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MEXICO- SINGAPORE: STRATEGIC ALLIANCE



MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR

Enthusiastic and effusive was the opening of Singapore to the world after two years of pandemonium. October kicked off with the Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix, one of the most important on the international circuit, and the triumph of Sergio "Checo" Perez captivated the city-state, Mexico and the world. The strategic relationship between Mexico and Singapore and the economic, trade and investment promotion was widely commented on in the media of both countries. Of particular note was the trade mission of nine Singaporean companies to Mexico seeking to join North and Latin American value chains, an initiative spearheaded by the newly established Singapore-Mexico Chamber of Commerce and the Mexican Embassy.



In the second half of October, Singapore was once again the global hub for diversity and inclusiveness in energy, innovation, technology, agri-food, cybersecurity and digitalisation, bringing together hundreds of policymakers, businesspeople, entrepreneurs, academics and scientists from around the world. Singapore demonstrated that its presence on sustainability issues - the ability to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs - is among the most advanced on the planet. In addition, the new executive committee of the Association of Mexicans in Singapore was sworn in, and an award was presented to the young child Valentina Anais Fourteau Crisantes for her participation in the drawing contest "This is my Mexico".

Agustín García-López Loaeza
Ambassador



Triumph of Sergio Perez in the Formula 1 Grand Prix, Singapore.

After two years of the pandemic, Singapore fully opened up to the world with the spectacular Formula 1 Grand Prix, which broke the attendance record with 302,000 spectators and ended in the best possible way with the great triumph of compatriot Sergio "Checo" Pérez of the Red Bull team. The Singapore Grand Prix, held on Sunday 2nd October, is the only one in the world to be held at night on the main avenues in the centre of this City-State. It was Checo Pérez's second win in 2022 after winning the Grand Prix in Monaco last May.



Inauguration of expositions at the Embassy of Mexico in Singapur.

Two exhibitions were inaugurated in the premises of the Mexican Embassy: a) The Timeline of Mesoamerican Cultures, composed of eight medallions of seeds and grains handmade by distinguished members of the Mexican-Singaporean community, each one representing iconic monuments or symbols of pre-Hispanic civilisations. b) Ancient Mexican Codex, presenting replicas and graphic materials of the "Dresde", "Maya", "Tonalámatl", and "De la Cruz-Badiano" codices, which were provided by the National Institute of Anthropology and History.

The works and pieces from both exhibitions were previously displayed in the famous Flower Dome of the Gardens by the Bay botanical garden as two of the components of the majestic exhibition "Hanging Gardens, Mexican Roots", which the Embassy organised with La Jacaranda, the Association of Mexicans in Singapore and the botanical garden itself from 19 August to 25 September, and which was visited by more than 205,000 people.

From 3 to 7 October, a Mission to Mexico was carried out by Singaporean companies from the manufacturing sector, led by the Singapore Precision Engineering and Technology Association (SPETA) and Enterprise Singapore, with the collaboration and support of the Singapore-Mexico Chamber of Commerce and the Embassy of Mexico in Singapore. The delegation was composed of nine companies specialising in advanced



manufacturing, interested in exploring investment and sourcing opportunities for high-tech and precision manufacturing services (global value chains, Industry 4.0, manufacturing services, etc.) to strengthen specific niches in the manufacturing sector in Mexico. The activities carried out during this programme included: a) Work agenda in Guadalajara, Jalisco, where they visited plants with manufacturing operations, industrial parks, innovation and academic centres and met with officials of the Government of Jalisco; b) Participation in the Industrial Transformation Mexico, Hannover-Messe, visit industrial facilities in Guanajuato, meetings with the Government of that entity and with the private association "El Gran Bajío" (made up of business leaders from Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Michoacán, Querétaro and San Luis Potosí), in addition to holding a working breakfast with industrial clusters and representatives of the government of Nuevo León; c) They held meetings with different organisations, chambers and authorities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Photo: [The Straits Time](#) / [Note](#)

The Head of the Trade Negotiations Unit of the Ministry of Economy (SE) and the Director for APEC, Asia and Oceania of the Undersecretary of Foreign Trade of the SE participated in the 6th Meeting of the Commission of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TIPAT), which took place in Singapore on 8 October. The meeting was chaired by Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry, Gan Kim Yong, and

attended by ministers and senior officials from Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. The meeting was held in person for the first time since the pandemic and reviewed the progress made during the year, specifically on the implementation of TIPAT in the context of the economic recovery of COVID-19, highlighting the contribution of the Agreement to the global economy, as well as the growing interest shown by several economies to join the mechanism, in particular Malaysia whose legislative authorities ratified its incorporation to the Agreement, becoming the ninth economy to join the Agreement formally.



Inauguration of the new headquarters of the Singapore-Mexico Chamber of Commerce

On Monday, 10 October, the new headquarters of the Singapore-Mexico Chamber of Commerce (SgMxCham) was inaugurated at the premises of Interplex, a Singaporean specialised manufacturing company with operations in different cities in Mexico, headed by Alessandro Perrota, a founding member of the Chamber. The inauguration event was followed by the first meeting of the Board of Directors, which was chaired by Ambassador Agustín García-López Loaeza, in his capacity as Honorary President and the following members: Alessandro Perrota, CEO of Interplex; Alejandro Blanco, Executive Director of Plan B Ventures; Dorys Fierro Bernal, Executive Director of the Chamber; Azul Aguilar, Director of Community Outreach; Gerson Garduño, Liaison Officer between the Chamber of Commerce and the Embassy of Mexico in Singapore; and virtually linking Luis Coronado, President of the Chamber; Francisco Ríos, Board Director; Chandra Mohan, Legal Consultant and Ari Ben Saks (Chamber representative in Mexico).

New committee of the Association of Mexicans in Singapore

On the same day, the new executive committee of the Mexicans Association in Singapore (MEXASING) was formed at the Mexican Embassy. Its new president is Frida Carrillo Brito, a resident in Singapore since 2020, replacing Nancy Rodea, who was at the head of the Association since October 2021. MEXASING is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation focused on the support and development of the Mexican community. Its activities focus on organising cultural events and workshops for the Mexican community to promote Mexican culture in Singapore and strengthen integration and intra-community support. MEXASING started its activities in 2010 to support the Mexican resident community. It is one of the most active and prominent foreign community associations in Singapore and a key partner of the Mexican Embassy in Singapore.

www.mexasing.org



SIEW, Singapore International Energy Week

The 15th edition of the Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) was held from 25 to 28 October, with the participation of more than 10,000 energy professionals and young people from more than 80 countries. The theme of the Energy Week was A Resilient and Sustainable Energy Future. In his opening remarks, Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said that energy issues continue to loom large in countries around the world. While all countries seek energy security, some have had to turn to fossil fuels because of the high competition between them. He said the energy and climate crises have become a vicious circle. The world cannot afford to choose between energy and climate crises. To have energy security, it is necessary to solve the climate crisis. In that sense, he announced that Singapore will reach the goal of zero net emissions by 2050 in accordance with the commitment reached last year in Glasgow at COP-26.



Radio interview: 'The View Building Business Bridges with Mexico'

In the radio interview entitled 'The View: Building Business Bridges with Mexico', in the segment The Afternoon Update with Rachel Kelly on Money FM 89.3, Ambassador Agustín García-López Loaeza highlighted the most critical aspects of the bilateral relationship and the great potential of the relationship within the framework of the Pacific Alliance, where Singaporean companies wish to become more integrated into the value chains of North and Latin America as illustrated by the recent trade mission to Mexico, as well as the recent creation of the Singapore-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, a new trade and investment promotion entity promoted by the Embassy of Mexico in Singapore.

[Link to the interview.](#)

[Link to the note.](#)

The Seventh Singapore International Cyber Security Week (SICW), the most important cybersecurity event in the Asia Pacific, organised by the Cybersecurity Agency of Singapore (CSA), was held from 17 to 20 October. Under the theme Digital Security: Shared Responsibility, representatives from various countries, industry leaders and academics from around the world discussed initiatives and projects to boost cybersecurity capacity building, foster international collaboration in the context of an increasingly sophisticated cyberspace threat landscape, and explore strategies to circumvent volatile power relations between countries and non-state actors.



They also shared information, strategies, use of information technologies and best practices, aiming to advance the formulation of global policies and standards that contribute to forming a secure, trusted and resilient cyberspace ecosystem. The event was opened by Mr Teo Chee Hean, Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for the National Security of Singapore. The Ministers of Communications and Cyberspace Affairs from Brunei Darussalam, the Czech Republic, Ghana, New Zealand, the Philippines, and the United Kingdom participated. The Ambassadors for Cyber and New Technologies from Australia, Estonia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America were present, as well as the heads of the cybersecurity departments or agencies of Australia, Canada, China, the Russian Federation, Mauritius, Malaysia, the Czech Republic and Singapore, who also spoke with various representatives of private sector companies such as Huawei, Microsoft, CISCO, NTT, among others. Mexico was the only Latin American country at the event and was represented by Isaac Morales Tenorio, Coordinator for Multidimensional Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who participated in roundtable discussions on capacity building for resilience in the cyber world as a key element of cooperation in the field, and shared Mexico's work in the Presidency of the Working Group on Cooperation and Confidence Building Measures in Cyberspace of the Organization of American States (OAS).



XXVI edition of the Children's Drawing Contest "This is my Mexico"

On 21 October 2022, a ceremony was held to present the diploma of recognition, as well as the corresponding prize, to the winner based in Singapore of the XXVI edition of the Children's Drawing Contest "This is my Mexico", Valentina Anais Fourteau Crisantes, with her drawing, "Mexico-The Land of Bats". The ceremony was presided over by Ambassador Agustín-García López Loaeza, with the presence of all Embassy staff. The winner was accompanied by her mother, Mrs Sunny Crisantes Ramos. Valentina said of her drawing that "bats are fantastic animals; there are many of them in Mexico; I wish the whole world could see them as I do". The winner was given a tour of the "Time Line" exhibition on display at the Embassy's premises in the form of seed medallions representing elements of the pre-Hispanic history of our country, as well as reproductions of Mexican codices. The importance of the bat in the construction of the mythology of the cultures of pre-Hispanic Mexico was highlighted to Valentina, as well as its importance for the biodiversity of our country.



SWITCH, Singapore Week of Innovation and Technology

Parallel to the International Energy Week, the Singapore Week of Innovation and Technology (SWITCH) brought together leaders, entrepreneurs, creators, accelerators and investors from the Global-Asia innovation ecosystem to exchange new ideas, opportunities and lines of activities focused on innovation and technology. The Singapore government announced that it would invest \$50 million to attract and develop talent in the field of artificial intelligence, establish three innovation hubs to support small and medium-sized enterprises and promote the fashion industry to be more sustainable as it is responsible for 10% of annual global carbon emissions. On the startup front, the government-owned Enterprise Singapore announced that four unicorn startups (not listed on a stock exchange and valued at more than one billion dollars) have been created by 2022.



SIAW, Singapore International Agri-Food Week

Similarly, the Singapore International Agri-Food Week (SIAW) was held from 25 to 28 October, where agri-food security, capacity and resilience were the main theme. Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policy, announced that Singapore would allocate an additional US\$165 million to research and development to improve productivity and nutritional qualities in crops and aquaculture to increase resistance to disease and climate change as part of a strategy that includes the introduction of new foods such as alternative proteins. The Guanajuato-based company Biokrone (a sustainable biotechnology company that has won several awards for its innovation in Mexico) attended the event at the invitation of Enterprise Singapore, an agency of the Singapore government.



The Ambassador Agustín García- López Loaeza spoke with Nakamitsu Izumi, General Subsecretary of UN and High Representative on Disarmament Issues, following his attendance at the ASEAN-Plus Defense Ministers' Meeting hosted by Singapore to discuss issues related to chemical, biological and radiological threats.



30th Anniversary of the Singapore Cooperation Programme

On the 30th Anniversary of the Singapore Cooperation Programme, the flagship platform for technical cooperation with developing countries, Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs, unveiled the launch of the Sustainability Action Package initiative, which aims to continue to support the development, sustainability and climate change needs of those countries that require it. The Cooperation Programme was created in 1992 to reciprocate the generosity of the international community that contributed to the formation of Singapore in 1965, the year of its independence from Malaysia. More than 150,000 foreign officials have benefited from the Programme.



Students' visit from Tecnológico de Monterrey

On 26 October, Ambassador Garcia-Lopez received 10 students from 9 campuses and various majors (engineering, marketing, business) of the Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey. The group was led by Professor Edgar Guzmán, who has coordinated such study trips to Singapore on several occasions to give the students a first-hand look at successful innovation policies and economic development and to explore business and trade opportunities in Singapore. The group's visit marked the resumption of the Mexican university's study programme in the City-State after the pandemic outbreak.



Participation in the Nearshoring Opportunities in Mexico

Ambassador Agustín García-López Loaeza participated in the panel Nearshoring Opportunities in Mexico, an event held within the framework of the Industrial Transformation ASIA-PACIFIC-a HANNOVER MESSE, a strategic platform that accompanies the industry with technological advances such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and digitalisation, among others. Ambassador García-López referred to the strengths and opportunities offered by Mexico as a centre of advanced manufacturing for the integration of global value chains in North America and Latin America, as well as the IMMEX and PROSEC programmes, which raise the competitiveness of companies and facilitate their incorporation into the global market.



Singapore Specialty Coffee Auction 2022

On 25 October, the third edition of the "Singapore Specialty Coffee Auction 2022" was held as part of the Food and Hotel Asia-HORECA 2022 ("Hotels, Restaurants and Catering") at the Singapore Expo convention centre. Specialty coffee buyers participated in the event in person and virtually, offering bids for 50 micro-lots of coffee from 17 participating countries through the support and collaboration of the embassies of Colombia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, India, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Rwanda (www.fhaHoReCa.com). The San Juan del Vesubio and Finca Jade farms, both from the state of Chiapas, participated on behalf of our country.



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