

Newsletter No. 17
October 31, 2017

Message from the Ambassador

Message from Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro to the Mexican community and to the friends of Mexico



In September, Mexico was struck by the impact of powerful natural catastrophes. Two earthquakes of more than size 7 on the Richter scale within 12 days challenged not only our infrastructure's resistivity, but also our human integrity. The first, on September 7th, left 100 dead and thousands without homes in the Southwest of Mexico. The second, on September 19th, caused more than 320 dead and considerable material damages in the centre of the country, including Mexico City.

In the face of this tragedy, the international community reacted immediately with sympathy and support. Heads of State and Government of different countries of the world, among them, the President of Slovenia, Borut Pahor, and Austrian Foreign Minister, Sebastian Kurz, sent condolence letters and expressed their willingness to help the affected population. Mexico appreciates the gestures of solidarity received from the international community and from the civil society, particularly from the Mexican communities abroad.

In my character as Ambassador of Mexico in Austria, Slovakia and Slovenia, I wish to express the Mexican Government's heartfelt gratitude for the generous offers of help from the Mexican communities and from the friends of Mexico in these three countries. Unfortunately, due to the lack of resources and infrastructure in the Mexican Embassies and Consulates, it was not possible for the Mexican Foreign Ministry to establish collecting points for donations in kind abroad. Nonetheless, this Embassy is always open for anybody who wants to contribute to help our country.

On the next page of this newsletter, I allow myself to share different possibilities of realizing donations, along with some information about past and future activities to help the victims of the recent natural catastrophes.

I avail myself of this opportunity to send you and your families my best wishes.

Faithfully,
Alicia Buenrostro Massieu

Continue helping Mexico from abroad

The bank accounts of different humanitarian organizations continue existing for sending donations, both financial and in kind, to the victims of the recent natural catastrophes in Mexico.

1. Mexican Red Cross (Cruz Roja Mexicana I.A.P.)

Account No: 0404040406

CLABE: 0121800004040404062

<https://cruzrojadonaciones.org/>



2. Nacional Financiera SNC Fideicomiso Fuerza México

Trust fund established by the Government of Mexico in coordination with the private sector to channel donations

CLABE (MXN): 012180001109759075

CLABE (USD): 012180001109759156

SWIFT: BCMRMXMM

Bank: BBVA Bancomer



3. Donations in kind:

Amazon + Mexican Red Cross

<https://www.amazon.com.mx/>



Solidarity events by the Mexican community in Austria

1. Mass organized by Mexican priest Jorge Francisco Curiel at the church "*Maria Namen*" in Vienna. The donations collected during the service on October 8th were sent to the victims of the earthquakes.
2. Charity concert of Mexican pianist Leticia Gómez Tagle at the Music School in Linz (Fabrikstraße 10, 4041 Linz) on November 9th at 7:30 p.m.
3. "Day of the Dead" organized by the cultural association "Mexikayotl" and the "Austria-Mexico Society" on October 28th at *Kursalon* hall in Vienna. The event entitled "*Viva la familia*" was dedicated to the victims of natural catastrophes in Mexico and Latin America.
4. Concert of the baroque ensemble of the Symphonic Orchestra of Vienna on November 21st at 7:00 p.m. at the church *Jesuitenkirche* (Dr. Ignaz-Seipel-Platz, 1010 Vienna). This concert was realized upon the initiative of Mexican soprano singer Neivi Martínez and donations were collected for the worst affected population in Mexico.
5. The association "Amigos for Mexico" is collecting donations for the construction of ten houses for families affected by the earthquakes in Oaxaca. The donations are sent to the Mexican non-governmental organization "Échale a tu Casa" (www.echale.com.mx).

Solidarity actions by the international community in Austria

1. On September 23rd, this year's match of the UNIDO soccer team, formed by international UN staff, was dedicated to Mexico. The donations were sent to the Mexican Red Cross and to UNICEF.
2. The association of staff members of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) realized a financial donation to the Mexican Red Cross for the victims of the earthquakes in Mexico.
3. The IAEA also offered the Government of Mexico nuclear technology-based equipment to examine structural damages of building along with trained staff to apply this technology in the regions affected by the earthquakes.

The Embassy

Mexico stressed the importance of Spanish in the colloquium *“The Future of Spanish in the International Community”*



Foto: Gonzalo de Salazar y Serantes, Ambassador of Spain; Dr. Pablo Raphael de la Madrid; and Alicia Buenrostro, Ambassador of Mexico.

On September 29th, the colloquium *“The Future of Spanish in the International Community”* took place at the headquarters of the United Nations in Vienna. The event was organized by the Permanent Missions of Mexico and Spain to the International Organizations, on behalf of the *“Friends of Spanish Group”*, and attended by approx. 120 participants, among them, Spanish speaking employees of the international organizations and members of the Mexican, Spanish and Latin American community in Vienna.

Ambassador Buenrostro stressed the importance of the Spanish language in the international community, considering that due to the prognostics of demographical growth it is assumed that in 2030, 7.5 per cent of the world population will be Spanish speakers (about 535 million persons). This percentage exceeds those of other languages like Russian, French and German.

Mexican author and essayist Pablo Raphael de la Madrid delivered the speech *“Territories of Spanish”*, in which he informed that Spanish is the second most frequently used language for inquiries in digital media. On the other hand, as he pointed out, it is far from being the second most frequently used language for the production of content, which is a paradoxical situation for a language used in 22 countries by a community of 500 million persons.

He mentioned that Spanish is facing the following challenges, among others: 1) diffusion, teaching and a growing number of institutions offering exams and Spanish diplomas; 2) construction of digital spaces in Spanish, which allow the creation of public policies; 3) production of literary criticism beyond simple reviews; 4) construction of information containers to guarantee that historical memories are saved in Spanish.

As a side-event, a panel discussion was held with the participation of Luis Longoria (IAEA), Diana Páez (IAEA), Dorothee Gottwald (UNODC) and Cinthia Echavarría (CTBTO), who exchanged points of view about the use of Spanish in the international organizations based in Vienna.



Foto: Members of the Mexican community in Vienna: Karen Lázaro; Ma. Del Carmen Martínez; Ma. De Jesús Martínez; Xóchitl Guzmán; David Coutiño; Isabel Reyes; and Mariana Vázquez

Multilateral Mexico

Mexico participated actively in the 61st IAEA General Conference in Vienna



During the annual conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which took place from September 18th to 22nd, Mexico reaffirmed its commitment to nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful and safe use of nuclear energy. Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro presided over several plenary sessions and led the Mexican delegation formed by experts from the Ministry of Energy and the National Institute of Nuclear Research (ININ, for its acronym in Spanish).

During the conference, Mexico took over the presidency of the Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL), which concentrates on the safe use of nuclear energy in the fields of human health, agriculture, food and climate change in the region. As ARCAL president, Ambassador Buenrostro also presided over a four-party meeting with the other Regional Cooperation Agreements for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Asia, Africa and Asia-Pacific, held in the framework of the General Conference.

More information about the IAEA, the General Conference and Mexico's role in the IAEA:

<https://www.iaea.org/about/policy/gc/gc61>

Read the full speech of Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro during the 61st IAEA General Conference:

<https://embamex.sre.gob.mx/austria/images/Stories/OIEA/DOCUMENTOS/DecMexOIEACG2017.pdf>

Mexico and UNIDO strengthen cooperation in the field of renewable energy



Foto: Leonardo Beltrán, Under-Secretary of Energetic Planning and Transition (Ministry of Energy) and UNIDO Director General, Li Yong

During his visit in Mexico City to attend the event "Dialogues for the Future of Energy in Mexico" (September 11th to 13th, 2017), the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Li Yong, met the Minister of Energy, Pedro Joaquín Coldwell, and signed a Joint Declaration with the Under-Secretary of Energetic Planning and Transition, Leonardo Beltrán, regarding the diffusion of best practices for the development of

renewable energy and energy efficiency policies in the industrial sector. He also met the Executive Director of the Mexican Agency of International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID, for its acronym in Spanish), Agustín García López, with whom he spoke about the potential of the cooperation between Mexico and the UNIDO; the possibilities of harmonizing the cooperation programmes with Africa, among other countries; the organization of an industrial event; and the participation of Executive Director García López in the next UNIDO General Conference to be held in Vienna at the end of November.

Mexico will preside over COPUOS in 2018



Foto: International Space Station. UNOOSA. Source: un.org

Mexico was elected to preside over the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), which will hold its meetings in Vienna as from next June. COPUOS is one of the committees of the United Nations General Assembly and its aim is to foster international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer

space. In their technical-scientific and legal meetings, more than 80 Member States deliberate about cooperation actions and mechanisms regarding the use and development of satellites, communication systems, disaster prevention through satellite observation, space weather, sustainable use of the geostationary orbits, reduction of space debris, among other topics.

Apart from participating actively in the abovementioned Committee at technical level through the Mexican Space Agency, Mexico is also a party of the Treaties to regulate space and celestial bodies at international scale. Those are the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space; the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space; the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects; the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space; and the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. Mexico's COPUOS presidency will play a relevant role in 2018 due to the fact next year, the UNISPACE +50 Conference will be held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Use of Outer Space.

More information about COPUOS and Mexico's role in the Committee:

<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/copuos/index.html>

Mexico at an event held in Vienna on building smart sustainable cities



Mexico participated in the event *"Bridge for Cities: Developing Green Economies for Cities"*, organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) from September 26th to 28th, 2017, and aiming at offering assistance to the countries of the world to build smart sustainable cities with green economies and to cope with the challenges related to urban-industrial development, which cities along the Silk Road are facing. The event was attended by 632 participants from municipal administrations, entrepreneurs,

development agencies and the academic sector from 131 cities and 65 countries. Mexico was represented by Mr. Santiago Creuheras, Director General for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability of the Ministry of Energy and by members of the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the international organizations in Vienna.

Bilateral Relations

Fostering the commercial relation with Austria's region of Styria



On October 12th, Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro received the Head of the Internationalization Centre of Styria (ICS), Mr. Claus Tüchler, and Mrs. Alexandra Neugebauer, ICS project manager, at the headquarters of the Embassy. The meeting was aimed at exchanging point of view on the potential of the commercial relation between Mexico and the region of Styria, as well as exploring cooperation possibilities for a Styrian business delegation, that will travel to Mexico in 2018. They also exchanged ideas on Mexico's participation in the programme of activities the ICS will realize next year with special attention in Mexico and the countries of the Pacific Alliance.

Visit to the University of Economy of Bratislava



On October 10th, Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro paid a visit to the University of Economy of Bratislava and delivered a presentation to a students' group about the relationship between Mexico and the USA; the North-Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); and the diversification efforts carried out by Mexico.

She pointed out the role of Mexico as a

global player and in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Ambassador met the Vice Dean of the University of Economy of Bratislava, Boris Mattos, and thanked him for the kind invitation.



Mexico and Slovenia enhancing their bilateral cooperation



On September 20th, the Head of Chancery of the Embassy of Mexico, Ambassador Hermann Aschentrupp Toledo, realized a visit to the city of Ljubljana to meet with officials from the Slovenian Foreign Ministry in order to address different topics of the bilateral agenda and strengthen the relationship. He also met members of the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia with the objective of promoting the candidacy of Mexican Senator Gabriela Cuevas to the presidency of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) for the elections

held in Russia on October 18th, 2017.

Jalisco as a global benchmark for innovation and technology



Early in September, a delegation from the State of Jalisco met the mayor of the city of Linz in Upper Austria, Klaus Luger, to promote Jalisco as a global benchmark for innovation and technology and Guadalajara as a creative digital city. The meeting took place in the framework of the “*Ars Electronica Festival 2017: Artificial Intelligence*”. The delegation was formed by the Head of Chancery of the Embassy, Ambassador Aschentrupp Toledo; Jaime Reyes Robles, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology

of Jalisco; and representatives of Guadalajara city and the National Electronic Industry Chamber of Jalisco.

Human Rights

Mexico elected to the UN Human Rights Council

On October 16th, during the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mexico was elected as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the 2018-2020 term. The UNHRC is the highest intergovernmental body specialized in human rights within the United Nations system. It has 47 Member States and its aim is to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in the world.

The candidacy and ulterior election of Mexico to the UNHRC demonstrates that the promotion, the respect and the protection of human rights are one of the pillars of the Mexican Government's activities, apart from being one of the guiding principles of the Mexican foreign policy. During its term, the Government of Mexico has established the following objectives: 1. strengthen the role of the UNHRC as a body for promoting and protecting human rights at international scale; 2. promote a transversal human rights perspective in the work of the United Nations; 3. maintain an open and cooperative policy with respect to the international human rights institutions and mechanisms; and 4. continue working internally to incorporate highest human rights standards in relevant national laws and politics.

News from Mexico

Senator Gabriela Cuevas elected as President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

On October 18th, Senator Gabriela Cuevas Barrón, Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Mexican Senate, was elected as President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) for the 2017-2020 term, with a vast majority of votes (287 in favour of 361), at the elections held in the framework of the IPU General Assembly in San Petersburg, Russia, from October 14th to 18th. Senator Cuevas is the first woman to preside over this organization in its 128 years of existence. Her election means an acknowledgement of parliamentary diplomacy and a success for the Mexican legislative power, in particular, the Senate. The Embassy of Mexico carried out a significant promotional labour for this candidacy, not only in Vienna but also in Bratislava and Ljubljana.

Culture

Mexico's tradition of the “Day of the Dead”



The celebration of the “Day of the Dead” in Mexico, which is one of the main social and cultural expressions of the encounter between two worlds, was proclaimed Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by the UNESCO, in 2003. In order to explain this syncretism, it is the best to quote the following passages from the essay “*Que Viva el Día de los Muertos*” by José Eric Mendoza Luján, professor of the National Institute of Anthropology and

History, in which he summarizes it very clearly:

“The 2nd of November, apart from an agricultural festivity, is also a celebration related to the veneration for the ancestors, the dead. It is the time when the souls of dead beloved ones return home to live with their alive families. We must not forget that, in some indigenous groups, the ancestors, occasionally dignified, regulate the relations between humans.

Officially, according to the catholic calendar, the 1st of November is All Saints' Day and the 2nd of November is All Souls' Day. Nevertheless, in the popular tradition in great part of Mexico, the 1st of November is se dedicated to deceased children and the 2nd of November to deceased adults. This distinction of the dead depending on their age comes from the Pre-Hispanic era.

Fray Diego Durán's manuscripts say that the indigenous Aztec ritual had two celebrations dedicated to the deceased: *Miccailhuitontli*, the festivity for the “Little Dead”, was celebrated in the ninth month of the Aztec calendar, which is August in the Christian calendar; and the festivity for the “Grown-Up Dead” in the tenth month of the year. These celebrations were not only dedicated to the Dead, but had also an agricultural context, since the indigenous population feared that the climate conditions in that month (August for Christians) would destroy the harvest. Several years after the “Conquista”, Durán noted that they would give offerings to deceased children on All Saints' Day and the next day, to deceased adults, but not in August (like they did before), thus, dissimulating that they were celebrating their own festivities by apparently celebrating the Christian festivities. The offerings consisted in money, cocoa beans, wax, poultry, fruit, all kinds of seed and food.

In Spain, on the other hand, the cult of the dead also existed. The faith in the afterlife and veneration of the souls were immersed into very important rituals. As we can see, both ideological systems, incompatible at first sight, were coexisting: the European-Hispanic, on the one side, and the indigenous Pre-Hispanic, on the other side. The human being has the marvellous ability of adaptation, not only in the biological, but also in the cultural sense. The syncretism is not just a form of acculturation, it is also an amalgam of symbolical systems that gave birth to a new system of codices.

Therefore, it is not possible to claim that the festivities for the Dead are an evocation of the Pre-Hispanic past. On the contrary: they are a re-presentation of the identity, a re-creation of the origins of a syncretic and synthetic nation. The ideological and cultural systems, like human bodies, synthesize, merge, sum up, forming “mestizos” not only in our physical features, but also in our mentality and knowledge. We cannot conceive the new world without the perspective of the others we have become now.”

Cultural Institute of Mexico in Vienna (ICM)

Selected Mexican movies in the cinema festival ¡El Cine! 2017

This year, the cinema festival “¡El Cine! Contemporary cinema from Spain and Mexico” will take place for the third time at the *Blickle* cinema of the contemporary museum *21er Haus* in Vienna, from November 10th to December 1st, 2017, in cooperation with the Embassies of Mexico and Spain. The cinema will show selected movies from both countries, in Spanish with English subtitles. Admission free. Reservation required, by email (public@belvedere.at) or Online (<https://www.21erhaus.at/kalender-21erhaus>).

This year, the cinema festival includes the following Mexican movies:

- Sunday November 12, 4:00p.m.: “La delgada línea amarilla” by Celso García (95 min.) ►
- Sunday November 26, 4:00p.m.: “Oveja negra” by Humberto Hinojosa Ozcáriz (87 min.) ►
- Friday December 1, 6:30p.m. “Sunika Raku-Alegría Evanescence” by Hari Sama (113 min.) ►

Exhibition of Mexican artist Paula Flores at the ICM



Lo que baja de la montaña (2017): mixed technique on paper

On November 14th, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. the exhibition “La Semilla del Paraíso / The Seed of Paradise” of Mexican artist Paula Flores opened at the Cultural Institute of Mexico in Vienna (**Türkenstraße 15, 1090 Vienna**). The exhibition was inaugurated by Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro, in presence of the artist and the curator. It will be open to the public from November 16th until December 19th, 2017, in the following opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 2:30 to 6:00p.m. In addition, on November 17th at 6:30p.m., there is a curator's talk with Kóan Jeff Baysa (in English). Paula Flores is part of

the collective *Boiling Process*, formed by artists from Tijuana and Los Angeles. In October 2016, she received an “Artist-in-Residence” scholarship from the city of Vienna. In this context, she participated in the Vienna Art Week with an open workshop and a podium discussion. At the end of her residence, she organized an individual exhibition at the cultural centre *WUK* in Vienna.

4th “Literary Tuesdays” presenting “New translations!”

We kindly invite you to the 4th part of our cultural series “Literary Tuesday - Stories from Mexico”, which will take place at the ICM on November 28th, 2017, at 7:00p.m. under the title “New translations!” Dr. Helga Lion and students from the Centre of Translation Studies of the University of Vienna will present and read a text of Mexican author Margo Glantz, translated by the students themselves, the first existing translation into German. Bilingual lecture in Spanish and German. Admission free.

Culture

Reopening of the “World Museum Vienna”



Foto: weltmuseumwien.at/en/highlights/

On October 25th, 2017, the ethnographic museum of Vienna known as “World Museum Vienna” was reopened. The inauguration ceremony took place on *Heldenplatz* square with a cultural programme of Mexican musician and producer Alyosha Barreiro and the electronic music band Nok Niuk, among other international artists.

One of the outstanding objects of the World Museum Vienna is the famous Ancient Mexican feather headdress called “Penacho”, which is part of the museum's Mexican feather art collection. Please note that for every Mexican national who wants to take a look at this important piece of our national identity,

the entry to the museum is free of cost after presenting the Mexican passport.

Recommendation

Be part of the network “Red Global MX”!

The Government of Mexico determined that among its priority topics is the development of programmes of permanent networking with the white-collar Mexican diaspora, as well as the strengthening and consolidation of know-how pools through the Institute for Mexicans Abroad (*Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior*, IME). The new schema considers the necessity of leaving behind the “brain drain” concept and adopting a paradigm based upon knowledge circulation, aimed at fighting obsolete prejudices that still persist by thinking of expats like a permanent loss for their country of origin.

In this spirit, since 2005, joint efforts are being undertaken by the Foreign Ministry (though the IME); the Ministry of Economy; the National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT, for its acronym in Spanish); and the United States-Mexico Foundation for Science (FUMEC), in order to establish the *Network of Talented Mexicans Abroad* (today called the “Red Global MX”), which was officially launched in 2006. The “Red Global MX” is organized in local Chapters, which have administrative autonomy and freedom of action. In Europa, there are 17 Chapters up to know. These are Barcelona, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hessen, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland-Liechtenstein and the UK. The main objective is to help highly qualified Mexican nationals living abroad, whose links to particular sectors or businesses are of special value and can contribute to a better integration of Mexico into global economy.

More information about the “Red Global MX” and how to become a part of it:

<http://redtalentos.gob.mx/index.php>

