

## **PRESIDENT OF MEXICO AND THE PRINCE OF WALES ANNOUNCES DUAL YEAR**

- **The President Peña Nieto reported that he will attend the invitation of HM Queen Elizabeth II to make a State visit to the UK in 2015.**

**NATIONAL PALACE., Mexico City, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2014.-** President Enrique Peña Nieto and HRH The Prince of Wales, today formally announced the Year of Mexico in the UK and the Year of the UK in Mexico in 2015.

During the event at the National Palace, President Peña Nieto said: "This simultaneous celebration is the ultimate expression of respect and recognition, friendship and solidarity between two nations. With a broad programme of activities both countries will promote a greater understanding between our societies and closer cooperation in all aspects of our bilateral relationship. "

The President said "we will take the best of Mexico to the UK and bring the best of that great nation to our country." with art exhibitions, gastronomy workshops, academic discussion forums, tourism promotion activities, business meetings and other activities,

Accompanied by his wife, Angelica Rivera de Peña, the Head of State added that the cultural heritage of Mexico will be showcased at the great exhibition "Maya, Revelation of an Endless Time" and at The London Book Fair in which Mexico will be the guest of honour.

"No doubt, all these sessions will strengthen the intercultural dialogue that our nations started nearly 200 years ago," he said.

President Peña Nieto said that with the Official visit to Mexico by HRH the Prince of Wales, accompanied by his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, "mutual respect and affection between British and Mexicans is confirmed."

President Peña Nieto reported that he will make a State visit to the UK in 2015 at the invitation of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

He asked that the Prince of Wales "convey to Her Majesty my gratitude and best wishes for her health and wellbeing for her and all the Royal Family" and sent warm greetings to all the people of the United Kingdom."

The Chief of State said that in Mexico "we remember with affection the UK was one of the first superpower nations to recognise our independence and establish business relationships with our emergent nation. Since that memorable event trust and friendship between our nations has strengthened, as reflected in different areas of the bilateral relationship. "

He noted that both countries "are increasingly taking advantage of complementary economic opportunities to grow together and improve the welfare of our people. Since the entry into force of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Mexico in 2000, trade between the UK and our country has grown by 153 percent. "

He added that "the interest in the opportunities that Mexico has to offer has been demonstrated in over 1400 British investment companies, mainly in the financial, mining and manufacturing sectors."

But beyond these economic indicators, he continued, "the most important is the closeness between our societies. For example, only in 2013, 414,000 Britons traveled to Mexico, which ranked the UK as the third nation in the world to visit us, and the first in Europe. "

Similarly, he commented that, "British universities are the second foreign destination that Mexicans choose to pursue postgraduate studies, attracted no doubt by the quality and tradition of their institutions as well as for the richness of their culture."

### **COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND MEXICO IS OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE; "TOGETHER I KNOW THAT WE WILL BUILD A LEGACY": CHARLES, PRINCE OF WALES**

HRH Charles, Prince of Wales, said that "Today, the ties that bind the British and Mexican people are stronger than ever. Whether in business, government,

education, science, sport, culture, trade, in fighting international crime, promoting human rights, or protecting the urban and natural environment. "

He was struck by the fascination that exists of one culture for another "and by the energy and goodwill that are generated when we work together." HRH said he could not be more pleased with the announcement that this already excellent relationship will be further enhanced over the course of 2015 through The Year of the UK in Mexico and The Year of Mexico in the UK.

HRH continued: "it seems to me that we are experiencing a new ímpetus in our relationship, with more of us visiting, working and studying in each other's countries than ever before," and explained the commitment the two governments have just made to achieve mutual recognition of educational qualifications will boost this trend further.

He emphasized the UK's interest in maintaining and strengthening the partner relationship with Mexico, and hoped his visit will help further to promote this process.

"The cooperation between the United Kingdom and Mexico is of the greatest importance. Together, I know we will build a legacy that will last well beyond 2015, into the centuries to come. " he concluded.

## **MEXICO AND THE UNITED KINGDOM SHARE A PAST OF FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING: MEADE KURIBREÑA**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jose Antonio Meade Kuribreña said that Mexico and the United Kingdom are "nations willing to build a future that enriches our societies through joint initiatives such as the Dual Year" and stressed that Mexico and the United Kingdom share a past of friendship, cooperation and understanding. "Our present mission for a fluid and frank dialogue is particularly fruitful," he said.

He noted that in recent months both countries have worked on and made significant progress towards a broad programme of activities to make the Dual Year 2015 a reality and said that it will provide a better mutual understanding and identification of new academic, cultural, educational, business and tourism opportunities.

He said the presence of Their Royal Highnesses in Mexico proves the deep friendship between two countries that share interests and agree on collective efforts. Meade concluded that "Together, we face global challenges such as climate change;

the pursuit of sustainable development and combating violence against women in armed conflict”.

### **MEXICO AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, CLOSE NATIONS, WITH A STRONG RELATIONSHIP BUILT UPON MUTUAL RESPECT AND AFFECTION: EPN**

Subsequently, at a banquet in honor of HRH the Prince of Wales, and his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, President Peña Nieto said that the UK and Mexico are close nations, with a solid relationship of mutual respect and affection built up over the last two centuries.

He stressed that "today, in the twenty-first century, we continue to build bridges between our societies, because we know that there are still pages of friendship and shared development to be written," He remarked that the presence of the Prince of Wales fifth visit to Mexico, helps to build the historic ties of friendship, brotherhood and cooperation between the two nations.

Meanwhile, the Prince of Wales thanked his hosts the reception he and his wife have had in Mexico. "What a great joy to return to Mexico and thank you for your wonderfully warm welcome and for your generous hospitality, "he said.

<http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/articulos-prensa/anuncian-el-presidente-enrique-pena-nieto-y-el-principe-de-gales-la-realizacion-del-ano-dual-mexico-reino-unido-2015/>

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