunities that Mexico’s mining industry offers to investors. The Director General of Proméxico Mr. Francisco González, and the Deputy Director General of Bancomext Mr. Fernando Hoyo, also attended the conference and they both highlighted the many opportunities that Mexico offers as a destination for foreign investment and the support that Bancomext, Mexico’s Export Import Bank, can provide.

Doing Business with Australia

The Other Raising Economic Giant of the Asia-Pacific

5 Reasons Why to Play With Mexico

Mexico’s Mining Policy

During the conference, the delegation of senior officials held business meetings with a number of companies and representatives of the Sustainable Minerals Institute (SMI) of the University of Queensland. The mining representatives travelled to the city of Perth, capital of the state of Western Australia, where mining operations are concentrated. There, meetings were held with many businesses from the Natural Resources and Mining sector, as well as a high level representative of CSIRO’s Australian Resources Research Centre Division.

The visit was deemed to be very successful, following the clear interest that had been identified among Australian companies in forming closer ties with our country and making investments in Mexico in the short and medium term. The meetings conducted during the delegation’s visit to Perth gave significant results.
The second delegation arrived to Australian soil at the beginning of June with the objective of furthering the dialogue with the business community and raise awareness of the opportunities Mexico offers to Australian companies in different fields. It was led by Mr. Francisco González, the CEO of Proméxico, México’s Trade Commission, and the Deputy Director General of Bancomext, Mr. Fernando Hoyo, who were accompanied by businessmen representing 14 Mexican companies ready to do business in Australia.

This trade mission visited Sydney and Melbourne and held meetings with an array of officials representing the federal and local governments. The conversations focused on how activities of each government can complement the actions of the other. This, as well as it being the first time that high-level representatives of Proméxico and Bancomext visited Australia, underline the importance that Mexico places on its relations, commercial projects and trade with Australian businesses.

One of the achievements of this visit was the dialogue with the major business groups of this country, including the Australian Industry Group (AIG), Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Victorian Employers’ Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI), which together they represent more than 350,000 businesses in all sectors of the economy. The willingness of each of these groups to converse with Mexico was very stimulating. It points out the interest in sharing experiences, points of view and strategies.

In conversations with members of the financial community, a number of key factors were addressed including the structural reforms of Mexico; the biddings that will soon take place in our country; as well as the wealth of opportunities opened by reforms, such as the one in the field of energy. They were invited to visit Mexico to see the potential firsthand.
As mentioned before a number of Mexican business owners participated in the trade mission, with commercial activities in sectors including food and beverages, footwear, ceramic products and wooden doors. They all expressed being very satisfied with the result of their meetings. Although not all of them managed to obtain immediate placement for their products, they all considered they took a step forward and that their visit was useful in getting better acquainted with a market that interests them, and in which they believe they could participate with success. In this particular aspect, Bancomext has an important role to play supporting small and medium sized businesses; in particular with a guarantee program for SME’s to facilitate their exports.

The Director General of Proméxico met with companies to analyse developing business opportunities in our country. During the meetings the Mexican senior official outlined the advantages of operating in Mexico under different schemes, such as a ‘shelter company’, which represents a low cost of installation, a joint investment or the acquisition and fusion of another company. Additionally, they provided information about the costs and transport times, costs of production such as electricity and labour, the customs system and infrastructure in general, including financial services that support business activity in Mexico. As a result of the encounters, Mr González extended an invitation to the business executives to visit Mexico.

This mission ended in a very high note: The Director General of Proméxico announced that in the coming months Proméxico, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico will open an office in Melbourne in the coming months.
Cultural Tourism in Mexico.

Mexico is one of the countries with the largest cultural tourism in the world. Our country's cultural, geographical and historical wealth can only be appreciated through its tourist destinations, its cuisine, its architecture, its traditions and everything that constitutes the being of a people.

Learn about the vast range of archaeological sites around the country. Marvel at Tulum, Chichen Itza, Palenque or Monte Alban, some of these sites have been named World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Enjoy the handicrafts produced in some of Mexico's cities, where the creation processes have not changed for centuries, and are handed down from one generation to the next. Admire the black clay object made in Oaxaca, the musical instruments made in Paracho, Michoacan, the leather goods manufactured in Guanajuato and the colorful handicrafts made by indigenous people like the Huichol Indians.

All throughout the country, you will find hundreds of squares with their church, their kiosk and their town hall. Admire their colonial architecture, their historical buildings and libraries, silent witnesses to how life developed in Mexico.

You are not really acquainted with a place if you do not taste its food. Mexico has one of the richest cuisines in the world. Its proposals are different from one region to the next, and pre-Hispanic ingredients are blended with the European influence brought by the Spaniards after the Conquest.

Archaeology

Sun, jungle, desert, traditions and stones with ancient stories to tell are all part of Mexico's legacy. Best of all, you're invited to come and take part in it! From the arid horizons of the northern mountains, where the Paquime labyrinths and old ceramics tell of hard times in a harsh climate, to the fertile land sheltering Palenque's temples and the underwater treasures lurking inside Yucatan's cenotes, Mexico preserves ancient testimonies of great towns and wise men and women who, throughout its history have deciphered the cycles of earth and sky.

Venture to southern Mexico and you'll learn about the Olmecs, the first highly developed civilization in America, who settled in what today is Tabasco back in 1200 BC. The ancient city and temple complex of Teotihuacan, the “Place where Gods are made”, may have reached a population of around 200,000 at its peak, bigger than many European Capitals by that time. Walk the Calzada de los Muertos or climb to the top of the Piramide del sol to breathe in the history of these sacred surroundings.
In what is called the Classic Period (300-900 BC), Mayan civilization bloomed in south-eastern Mexico and Guatemala. You won’t find it easy to choose between the temples of Chichen Itza in Yucatan, Tulum – the only seaside archaeological city in Mexico – and Palenque’s mythical temples in northern Chiapas. If you have time to see them all, you’ll notice Mayan architecture acquired different styles due to the peoples’ intense commercial interaction with central Mexico and Guatemala.

A mighty imperial power, the Aztecs became the dominant culture in the Post Classic Period (900-1521 AD), and, thankfully for us, magnificent Aztec sculptural and architectural pieces survived the Spanish conquest. Mexico City itself is the best example of what are known as superimposed cities: Pre-Hispanic Tenochtitlan lies underneath the capital of colonial New Spain, which has in turn been topped by what we now know as Mexico City. A visit to Templo Mayor (main temple) makes this fact clear for locals and visitors. In the same city, the Anthropology museum – the largest in Mexico – houses and exhibits the most select collection of national archaeology in the country; all the major Pre-Hispanic cultures are represented here. We strongly recommend at least a couple days to enjoy this astonishing building.

**Architecture**

Having one of the highest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the world is a privilege not many countries can boast. Beginning more than 2,000 years ago, Mexico’s architectural heritage is a melting pot, mixing Pre-Hispanic influences, colonial style – with its own blend of Moorish, Jewish and Castilian traits –, 19th century architectural trends such as Neoclassicism, Art-Deco and Art Nouveau, and Avant-garde designs from the brilliant Teodoro Gonzalez de Leon, Pedro Ramirez Vazquez and Luis Barragan.

If you’re a first-time visitor, the city of Guanajuato is a must. This former mining town’s distinctive winding narrow streets will lead you to the Templo de la Valenciana, a Churrigueresco (or hyper-baroque) 18th century treasure, the Neoclassical Teatro Juarez and the magnificent main university building. Southern Mexico was evangelized by Dominicans, and their architectural legacy lives on. The pale stone temple of Santo Domingo, with its gold-plated chapel, invites you to discover detail in every corner (but beware: acceptance of that challenge will mean staying there the whole day!). Just a few steps from the temple, the Centro Cultural Santo Domingo, a former convent and now one of the biggest cultural centers in Mexico, houses the largest collection of Pre-Hispanic and colonial art, plus a permanent exhibition of local history. Even to this day, something of the monks’ tranquillity remains distilled in the building’s walls.
Nonetheless, the main economic and political life of the country has always taken place in Mexico City, and its architecture reflects that status. The Venetian-style Palacio de Correos (Postal Palace, and the city’s central post office), the eclectic Fine Arts Palace (Palacio de Bellas Artes) and the iconic 20th century Torre Latinoamericana –first Mexican skyscraper– are just a few steps away from each other.

Instead of going for the obvious architectural choices, though, why not step off the beaten track in search of rarer hidden gems? Visit the bohemian cultural center, Casa Lamm, or the Casa del Poeta, where Romantic poet José Ramón López Velarde settled during his adult life, while taking in the sights and sounds of the city’s elegant 19th century districts, Roma and Condesa.

### Arts and Crafts

As a republic, you could say Mexico is very young, but our traditions and culture have a long and winding history. Aztec frescoes give us a glimpse of social and religious life and the Aztecs’ fascinating cosmology. Portraits and religious paintings from Miguel Cabrera reflect character of New Spain, and the Neoclassical school in the late 19th century distills an obviously European scent.

Yet the Mexican revolution brought with it an urgent need to develop an authentic Mexican identity based on local models and traditions. With artists such as José Clemente Orozco, Diego Rivera and David Alfaro Siqueiros leading the field in painting, Pablo Moncayo, Carlos Chavez and José Rolon at the forefront in music, and Manuel and Lola Alvarez Bravo in photography, Mexico gradually found its own very national avant-garde.

In the second half of the 20th century, however, a new artistic movement arrived on the scene with a manifesto totally opposite to its predecessors. Traditional landscapes, portraits of indigenous people and folkloric themes went out of the window, and abstract paintings by Manuel Felguerez, Rufino Tamayo and Luis Nishisawa became the trademark of the Generacion de la ruptura (The Generation of rupture).

For the Aztecs, there was no difference between artists and artisans, so pottery, basket making, and weaving were all part of the ancient culture's artistic production. Nowadays, skilled Mexican hands keep ancient traditions alive in countless villages. Complex patterned rugs from looms in Teotitlan, Oaxaca, unique pottery pieces from Quejaroa, Michoacan, and the world-renowned Talavera ceramics from Puebla, are just a sample of the wide variety of artisan crafts Mexico offers for the culturally curious.

A trip across Mexico means a journey into the country's ancient culture and its rich present. In the form of a rug, a pot or a traditional embroidered dress –whatever you decide to take back with you– welcome both past and present into your home.
Gastronomy

Mexico is famed for its gastronomy. But beyond the tacos and guacamole of world renown, there are rich and various culinary traditions spanning the whole country. The tastes, smells and textures of traditional Mexican ingredients are an assault on the senses, especially the more exotic items such as maguey worms, ants and fried grasshoppers. But the subtle blend of flavors in dishes such as mole and traditional Mexican salsas are sure to delight the palates of even the most conservative diners.

On coming to Mexico, a taste of the regional cuisines of Yucatan and Oaxaca is a must. The gastronomy of Oaxaca is one of the most famous in Mexico, including its famous mole, tlayudas (long pizza-like tortillas with a variety of traditional toppings) and chapulines (grasshoppers) for the more adventurous. The Yucatecan cuisine offers fewer extremes, but can be relied upon for taste every time. Try the classic dish of cochinita pibil (‘pibil’ pork), a tasty sauce of pork, orange, red onion and a traditional annatto sauce, slow cooked in an oven just below the ground.

Contemporary chefs are continually developing Mexican culinary identity, incorporating ingredients and cooking styles from all over the world in a cosmopolitan fusion. In Mexico City, the range of foods on offer is not limited by the Mexican or Mexican fusion traditions: the historic center and the districts of Polanco, Roma, Condesa and Tlalpan are home to restaurants boasting a truly international gastronomy. Come and join the culinary carnival!
ANCIENT MAYA CITY OF CALAKMUL INSCRIBED IN THE UNESCO’S WORLD HERITAGE LIST.

During the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee, being held in Doha, Qatar from June 15-25, the Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul was inscribed on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a mixed property in recognition of its exceptional universal value.

The World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe Calakmul by consensus on the World Heritage List as excellent testimony to the Mayan civilization and its harmonious coexistence with its mega-diverse natural environment.

In 2002, UNESCO inscribed the Calakmul archeological zone as cultural heritage of humanity. In 2013, Mexico proposed extending the area of the cultural property from 3,000 to 331,397 hectares, strengthening its cultural criteria and including natural criteria in order to create a mixed natural and cultural property under the name of the Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche, Mexico.

Calakmul is set deep in the heart of one of the country's biggest protected natural areas, the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, which is part of the largest tropical forest of Mesoamerica. Located southeast of the state of Campeche, the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve became part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Program (MAB) in 1993.

In all of the Americas, Mexico is the country with the most properties on the World Heritage List, with a total of 32. As of today, we have 26 cultural properties, five natural properties and one mixed property, which is also the first in Latin America.

With this inscription, Mexico, a State Party to the World Heritage Convention since 1984, complies and is consistent with the committee's 1994 global strategy for a balanced, representative and credible World Heritage List. Mexico also renews its commitment to protecting, conserving, preserving and reappraising its cultural and natural heritage as an example of effectively linking culture and nature with inclusive and sustainable development.
KESKI PAN

Keski Pan is a New Mexican Patisserie that gives a twist to the presentation of Mexican food in Australia, bringing to Sydney the most popular and Traditional Mexican pastries, cakes, breads and sweets. The intention behind is to expand the variety of Mexican food to the sweet side which is not found easily in this Country.

Enrique Aguilar, together with his wife Priscilla Roque opened Keski Pan on December 2013, a front shop in Vaucluse, and have been introducing new pastry products inspired in the traditional Mexican bakery. Is a strange fusion between bakery, patisserie and confectionary, and will introduce soon typical Mexican hot drinks as well.

Enrique has been carefully selecting and creating the range of products that Keski Pan offers. Our products include both traditional sweet and savoury pastries, from conchas, cocadas, alegrias, garibaldis, etc. to empanadas filled with Mexican dishes like chicken mole or pibil, beef with chipotle and also a variety of tamales.

There is a different set of products every day and there is still a variety of desserts and cakes to explore. As there is a wide range of products that Keski Pan can offer, it becomes a bit of trial testing and finding out which products are most accepted by Australians, and of course by Mexicans that crave for the sweet side of our culture. Seasonal products are also available like Rosca de Reyes and Pan de Muerto.

The vision is to become wholesalers and open to the public. By introducing our products to cafés, restaurants and catering, we won't limit the offer to our shop front, but expand the availability of Mexican products Sydney wide.

Located in Shop 1/38 New South Head Road, Vaucluse, Sydney
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.

Aviso: La mexicana candidata a Doctora por la Universidad Macquarie, Fabiola Barba Ponce, conduce un estudio acerca de los migrantes Mexicanos en Australia y cómo se adaptan al trabajo y los entornos no laborales. Si eres un migrante Mexicano que vive y trabaja en Australia y te interesa participar en encuestas en línea, pulsa en el siguiente vínculo: https://mqedu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_23lIrPOMPryQre1, o envía mensaje vía Facebook (perfil: “Faby Barba Mexicans Australia”).

Dear friends,

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

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