

News from Mexico

29th meeting of Mexican Ambassadors and Consuls 2018



On January 12th, the 29th session of the Annual Meeting of Ambassadors and Consuls of Mexico, created in 1990, was concluded. During six days of working sessions, the heads of the consular and diplomatic Representations of Mexico abroad, as well as the Missions to the International Organi-

zations, met in Mexico City to discuss and keep up on date on the recent developments and on the political, economic and social perspectives of our country. One of the central objectives of the meeting presided over by Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray Caso was to analyse the global environment and the main advances and challenges of Mexico's international action in 2018. In that sense, the guidelines of Mexican foreign policy and the main tasks for strengthening Mexico's position in the global environment were defined. Read full press release of the Foreign Ministry (in Spanish): <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/inicia-la-xxix-reunion-de-embajadores-y-consules-de-mexico-2018>

Five years transforming Mexico: priorities in 2018



In the fifth year of his term, the President of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto, established the priorities in 2018. On December 1st, he met at the National Palace with the members of his Legal and Expanded Cabinet and instructed all public servants to continue working and redoubling their efforts to combat insecurity, conclude the implementation of the New Educational Model, reduce poverty, enhance the economic transformation, and strengthen the presence of Mexico in the world. He specifically urged the institutions in charge of security to redouble their efforts in the surveillance and fight against crime, mainly in the 50 municipalities with the highest murder rates.

Mexico's Head of State also stressed the importance of continuing with the institutional strengthening of local police forces and making the necessary adjustments to achieve a more effective operation of the Accusatory Criminal Justice System, as well as to fulfil the pending commitments in the area of human rights. The President pointed out that there is still work to do to consolidate the National Anticorruption System and the National Transparency System, in order to guarantee that public services are professional, trustworthy and effective, like demanded by Mexican citizens.

More information (in Spanish) on Mexico's priorities in 2018 regarding security, education, poverty reduction, economy, reconstruction after earthquakes, and global responsibility: bit.ly/2Akr86x (Source: Presidential Office)

We also recommend you the publications "*Mexico in Transformation*" and "*Towards a stronger and more inclusive Mexico*", which give detailed information on the progress achieved in priority areas of the Mexican Administration. The recent editions of both publications are available on our Embassy's Website (only in Spanish):

- <https://embamex.sre.gob.mx/austria/images/Stories/Varios/MexTransforma/mexEnTransfene18.pdf>
- <https://embamex.sre.gob.mx/austria/images/Stories/EMBAJADA/OCDE Avances y desafios de las Reformas 2017.pdf>

Bilateral Relations

Mexico at the New Year's receptions of the Presidents of Austria and Slovakia



Foto: Presidential Office Austria - Carina Karlovits/HBF

On January 10th and 11th, Ambassador Hermann Aschentrupp Toledo, as Chargé d'affaires, a.i. of the Embassy, attended the receptions convened by the Presidents of Austria, Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen and Slovakia, Andrej Kiska,



respectively, on the occasion of the traditional New Year Greeting to the Diplomatic Corps accredited in their countries. During the ceremonies held at the National Palace of each country, Ambassador Aschentrupp thanked for the invitation and seized the opportunity to express to both Presidents the best wishes for 2018.

Multilateral Mexico

Mexico elected to chair the Commission on Narcotic Drugs



On December 8th, Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro Massieu was elected to chair the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The CND is the United Nations' body responsible for coordinating international efforts in the field of drug policy, based in Vienna. It is composed of 53 Member States, which are elected by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to ensure a geographically balanced representation, although the rest of the countries are allowed to attend as observers. Mexico will chair the CND throughout 2018, and one of its main responsibilities will be to facilitate negotiations on the logistical and substantive preparations of the High-Level Meeting, which the Commission will hold in 2019 to evaluate the Action Plan agreed by the international community in 2009. During the main session of the Commission from March 12 to 16, Member States will seek to adopt by consensus the mandates to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the world drug problem in areas like social, economic and health matters, human rights, justice, public safety and law

enforcement. The Commission will also comply with its obligations according to the international conventions on drugs to reduce the circulation of substances that threaten human health and well-being. On the occasion of her appointment as chairperson, Ambassador Buenrostro stated that the guiding principles of Mexico's CND Chair will continue to be transparency, plurality, balance and alignment of positions, but also the willingness to take further steps towards responding to the new dynamics and challenges of this global phenomenon.



Ban Ki-Moon Centre for Global Citizens.



On January 3rd, the inauguration of the new Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens took place in Vienna in the presence of Austria's Federal Chancellor, Sebastian Kurz, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Karin Kneissl. The Ban Ki-Moon Centre was established as an independent non-profit organization and as a quasi-international organization. It is co-chaired by the former Secretary General of the United Nations and by the former President of Austria, Heinz Fischer. Its purpose is to contribute to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals in priority areas such as leadership and mediation as tools for peace promotion, empowerment of women and youth, and education for global citizens. Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro met with former President Heinz Fischer on January 30th in order to discuss the potential of Mexico's cooperation with the new Centre.

Mexico participated in the panel discussion “Preventing domestic violence”



On January 11th, Ambassador Hermann Aschentrupp Toledo, as Chargé d'affaires, a.i., led the panel discussion "Preventing Domestic Violence", which was held within the framework of the annual conference of the Academic Council on the United Nations System in Vienna along with panellists Andrada Filip, project coordinator of Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE), Melanie Goisaufer, researcher at the University of Vienna, and Rosy Weiss, former president of the

International Alliance of Women (IAW). The Ambassador stressed that Mexico is aware that gender violence is one of the most serious violations of the rights of women and girls, which is why the country has implemented normative and programmatic actions aimed at eliminating violence domestic. He added that this issue has a global dimension, so the UN has decided that gender equality and the prevention of domestic violence should be included as a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Cultural Institute of Mexico in Vienna



New Year's gathering with the Mexican community at the ICM



On February 2nd, the Embassy of Mexico in Austria invited the Mexican community and the friends of Mexico to a New Year's gathering at the Cultural Institute of Mexico in Vienna (ICM), during which Ambassador Hermann Aschentrupp in the capacity as Charge d'affaires, a.i., greeted members of the Mexican community and shared information about the administrative errands that can be run at the Consular Section of the Embassy. After that, he invited the guests to have some Mexican snacks and beverages like Tamales and Atole, served by the Representation's staff.

Exhibition “Afelpados” with modern Oaxacan tapestry



Alacrán I - Francisco Toledo

The “Afelpado” arts studio was created in 2012 as an initiative of the Oaxacan artist Francisco Toledo, in order to introduce young artists into textile techniques. The result is a fusion of technique and creation, knowledge of the past and modern imagination. The exhibition “Afelpados” was inaugurated by Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro on January 15th, and will be open to the public until April 19th, 2018, at the ICM during the opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The exhibition includes works by Jan Hendrix, Trine Ellitsgaard, Francisco Toledo, James H. D. Brown, Miguel Castro Leñero, Francisco Castro Leñero, Irma Palacios, Guillermo Olguín, Paloma

Torres, Patricia Álvarez, Demián Flores, and Sabino Guis.

More information about the exhibition (Spanish and German):

<https://embamex.sre.gob.mx/austria/images/Stories/CULTURAL/Documentos/INVafelpados.pdf>

“Literature Tuesday” with poems by Sor Juana

Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz
Nichts Freieres gibt es auf Erden



On January 23rd, the first “Literature Tuesday” in 2018 took place at the Cultural Institute of Mexico, dedicated to the work of the emblematic Mexican writer Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, considered one of the most influential authors in the history of Latin American literature. Her lyrical texts about love and everyday life, and even the poems that constituted her reputation as the “first feminist”, had hardly been translated into German. The bilingual reading in Spanish and German was the presentation of the book titled “Nichts Freieres gibt es auf Erden” (*There is nothing freer on earth*) with poems by Sor Juana, translated into German by Heidi König-Porstner (Austria). The translations provide an enriching vision of the extensive and diverse work of Sor Juana and, at the same time, recognize the undisputed musicality of the poetess, also known as the “tenth muse”.

80th anniversary of Mexico's protest against the annexation of Austria



In 2018, the 80th anniversary of the historic Mexican protest before the League of Nations against the annexation of Austria into Nazi Germany in March 1938 will be commemorated. In order to celebrate this important historical date, the Embassy of Mexico in Austria will organize a series of commemorative events:

- A symposium on March 20th at the Law Faculty of the University of Vienna “*Juridicum*” under the title “*In the Spirit of Isidro Fabela: Mexican and Austrian Approaches to the Challenges of International Law*”, with the participation of Austrian and Mexican experts who will speak about international law and the importance of international relations.
- On March 21st, a string quartet of the Philharmonic Orchestra of Vienna will give the concert “*México and Austria, in memory of the 20th century*” at the “*Musikverein*” Vienna and play works of Austrian composers exiled in Mexico, such as Marcel Rubin and Hanns Eisler, as well as the well-known Mexican composer Silvestre Revueltas.
For more information and tickets: <https://www.musikverein.at/konzert/eventid/35540>
- The series of lectures “*Flagrante Violación*”, organized conjointly with the University *Karl-Franzens* of Graz, Styria, which will be inaugurated on March 14th with two lectures “Mexican diplomacy in the 30's and its present relevance” (Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro, Spanish translated simultaneously into German) and “Austrian exile in Mexico” (Dr. Christian Kloyber, in German). Also, on March 15th and 21st, the two documentaries “*Visa al Paraíso*” of Lilian Libermann about the Mexican Ambassador Gilberto Bosques and “*Volver la vista*” of Fridolin Schönwiese about Mexicans living in Austria and Austrians living in Mexico will be presented. Full programme of the series of events in Graz: https://static.uni-graz.at/fileadmin/gewi-institute/Translationswissenschaft/Flyer_WEB_UNI_GRAZ_MEXIKO1938.pdf

Colloquium of the Group “Amigos del Español”



(left to right) Ambassador of Spain, Gonzalo de Salazar, Ambassador of Mexico, Alicia Buenrostro Massieu, Jordi Kuhs, Bethy de la Cruz, and Paco Bernal

On January 26th, the colloquium "*The use of Spanish in international media*" was held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), organized by Mexico and Spain as part of the activities of the Group "Amigos del Español", with panellists Jordi Kuhs (journalist of the EFE news agency), Bethy de la Cruz (host of *Latin Lounge* on Radio Orange), and Francisco Javier Bernal (author of the Vienna Direct Blog), who exchanged opinions on how to intensify the use of Spanish in global media. Thanks to all the participants for your presence and your interest,

especially the members of the Spanish-speaking community in Vienna. It will be a pleasure to see you again next time!

(left to right) Vanessa Saavedra, Heinrich Schiefer, Roman Gartner, Horatiu Lucian Cernat, María Montserrat López, Bethy de la Cruz, Ana Isabel Vara, Francisco Bernal, Martin Ermler, German Escobar, Verónica Carrera, Diana Romo, Ana Haidée Desangles, Mirjana Tomić, Elmy Lemus Soriano, Alisson Espinosa, Alma Karen Cortés, Juan Jorge Bautista, and Alfonso González



Economy

Visit at the company MK Illumination in Innsbruck, Austria



© MK Illumination

On January 24th, Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro Massieu visited the company *MK Illumination* in the city of Innsbruck, Tyrol, where she was received by the company's president, Thomas Mark, and his partner in Mexico, José Alberto Vargas. *MK Illumination* is a world leader in design and production of Christmas lighting and decoration. The company is interested in venturing into the Latin American market and has chosen Mexico as a base for its operations in the region.

Press conference on Mexico's participation in the Hannover Trade Fair



On January 30th, Mexico was present at a press conference about its participation as Partner Country in the Hannover Trade Fair 2018 (*Hannover Messe*), which will be held next April. For the audience consisting of approximately 50 representatives of the media and Austrian companies, Ambassador Hermann Aschentrupp Toledo resumed the highlights of the trade relations between Mexico and Austria, and the advantages of Mexico as a trading partner. He also addressed some aspects related to the 2018 federal elections and the structural reforms in Mexico.

Academic cooperation

Panel discussion on “*Latin America, the Caribbean and 1968*”



On January 12th, Ambassador Aschentrupp Toledo, in the capacity as Chargé d'affaires, a.i., participated in the event "*Latin America, the Caribbean and 1968*", organized by the University of Vienna, the Research and Culture Association for Continental America and the Caribbean (KONAK Wien), the Embassy of Cuba and the Embassy of Mexico. Several experts from the academic sector delivered presentations about the student movements around the world during the emblematic year and analysed its repercussions in our modern times.

Call for participation

22nd Children's Painting Competition “*This is my Mexico 2018*”



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Institute of Mexicans Abroad (IME), invites all girls and boys to participate in the 22nd Children's Painting Competition "This is my Mexico: its history, traditions, gastronomy, beaches and music", which will be open for submissions **until May 31, 2018**. Every year, thousands of children from all over the world participate in the Children's Painting Competition "Éste es mi México" (This is my Mexico). There will be elected 12 winning drawings and 50 honourable mentions, which will be included into an itinerant exhibition to be inaugurated in Mexico City and then sent around the world. Mexico has an extraordinary past, millenary traditions, a gastronomy recognized worldwide, beaches that invite tourists from

all over the world, and its music, that reflects the memories, the landscapes and the beauties of the country.

Join in! Do some research and paint your Mexico, its traditions, gastronomy, beaches and music!

For more information on this competition and the terms of participation:

>>> <http://www.ime.gob.mx/esteismimexico2018/english.html>

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