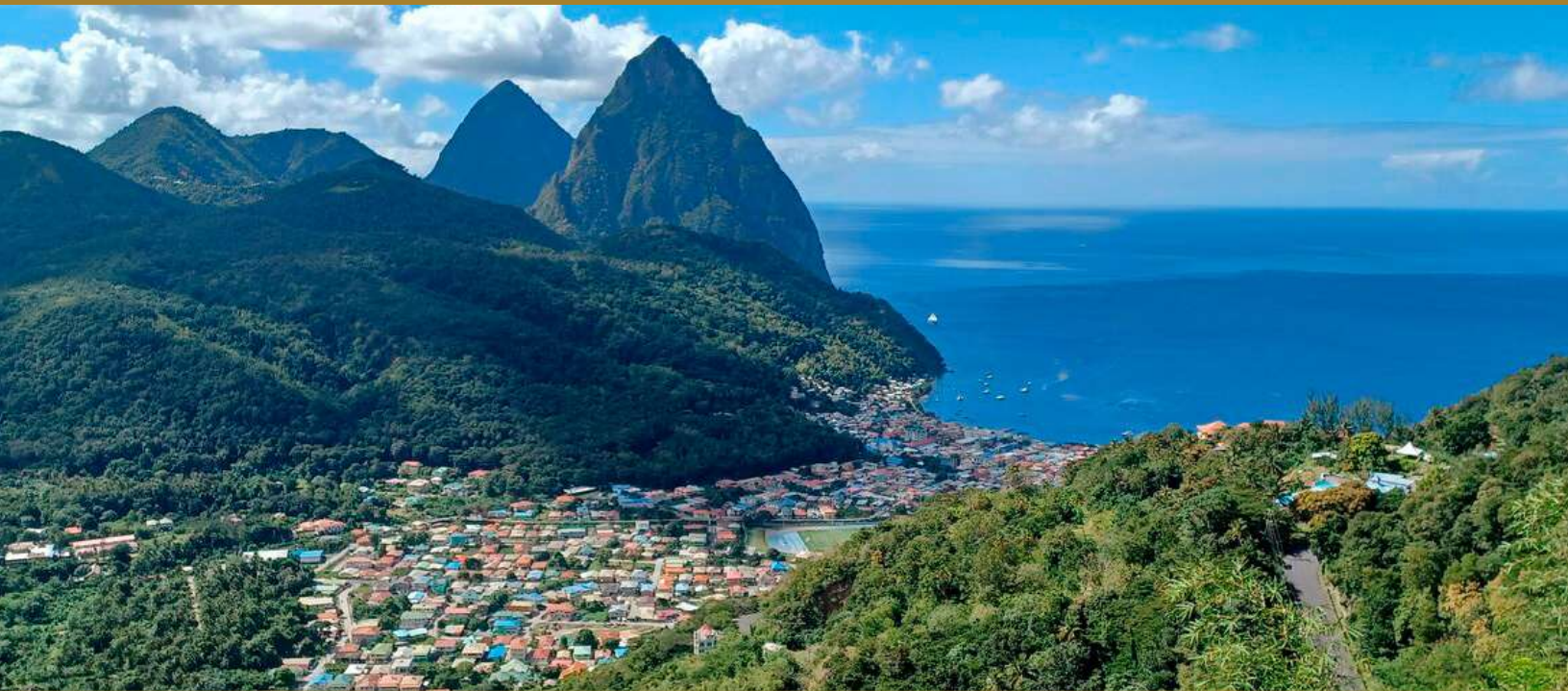




#MexicoIsCaribbean

ANNUAL BULLETIN 2024

Undersecretariat for Latin America and the Caribbean / General Directorate for Central America and the Caribbean



The Caribbean is important to Mexico, and Mexico is important to the Caribbean. Proof of this was the presence at the highest level by various Caribbean countries during President Claudia Sheinbaum's Inauguration Ceremony on October 1, 2024.



Mexican Embassies in the Caribbean:

- ◆ Embamex Dominican Republic.
- ◆ Embamex Trinidad and Tobago.
- ◆ Embamex Guyana.
- ◆ Embamex Cuba.
- ◆ Embamex Haiti.
- ◆ Embamex Saint Lucia.
- ◆ Embamex Jamaica.





ANNUAL BULLETIN 2024: MEXICO IS CARIBBEAN

Mexico is proudly Caribbean, not only because of its geographic location, but also because of its historical and cultural identity. The gastronomy, music and traditions of the Caribbean region are intertwined with Mexican culture, creating a rich heritage that strengthens our ties with the countries with which we share the splendid sea that gives its name to our region.

It is common to read and hear about Mexico's Latin American identity, but there is less talk about its belonging to the Caribbean. It is a pleasure for me to present this Annual Bulletin, which reflects the work that our embassies in that region have carried out throughout 2024. On each page, you will be able to appreciate the actions that the government of Mexico is promoting, aimed at addressing the common challenges we face and strengthening our ties with the Caribbean through cooperation and dialogue.

I am convinced of Mexico's relevance in the region, maintaining a respectful and inclusive style of leadership with the Caribbean countries, promoting a robust agenda that allows us to take advantage of the opportunities the region offers and to join efforts aimed at shared well-being.

In the government of president Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo, Mexico's relations with the Caribbean will be based on four pillars: cooperation, coordination of multilateral positions, trade and interconnectivity. Cooperation will continue to be the gateway to new and better opportunities; the promotion of common positions will generate mutual trust and strong alliances; trade will boost the development of our economies; and connectivity will invigorate and facilitate regional dialogue.

The Caribbean is important to Mexico and Mexico is important to the Caribbean. It was very gratifying to note the support, at the highest level, that various Caribbean countries gave to president Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo during her Inauguration Ceremony: the president of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel; the president of Dominica, Sylvanie Burton; the president of the Dominican Republic, Luis Abinader; the prime minister of Saint Lucia, Philip J. Pierre, and the presidential advisor of Haiti, Régine Abraham. Caribbean representation clearly demonstrates the strength of our relationship.

I wish to emphasize that, actively committed to regional prosperity and well-being, Mexico seeks to be an active and responsible partner with our Caribbean allies, promoting integration, political dialogue and cooperation for development, with the aim of building a more prosperous, stable and cohesive region. Accordingly, Mexico participates fully committed in regional forums such as the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the International Seabed Authority (ISA), and as an observer to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), in addition to being a non-borrowing member of the Caribbean Development Bank.

I thank readers for their interest in learning more about the intense diplomatic activity in the region and our government's commitment to continue building a more prosperous future and full of opportunities for the people of the Caribbean.



Juan Ramón de la Fuente Ramírez

Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the United Mexican States
Mexico City, December 2024



Embassy of Mexico in Dominican Republic

Relations between Mexico and the Dominican Republic are based in a context that currently provides bilateral and regional opportunities in areas such as commerce & investment, political dialogue and cooperation. Based on this platform, the embassy has launched an ambitious plan of activities and events throughout this year.

Economic relations

Commerce & investment

In 2024, Mexico kept his position as the second largest investor in the Dominican Republic. Our accumulated investment goes over 10 billion dollars that helps to create more than 35 thousand direct jobs. The main areas for telecommunications, construction, food, tourism and harbor infrastructure.

In this context, the embassy focused on strengthening the active presence of Mexican investors in the country as well as on helping to attract new ones. A Good example of the above is the opening of a new beverage production plant by Bepensa Dominicana, in February. The investment went over 20 million dollars. The opening event hosted president Luis Abinader, who underscored the contributions of the Mexican investment for the development of the Dominican Republic.

The Dominican-Mexican Chamber of Commerce and Investment (CADOMMEX) has been the institutional channel to attract new Mexican investors. Thus, the Embassy has hosted several meetings with businesspeople from sectors such as leather, footwear, supplies, construction, among others, interested in settling in the



The ambassador Aysa and president Abinader during the inauguration of the Bepensa plant.

country. In this framework of collaboration with CADOMMEX, the embassy participated in meetings with vice-president Raquel Peña on March 11th and May 1st.



The touristic industry has been one of the main ecosystems for development powered by the administration of president Abinader. There is Mexican investment in Taino Bay, Cabo Rojo, Pedernales and Arroyo Barril-Samaná not only for cruises but also for cargo. Mexico also participates in the development of the touristic infrastructure and has a remarkable presence at different levels in many hotels' chains throughout the country.

The Dominican Republic has boosted its aerial connectivity as a strategy to feed its touristic industry. In the last

quarter of 2024, there are 35 frequencies between both countries,¹ which accentuates the flow of tourist both ways. With this in mind, the embassy participated in a meeting with the Mexico City's Secretary of Tourism, on March 4, looking at ways to strengthen Mexico City as an important destination for Dominicans.

1. Aeromexico: seven weekly frequencies between Mexico City and Santo Domingo; Aracet: seven weekly frequencies between Santo Domingo and Mexico City, seven weekly more between Santo Domingo and Cancun; plus seven weekly frequencies between Punta Cana and Mexico City, and seven more between Punta Cana and Cancun.



Participation of the Mexican contingent in the military parade on February 27.

Political dialogue

The political understanding between Mexico and the Dominican Republic is grounded on shared values. This sets a favorable environment for resuming the institutional mechanisms for dialogue that began just in 2021.

Mexico was the only country invited to participate at the military parade held to commemorate the 180th anniversary of the Independence on February 27th.

Mexico was respectfully represented by cadets from the Military Academy and the Air Academy. This demonstrates the proximity between our countries. Another example of the strong bilateral relations was the unconditional support rendered by the Ministry of Defense for an evacuation of the Mexican diplomats posted in Haiti after the disturbs during the first quarter of 2024.



Undersecretary Laura Carrillo and ambassador Aysa with president Abinader during the inauguration.

Mexico was also invited to participate as electoral observer during the polling Day on may 19th. Only few embassies were invited, which is a direct result of the positive dialogue and the trust that Dominican authorities have on the Mexican democracy.

Furthermore, the embassy had a privileged treatment during the activities around the Presidential Inauguration Ceremony on August 16th. Mexico was represented by the then undersecretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, Laura Elena Carrillo.

The embassy has great dialogue and proximity with president Abinader's Cabinet. Remarkably, with the ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defense, Industry, Commerce

and SMES, and Sports. These contacts have contributed to successfully promote the interests of Mexico, and the Mexicans, in the Dominican Republic.

Lastly, in collaboration with the General Directorate for Central America and the Caribbean, and the Mexican Baseball League, the Consular Section of the embassy granted visas for more than 80 baseball players who joined Mexican ball teams. To commemorate 136 years of diplomatic relations, several games were held with Dominican and Mexican players.

Cooperation

Technical and scientific cooperation has been one of the most important tracks for the bilateral relation. Thanks to this, Mexico has become one of the most robust bilateral, triangular, and multilateral cooperants in the Dominican Republic.

On March 6th, Mexico co-chaired the First Meeting of the Mesoamerica project's Executive Commission, and on June 14th also joint the Commission's Second Meeting. On April 2nd, the embassy organized a ceremony to deliver the certificates of the Technical Assistance Project for the Strengthening of Capacities in the Efficiency of Water Use in Agricultural Irrigation and Energy Use. Moreover, on May 8th the Mission held a meeting with Mexico Schools' principals to deliver economic resources. Also, the embassy followed up with the cooperation Project for Food and Nutritional Security and Family Agriculture of the Dominican Republic through the Mesoamerica without Hunger program led by AMEXCID and FAO.



First meeting of the Executive Committee of the Mesoamerica Project.

We have a solid cooperation agenda. Thus, it is convenient to keep feeding Mexico's cooperation leadership and open new strategic areas. As an example, different industries related with the Mexico-Dominican Republic agenda, have demonstrated an avid interest in discovering details about the inter-oceanic train and the positive effects that

could generate in the Dominican Republic. Lastly, there are considerable opportunities in the academic sector, specially, to regain the role that Mexico played in college education for foreign students in past decades. Currently, we have witnessed an increasing number of Dominican scholarship undergraduate and graduate students that have applied and been accepted by Mexican universities. This is an excellent opportunity to strengthen social and professional ties, which will position Mexico as an academic destination for the Dominican Republic and the region. The most solicited programs are in medicine, gastronomy, and engineering.



There is an increase in the number of scholarship holders and undergraduate and graduate students who wish to study in Mexico.



Activities organized by the embassy

The embassy is committed to bring more, and the best, of Mexico to the Dominican Republic. With this in mind, the Mission has organized several activities with a two-fold purpose: first, promote our traditions; second, to present a cohesion opportunity for the Mexican and Mexican-origin community here.

The embassy's mission has been to work for and with the Mexican community, aiming to become a unifying element. In this regard, it worked hard during the credentialing process for the presidential election on June 2nd. Also, the embassy works closely with community leaders to invited Mexican have their documents in order. Among many other activities, the embassy organized the King Cake, and tamales on February 2nd, also the Natio-

nal Day Party and the Day of the Dead celebrations. Remarkable, the National Day, on september 13th, hosted over 800 attendants, with the notable presence of the minister of Foreign Affairs, Roberto Álvarez Gil.

Also, the festivities of the Day of the Dead, on November 1st and 2nd, received around 1,000 visitors, between Mexicans, Dominicans, and other foreigners. This demonstrates the vivid interest for what is Mexican. This celebration started with a Catrina parade on the famous Las Damas Street, at the heart of Santo Domingo's historic center, and gathered children and adults. On november 2nd, "A story telling activity" was held for Mexican and Mexican origin children, with the purpose of bringing to them elements of our national identity.



Catrina parade in the historic center of Santo Domingo.



Embassy of Mexico in Trinidad and Tobago



Foreign minister Alicia Bárcena and foreign minister Amery Browne.

Trinidad and Tobago is a Caribbean nation with an economy marked by its wealth of natural resources, especially oil and natural gas.

In 2024, debates began on structural reforms focused on modernizing the regulatory framework and optimizing public resource management. Additionally, the political environment was characterized by attacks between political parties, as a prelude to next year's general elections. In this context, the embassy of Mexico has

worked diligently to advance the strengthening of the bilateral relationship. Some of the achievements include the following:

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Mechanism for Bilateral Consultations between Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago, which, after 58 years of relations, represents an important step in consolidating the bilateral relationship and reaffirms the commitment of both countries to shared development in the Caribbean.



Presentation of a military award to the chief of the General Staff of Trinidad and Tobago, vice-marshal Darryl Daniel.

As a reflection of a strong relationship, the ambassador of Mexico awarded a distinction to Air vice-marshal Darryl Daniel, chief of Defence Staff of Trinidad and Tobago, in recognition of his outstanding efforts to strengthen military collaboration between the two nations.

In consular matters, for the first time, an embassy in the Eastern Caribbean participated in the Consular Entrepreneurship Program for Mexican Women Abroad and was the only one in the Caribbean to hold National Sports Week, offering a workshop on Mexican folk dance. In the field of preventive protection meetings were also held with Mexican temporary workers employed in Trinidad and Tobago.



Participants in the Consular Entrepreneurship Program for Mexican Women Abroad.

Mexico's commitment to cooperating with the region was reaffirmed with the virtual inauguration of the Geospatial Observation Center, a joint project between Mexico and the University of the West Indies. This initiative, led by Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography, will strengthen geospatial monitoring and analysis in the Caribbean, providing key data for disaster prevention, climate change mitigation, and natural resource management.



Dr. Bheshem Ramlal, dean of the Faculty of Engineering at UWI.



The ambassador Víctor Hugo Morales with members of the Kaliña indigenous group of Suriname.

The embassy of Mexico exercised indigenous diplomacy to emphasize Mexico's commitment to equity and dignity for Indigenous peoples. Highlights included the sessions of GAWI: An Ancestral Dream of the Rarámuri, which, through virtual reality, allowed participants to experience the life of this indigenous group; as well as; solidarity activities with original peoples in Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname, including the First People of Santa Rosa, the Warao Nation, and the Kaliña group in Suriname.

These actions reaffirmed Mexico's commitment to the recognition of Indigenous rights in the region and promoted the recent reform of Article 2 of the Mexican Constitution.

Mexico has positioned itself as a leader in promoting human rights in Trinidad and Tobago, particularly in gender equality, women's rights, and LGBTIQ+ inclusion. In line with the Feminist Foreign Policy, the embassy hosted the annual meeting of the NGO Soroptimist, where Mexico highlighted its actions on gender equity and empowerment; conducted an awareness session on gender-based violence with the NGO rape Crisis Society; and participated in the cedaw Committee forum, "Advocating through Partnerships for Substantive Gender Equality," in commemoration of efforts to prevent violence against women, in addition to campaigns within the framework of "Orange Day".



Gender violence awareness event.



Talk in Spanish with students from "Bishop Anstey East School".

To consolidate Spanish as a second language in Trinidad and Tobago, the embassy promoted its dissemination in schools, companies, and local institutions through interactive sessions and donated Mexican books to the Trinidadian National Library.

The second visit of a business delegation to Trinidad and Tobago took place to participate in the Trade and Investment Convention, the leading trade and investment fair in the Eastern Caribbean and commercial and investment promotion meetings were held with key sectoral chambers and Trinidadian companies.



Meeting with Phoenix Park chairman Dominic Rampersad.



Visit the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs www.gob.mx/sre





Tequila tasting in Port of Spain.

The embassy promoted tequila as a national icon through four tastings in Port of Spain, in collaboration with the National Chamber of the Tequila Industry and expert Víctor Martínez Quezada, aimed at importers, distributors, and authorities, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Tequila Denomination of Origin. As a legacy, the “Tequila Scarlet Ibis” cocktail, a fusion of Mexican and Trinidadian elements, was introduced. These activities raised awareness about tequila and encouraged local distributors to expand their offerings.

Barbados

Positioned as regional leader with an agenda focused on sustainable development and climate resilience through the Bridgetown 3.0 Initiative, which seeks to reform the global financial system to support vulnerable countries in facing the impacts of climate change.

Domestically, it continues working on drafting a new constitution that reaffirms its sovereign identity and reflects the reality of an independent nation.

The embassy in Port of Spain is concurrently accredited to Barbados and has worked to promote bilateral relations, highlighting the following achievements: The meeting between Mexico’s secretary of Foreign Affairs, Alicia Bárcena, and the prime minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley, at the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), where they reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening friendship and cooperation in areas of common interest between Mexico and Barbados.



Prime minister of Barbados Mia Mottley and Mexican foreign minister Alicia Bárcena.



The ambassador Víctor Hugo Morales and the director of Bilateral Relations of Barbados, Donna Ford.

Ongoing discussions reaffirmed the shared interest in elevating the level of bilateral relations and strengthening cooperation. Both countries agree on the value of the Mechanism for Consultations on Matters of Common Interest as a tool to promote mutual understanding and achieve objectives that benefit their peoples within the Caribbean and regional context.

The signing by the ambassador of Mexico of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Area of Integrated Disaster Risk Management between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union, held in Bridgetown, held a meeting with minister of Home Affairs, Wilfred Abrahams, to present Mexico's experience in resilient infrastructure.



Ambassador Víctor Hugo Morales and the commissioner of the European Union, Janez Lenarčič.



Ambassador Víctor Hugo Morales and crew of the Mexican ARM Guanajuato Ship.

Was also welcomed, the crew of the Mexican Navy vessel ARM Guanajuato, which participated in the Tradewinds 2024 naval exercise to enhance operational skills and regional

interoperability in addressing common security challenges. In the consular sphere, a preventive protection meeting was held with 36 temporary workers employed in Bridgetown.



Ambassador Víctor Hugo Morales Meléndez, foreign minister of Suriname Albert Ramdín and Daniel Cámara, general director of the American Regional Organizations and Mechanisms.

Surinam

Suriname stands out for its leadership in climate resilience, maintaining near-zero CO₂ emissions thanks to its extensive forest cover, which absorbs more carbon than the country emits. In the energy sector, successful new explorations have been made, ensuring a promising future for the country, while also representing an outstanding opportunity for Mexican investments in the energy sector.

In 2024, Suriname reinforced its position as a regional leader in sustainability and Caribbean cooperation by hosting the Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS); the country is also preparing for its national elections in 2025.

In this context, the embassy of Mexico in Port of Spain, concurrently accredited to Suriname, undertook the following actions: Coordinated a bilateral meeting between the general director of Organizations and Mechanisms, Daniel Cámara, foreign minister of Suriname Albert Ramdín and ambassador Víctor Hugo Morales Meléndez. Suriname, ambassador Albert Ramdín, in which Mexico's leadership was

highlighted, the potential for collaboration in the energy sector was highlighted, and interest in advancing connectivity agreements was expressed. Within the framework of a stronger relationship, Mexico and Suriname are jointly promoting regional development and bilateral cooperation.

The First Mexican Film Festival was held in Suriname, at the headquarters of the Anton de Kom University, which had the special participation of chancellor Albert Ramdín, who highlighted cultural diplo-



Suriname's foreign minister, Albert Ramdín, at the opening of the Mexican Film Festival in Paramaribo.



Suriname's foreign minister Albert Ramdin and the Mexican ambassador meeting in Port of Spain.

macy as a tool for dialogue between peoples. This event was very well received and strengthened the visibility of Mexican culture in Suriname through cinema.

With the goal of strengthening bilateral dialogue, the ambassador of Mexico met with the foreign minister of Suriname, Albert Ramdin, to congratulate him on his successful and fruitful presidency of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee of ECLAC, during his visit in Port of Spain.

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)



Daniel Cámara, general director of American Regional Organizations and Mechanisms, with the president of Suriname, Chandrikapersad Santokhi.

In 2024, the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Association was celebrated with actions of reflection and analysis on the achievements and challenges faced by the Greater Caribbean. Mexico has been a key driver in this process, advancing initiatives through its Permanent Representation to the ACS:

At the 29th Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers, Mexico supported the initiation of an introspection process to create

the ACS's first Strategic Plan. This plan will enable the effective mobilization of resources, knowledge, and technologies, leading to better policymaking and project management to address the challenges of the Greater Caribbean in the 21st century.

In recognition of its efforts, Mexico was re-elected as chair of the Special Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, a position that allowed it to oversee the closing workshop of the Integrated Territorial Platform for the Caribbean (PITCA).



Ambassador Víctor Hugo Morales at the ACS Disaster Reduction Committee.



Inauguration of the Colloquium “30 Years of the Association of Caribbean States: Progress, Challenges, and Opportunities.”

At the 8th ACS International Cooperation Conference, Mexico contributed by presenting, through the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), a proposal to support the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a Special Zone for Sustainable Development.

At the initiative of the Representation of Mexico in Port of Spain, it co-organized the International Colloquium “30 Years of the Association of Caribbean States: Progress, Challenges, and Opportunities” at the National School of Higher Studies in Mérida, Yucatán, an event that included

the participation the general secretary of the ACS, as well as officials and academics from the region, in which alternatives for possible actions to strengthen the Association were debated.



On behalf of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, he contributed with a proposal to support the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a Special Zone for Sustainable Development.



Embassy of Mexico in Guyana



In Mexico City, ambassador Ally of Guyana met with the undersecretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, accompanied by the general directors and the Mexican ambassador to Guyana, Mauricio Vizcaino.

Trade and investment promotion

Guyana's economy has consistently ranked among the world's top performers, demonstrating remarkable resilience and growth. In 2022, the nation achieved an impressive GDP growth rate of 62%, in 2023 it was 33% and projections for 2024 indicate further expansion at an estimated 43%. According to the International Monetary Fund, Guyana holds the distinction of having the highest average growth rate globally over the past 6 years, with an extraordinary average annual GDP growth rate of 35.54%. This sustained economic acceleration is largely attributed to the robust development of its oil and gas sector, which remains the primary engine of growth.

Guyana is actively advancing initiatives to diversify its economy beyond the oil sector, with strategic emphasis on agriculture, eco-tourism, infrastructure development, mining, housing, and renewable energy.

With a population of 808,726 and a GDP per capita of 18 990 million dollars, the country is leveraging its resources to drive sustainable, multi-sector growth. As a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Guyana also benefits from preferential access to regional markets, enhancing trade opportunities and reinforcing its integration within the Caribbean economy.

The inaugural Guyanese trade mission to Mexico in April marked a significant milestone in the 51-year diplomatic relationship between the two nations. Ambassador Zulfikar Ally, Guyana's representative to Mexico and resident in Washington D. C., accompanied the business delegation. During the visit, ambassador Ally engaged with officials from the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (SRE) to discuss key aspects of the bilateral agenda, underscoring a commitment to strengthening economic and diplomatic ties.



Opportunities

Opportunities abound for Mexican companies with expertise in oil and gas sector projects to establish a presence in the expanding Guyanese market. In 2025, a Mexican firm will spearhead the construction of a 300 mw combined-cycle power plant designed for domestic energy needs. Serving as a subcontractor for the u.s. company leading Guyana's Gasto-Energy project, the Mexican company will play a crucial role in utilizing offshore natural gas reserves to generate electricity. This ambitious project involves a 225-kilometre pipeline, which will channel gas from Guyana's offshore oil fields to support local power production.

This represents a prime opportunity for Mexican companies with experience in collaborating with major players in the oil and gas sector to explore potential ventures in Guyana. Both companies have previously partnered on projects

in Mexico and other nations, highlighting the possibility of leveraging their expertise to engage in successful collaborations within Guyana's burgeoning energy sector.

In addition to its oil and gas sector, Guyana is actively working to diversify its economy and attract foreign investment across several key sectors, including agriculture, tourism, air transport, healthcare, renewable energy, manufacturing, consumer products, and information and communication technologies (ICTs). As economic activity continues to expand, there has been a notable increase in both returning Guyanese citizens and foreign nationals arriving to work and invest in the country. This surge in population growth has created a rising demand for housing, transportation, food, products, and services, presenting numerous opportunities for investment and development across a wide range of industries.



The oil and gas industry is the main driver of the Guyanese economy.



Ambassador Ally of Guyana held meetings with officials from the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Economic and commercial promotion

In 2024, the embassy responded to over 65 inquiries from companies in both Mexico and Guyana, interested in exploring investment opportunities, sourcing suppliers, promoting tourism, and conducting business between the two nations. The embassy provided a range of services, including information, contact referrals, directories, economic analysis, and other resources to support informed decision-making by the business communities in both countries.

Additionally, in April 2024, the embassy facilitated the first business mission from Guyana to Mexico, which included visits to Mexico City and Guadalajara. During this mission, ambassador Zulfikar Ally accompanied a delegation of businessmen from sectors such as retail, machinery, information technology, renewable energy, and telecommunications, further strengthening bilateral trade and investment ties.

During the six-day working visit, a series of meetings were conducted with key Mexican officials, including the undersecretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as representatives from the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID). Discussions also took place with officials from the General Directorates of International Economic Promotion, Global Issues, United Nations System, and the

General Directorate of American Regional Organizations and Mechanisms. In Mexico City, the Guyanese business delegation held productive discussions with officials from the Mexican Petroleum Institute and the energy company scap. Additionally, meetings were conducted with business leaders from the road infrastructure, spare parts, solar energy, and housing construction sectors, further exploring potential collaboration and investment opportunities across these industries. Meeting were also held with the directorate of COMCE, one of the most important private sector organizations in the country.

In Guadalajara, the delegation engaged with representatives from the Jalisco government and the municipal authorities and conducted a visit to the Intermunicipal System of Potable Water and Sewerage Services of the Guadalajara Metropolitan Area, with the objective of gaining insights into best practices and exploring potential areas for cooperation.

Additionally, the delegation held meetings with private sector entrepreneurs from the agricultural, jewellery, and logistics industries, aiming to identify and explore business opportunities. Notably, one of the primary Mexican investors in Guyana is a company based in Jalisco, further emphasizing the region's strategic role in fostering bilateral trade and investment.



The business delegation from Guyana met with executives from COMCE.

Mexico-Guyana Chamber of Commerce

A significant achievement in 2024 was the effort made for the establishment of the Mexico-Guyana Chamber of Commerce (CCMG). The CCMG will provide essential services to Mexican companies seeking to enter the Guyanese market, while also laying the groundwork for the creation of the Mexico-CARICOM Chamber of Commerce. This regional chamber will serve a market of 16 million people, predominantly a young population with a high Human Development Index. The presence of the CCMG is poised to strengthen trade relations between Mexico and Guyana, generating increased interest among Mexican businesses in the opportunities presented by one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

The official launch of the Mexico-Guyana Chamber of Commerce will coincide with the Guyana Energy Conference & Supply Chain Expo, the country's premier industrial fair. In 2024, the event attracted over 4,000 visitors, featured more than 190 exhibitors, and included 70 distinguished speakers.

The Mexico-Guyana Chamber of Commerce will give a new boost to the commercial relationship.



The business delegation from Guyana met with government authorities in Jalisco.



The business delegation from Guyana met with government authorities in Jalisco.



Visit to the Jewelry Chamber of Guadalajara.



Flagship Projects

In February, ambassador Mauricio Vizcaíno showcased Mexico's flagship infrastructure projects at the Guyana Energy Conference & Supply Chain Expo, the nation's largest trade and industrial fair.

During the presentation, the ambassador highlighted to investors from the Caribbean and beyond the logistical advantages and tax incentives available to companies seeking to establish operations within the Interoceanic Corridor of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. This strategic corridor connects the ports of Salina Cruz, Coatzacoalcos, Dos Bocas, and Puerto Chiapas through an integrated rail transport network, offering significant opportunities for investment and trade.

Ambassador Vizcaíno emphasized that the Mexican government is making significant investments in infrastructure development to enhance productivity in the region, with the goal of transforming it into a multimodal logistics hub. He explained that this initiative is designed to foster comprehensive, sustainable, and in-

clusive development, bringing substantial benefits to the population of south-eastern Mexico.

The ambassador also presented details of Plan Sonora, the largest solar energy park in Latin America, to an audience focused on energy security, clean energy, and reliable power supply for industry.

This ambitious project will significantly boost electricity generation through solar energy and lithium mining. Ambassador Vizcaíno outlined that the project involves a 70 billion dollars investment, which will fund the development of infrastructure for six science parks, the modernization of the Guaymas port, and the improvement of six border crossings along the Sonora-Arizona border.

This project has garnered significant interest from experts in energy transition, highlighting the opportunities available in Mexico's renewable energy sector. Given Guyana's own potential for renewable energy development, this initiative presents a valuable opportunity for collaboration and knowledge-sharing between the two countries.



Ambassador Vizcaíno participated in the largest trade and industrial fair in Guyana.

The Sonora Plan projects an investment of 7 billion dollars for infrastructure construction.



The National Dance Company presented traditional Mexican dances.

Culture

In september, an unprecedented cultural collaboration took place between the National Dance Company of Guyana (NDC) and the Ballet Libertador from Baja California Sur. Under the guidance of the teacher Óscar Escobedo, the two-week partnership involved intensive rehearsals with the NDC dancers, culminating in a performance featuring ten traditional Mexican songs. This collaboration was showcased during the official celebration in Guyana of the Fiestas Patrias on September 12 at the Georgetown Marriott Hotel, where the National Dance Company performed to an appreciative audience. It is worth noting that president Irfaan Ali attended the ceremony and commended the exceptional standard achieved by the members of the National Dance Company (NDC) in performing the pieces within such a short timeframe. President Ali extended his congratulations and heartfelt thanks to teacher Escobedo and the members of Ballet Libertador for their efforts and dedication in strengthening the cultural ties between Mexico and Guyana.



President Irfaan Ali with ambassador Vizcaíno and the members of the National Dance Company.



President Irfaan Ali, teacher Óscar Escobedo and ambassador Vizcaíno.

In 2025, negotiations will continue for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Culture for the dissemination of the arts and traditions of Mexico and Guyana.



Tourism promotion

In May, a distinguished food festival was held, featuring the renowned Mexican chef, Chemy Taylor. Over the course of a week, patrons at one of Georgetown's most popular restaurants were treated to an authentic Mexican menu, with ingredients specially imported for the occasion. Additionally, a Mexican-themed luncheon was organized for the diplomatic corps. The gastronomic celebration was further elevated by a performance from the ¡Órale! mariachi band.

As part of this initiative, in collaboration with the Copa Airlines office in Guyana, Mexican destinations accessible to Guyanese tourists via Panama were actively promoted. Promotional campaigns were organized with leading travel agencies in Georgetown, highlighting destinations such as Tulum, Cancun, and Mexico City.

Furthermore, to commemorate the Fiestas Patrias, a new tourism promotion event was held in partnership with Copa Airlines and the ¡Órale! mariachi band. On September 15, the Marriott Hotel hosted a brunch featuring traditional Mexican dishes, accompanied by a lively mariachi performance. Later that day, the mariachi band performed at the popular Mexican restaurant, Taco Loco, where they were met with enthusiastic applau-



The mariachi group ¡Órale! performed at the gastronomic festival on May 5th at the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown.

se from members of the Latin American community who deeply appreciate Mexico's music and cultural traditions.

Education

Throughout the year, discussions culminated in the formalization of a collaboration agreement between the Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF) and the University of Guyana (UG). This agreement paves the way for enhanced cooperation between the two institutions, facilitating exchanges

of faculty and research staff, professional development through sabbaticals and short-term visits, as well as the organization of seminars, courses, and joint academic events. Additionally, it will foster the publication of collaborative research and the exchange of postgraduate students.



Embassy of Mexico in Cuba



Presidents of Cuba and Mexico.

Political Affairs

On October 1, 2024, the president of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel, met with Mexico's newly elected president, Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo, to congratulate her

on behalf of Cuba and wish her success in "the second phase of the Fourth Transformation of public life in Mexico." This visit marked the fifth time the Cuban



president has visited Mexico since 2018, underscoring the close relationship and political dialogue achieved in their bilateral relations. This level of understanding was also evident during Díaz-Canel's meeting on March 1, 2024, with Mexico's foreign secretary, Alicia Bárcena Ibarra, at the VIII CELAC Summit held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

In that meeting, both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a common agenda focused on regional cooperation, sustainable development, and sovereignty defense, consolidating the role of both countries in strengthening unity and Latin American integration.

In the same spirit of collaboration, the ambassadors of 18 Latin American countries accredited in Cuba formed the Group of Latin American Representatives (GRULA), led by Mexico's ambassador. This group meets monthly to foster dialogue and organize cultural activities, promoting greater regional integration and strengthening ties among the nations in the region.

In 2024, the ambassadors of Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Mexico in Cuba formed a Support Group with the aim of opening

a space for dialogue between officials of the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs and us actors, including the u.s. embassy in Havana, to advance the construction of an agenda that leads to the improvement of relations between both countries.

The Mexican embassy also played an active role in the peace negotiations between the Colombian Government and the National Liberation Army (ELN) in Havana. During the VI Cycle of the Peace Dialogue Table, held from January 20 to February 6, 2024, the parties agreed to extend the ceasefire for six additional months, reaffirming their commitment to peace. Furthermore, the decision was made to establish a Multidonor Fund, potentially administered by the United Nations, to support peace initiatives in Colombia.

From February 24 to 26, 2024, a key meeting was held in Havana between the delegations of the Government of Colombia and the ELN, aimed at overcoming the stalemate in the Peace Dialogue Table and advancing toward building lasting peace in Colombia. In this process, the embassy provided support within the framework of Mexico's role as a guarantor country and promoted the dissemination of the achievements reached at the negotiation table. It also emphasized the need to demand Cuba's removal from the u.s. Department of State's list of State Sponsors of Terrorism, arguing that its inclusion was due to its support for the peace dialogues –a role that deserves positive recognition rather than sanctions.

It is also worth noting that the embassy maintained frequent meetings with high-level Cuban authorities, including the president and various ministers, to advance bilateral agenda items and strengthen relations between the two countries.



During the 6th Cycle of the Peace Dialogue Roundtable, the decision was made to create a Multi-Donor Fund, possibly administered by the UN, with the aim of supporting peace initiatives in Colombia.



Day of the Dead.

Cultural Affairs

In January 2024, in collaboration with the Cuban National Museum of Fine Arts, the exhibition “400 Years of Mexican Art” was inaugurated, showcasing works by prominent Mexican artists from the colonial period to the influential Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, and José Luis Cuevas.

Throughout the year, Mexico reaffirmed its commitment to promoting and preserving the bolero, an iconic Latin American musical genre, celebrating its inclusion on UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity on December 5, 2023. This recognition underscored the importance of music as a shared cultural identity and a unifying force among Latin American nations. Events and activities were organized throughout the year to honor the bolero, highli-

ghting its cultural legacy and significance in the region’s musical history.

In February 2024, Mexico had a notable presence at the Havana International Book Fair (FIL), one of the region’s most important literary events. Through a wide range of activities, book presentations, and discussion panels, Mexico strengthened its role as a cultural promoter and contributed to intellectual and literary exchange between the two countries.

In May 2024, as part of efforts to restore and renew spaces, the Gilberto Bosques Room was inaugurated in a ceremony led by Mexico’s undersecretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, Laura Elena Carrillo Cubillas. This space, designed to host a wide range of meetings and events, was named



II FORO GILBERTO BOSQUES SALDÍVAR:
EMBAJADOR EN CUBA

**INTERCAMBIOS
CULTURALES
MÉXICO- CUBA**

CASA JUÁREZ

LA HABANA, CUBA

8 Y 9 DE OCTUBRE DE 2024

Gilberto Bosques Forum.

in honor of the distinguished Mexican diplomat who dedicated 11 years of his life to strengthening bilateral relations between Mexico and Cuba.

The Tuxpan Bookstore of the Fondo de Cultura Económica (FCE) solidified its role as a vibrant cultural hub in 2024, featuring an updated inventory, author presentations, and a visit by its director, Paco Ignacio Taibo II, fostering cultural exchange between Mexico and Cuba.

On September 15, the Civic-Cultural Gala celebrating Mexico's National Day took place

at the Covarrubias Hall of Cuba's National Theater, highlighting binational cooperation and performing the traditional Cry of Independence. Following this, the cultural program "Mexico: Festival of Color" offered a journey through Mexican musical and dance traditions, featuring the "Amadeo Roldán" Conservatory Symphony Orchestra, young musicians from Xalatlaco, and dance companies from both nations. The moving performance, directed by renowned maestros, received standing ovations from the audience.

From October 7 to 9, the II Gilberto Bosques Saldívar Forum was held in Havana, organized by the Mexican embassy in Cuba in collaboration with the Diplomatic Historical Archive and Mexico's ambassador to Chile, Laura Moreno. The forum included the presentation of books documenting ambassador Bosques' years in Cuba and publications on Mexico-Cuba bilateral relations. Additionally, an exhibition of cultural posters curated by designer Pepe Menéndez showcased decades of artistic exchange between the two nations. Activities included lectures on Gilberto Bosques diplomatic legacy, as well as the display of documentary and photographic material in collaboration with the Cuban National Library.

The forum concluded with presentations and the signing of a collaboration agreement between the Fidel Castro Ruz Center and the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, focused on preserving historical and cultural heritage in digital format. Additionally, the digital edition of the book "From Fulgencio Batista to the Cuban Revolution", compiling presentations from the first forum in 2023, was released. These activities reaffirmed the shared commitment of both countries to preserving their history and strengthening cultural cooperation.



The Havana International Fair.

Economic and Commercial Affairs

Throughout the year, the embassy facilitated multiple dialogues between Mexican business leaders and Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment (MINCEX) to review and follow up on their investment projects. These efforts resulted in concrete and positive progress, strengthening economic cooperation between both countries.

In April 2024, Mexico's secretary of Tourism, Miguel Torruco Marqués, participated in the 69th Meeting of the UN Regional Commission for the Americas on Tourism, held in Varadero, Cuba. His participation reaffirmed Mexico's commitment to strengthening regional tourism and facilitated the exchange

of experiences and strategies focused on sustainable tourism development.

On November 5, Mexico inaugurated its pavilion at the Havana International Fair (FIHAV), featuring over 20 Mexican companies from key sectors such as food, personal hygiene, construction, appliances, transportation, and telecommunications. During the inauguration ceremony, Mexico's ambassador was accompanied by the undersecretary of Industry and Commerce, Vidal Llerenas Morales, and Roger Mandujano, representing Chiapas' governor-elect. Representing Cuba were the minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment, Oscar Pérez-Oliva Fraga; the minister of Public Health, José Ángel



Portal Miranda; the first deputy minister of Industry and Foreign Commerce, Yamilín González Milián; and the deputy minister of Agriculture, Maury Hechavarría Bermúdez. This collaboration highlighted the economic ties and mutual commitment to strengthening bilateral trade relations.



Mexico inaugurated its pavilion at the Havana International Fair with the participation of more than

20
Mexican companies.



Group of Migration and Consular Affairs.

Migration and Consular Affairs

Cuban migration presents unique characteristics compared to the rest of the region, although it intersects with migration flows that view Mexico as a transit or destination country. Throughout 2024, this Representation has continued to promote safe, orderly, and regular migration. On May 14, 2024, the XVI Meeting of the Mexico-Cuba Working Group on Migration and Consular Affairs was held at the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the participation of

Mexico's undersecretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, Laura Elena Carrillo Cubillas, and Cuba's deputy foreign minister, Carlos Fernández de Cossío.

This meeting allowed the delegations to assess the state of migration and consular relations between Mexico and Cuba in a context of increasing complexity, marked by the intensification of the U.S. economic embargo on Cuba and increasingly restrictive migration policies in the hemisphere.



International Cooperation

In Cuba, 663 Mexican doctors, CONACYT scholarship recipients, are pursuing medical specialties in collaboration with the Comercializadora de Servicios Médicos Cubanos (CSMC). These programs cover 12 key disciplines, including Pathological Anatomy; General Surgery; Hygiene and Epidemiology; Geriatrics; Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation; Intensive and Emergency Medicine; Internal Medicine; Pneumology; Ophthalmology; Clinical Laboratory; Psychiatry and Orthopedics and Traumatology. This academic collaboration reflects the commitment of both nations to training highly skilled professionals and fostering stronger, more accessible healthcare systems. To strengthen this collaboration, in September 2024, a new generation of Mexican doctors arrived in Cuba to begin their specialized training. The Mexican embassy in Cuba has provided priority attention to

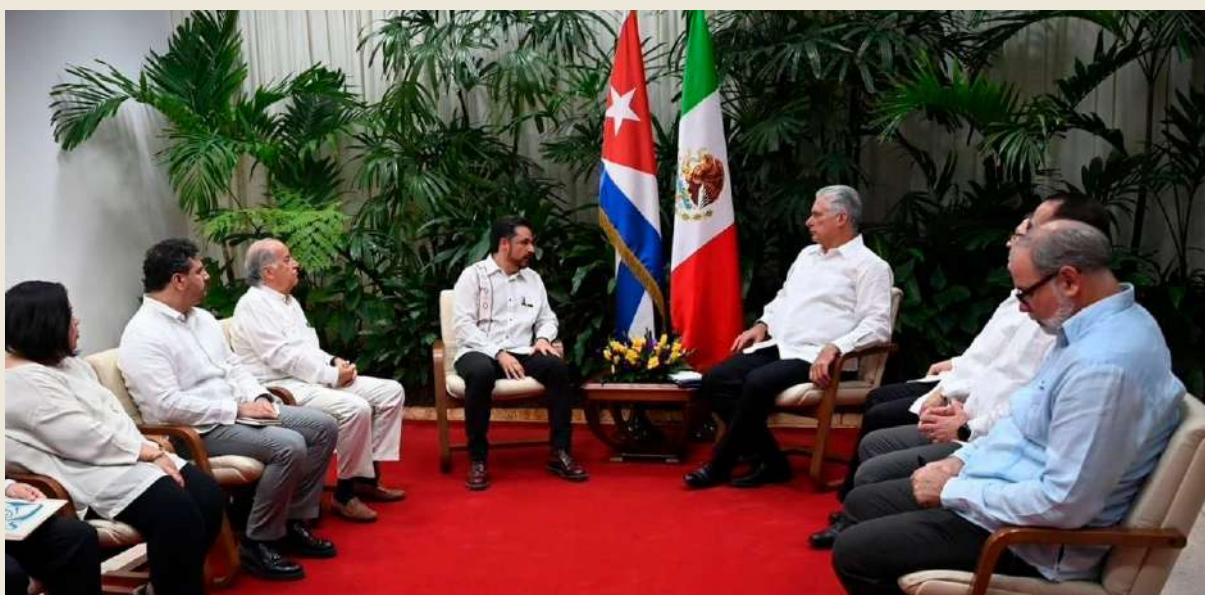
these fellows, given the economic crisis prevailing in that country.

Currently, over 3,000 Cuban doctors are working in remote and underserved areas in Mexico, playing a crucial role in enhancing healthcare access for vulnerable communities. Their efforts contribute significantly to ensuring access to medical services in regions that have traditionally faced health care deficiencies.

Additionally, 198 Cuban doctors are involved in the academic program *"Formador de Formadores"* ("Trainer of Trainers"), developed in collaboration with the Universidad para el Bienestar "Benito Juárez".

These professionals are spread across 83 university campuses in 22 Mexican states, actively contributing to the education of future healthcare professionals and strengthening the country's health education system.

In May 2024, the director general of the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), Zoé



General director Zoé Robledo and the president of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel.



Program "Sembrando Vida" in Cuba.

Robledo, made an official visit to Cuba to strengthen bilateral health cooperation. During his visit, he met with president Miguel Díaz-Canel and signed an agreement with the Cuban Ministry of Public Health and csmc to increase the presence of Cuban specialist doctors in Mexico, aiming to expand access to quality medical services in the country's most underserved communities.

The collaboration between Mexico and Cuba extended to academia through the UNAM Mexican Studies Center at the University of Havana, which continued promoting academic exchange and joint projects to enrich the educational and cultural landscapes of both nations.

In February 2024, the IX Mexico-Cuba Cooperation Program for 2024–2026 was signed, encompassing 19 projects in scientific, educational, and cultural fields. This agreement strengthened the shared commitment to research, education, and cultural exchange.

Additionally, AMEXCID continued implementing the "Sembrando Vida Cuba" program, benefiting 5,000 farmers in the provinces of Artemisa and Mayabeque through the provision of tools and community nurseries. This project aims to restore the environment and revive sustainable agricultural practices, promoting rural development and food security on the island.

In late October and early November 2024, following a nationwide blackout in Cuba and severe damage caused by Hurricanes Oscar and Rafael. Mexican president Claudia Sheinbaum announced the sending of a shipment of fuel to the island for humanitarian reasons and to help mitigate the energy crisis. In addition, Mexico would provide technical training through the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE) to support recovery efforts and improve the resilience of Cuba's electrical system.



Embassy of Mexico in Haiti



Performance of the Mexican quintet Last Jerónimo at the 17th edition of the Port-au-Prince International Jazz Festival [PAPJAZZ].



Mexican quintet Last Jerónimo in Haiti.



Last Jerónimo at the Port-au-Prince International Jazz Festival [PAPJAZZ].

PAPJAZZ 17th Edition

In January, the Mexican quintet Last Jerónimo, led by jazz musician Jerónimo González García, participated in the 17th edition of the Port-au-Prince International Jazz Festival (PAPJAZZ), renowned for the quality of its participating artists.

Last Jerónimo also conducted a workshop for students and other Haitian musicians on Thursday, January 25, at the Brazilian Cultural Institute in Port-au-Prince. In addition to their solo performance, the Mexican ar-

tists took part in two events alongside musicians from Haiti and Spain. It is estimated that around 1,500 people attended each of the festival's performances, which has become a cornerstone of Haiti's cultural calendar. PAPJAZZ offered the Haitian audience an opportunity to enjoy high-quality artistic performances, providing a moment of relief amid the country's challenging conditions. This year, the festival featured artists from the United States, Chile, Spain, Canada, Cuba and Haiti.



Mexico Reaffirms its Support for Haiti at CARICOM High-level Meeting

On March 11, 2024, Mexico's secretary of Foreign Affairs, Alicia Bárcena Ibarra, attended the High-Level Meeting on Haiti convened by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), representing Mexico as an invited country. The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen international efforts to support the stabilization and reconstruction of Haiti amid its current political and social crisis.

During her address, Bárcena emphasized the importance of a durable and stable solution emerging from within Haiti's context, incorporating all stakeholders and avoiding direct foreign intervention. She affirmed that the international community's support should focus on genuine assistance that respects Haiti's sovereignty and facilitates a transition process led by Haitians themselves, aiming to restore institutional order in the country.



Foreign minister Alicia Bárcena at the High-Level Meeting on Haiti convened by CARICOM.



Foreign minister Alicia Bárcena and Jamaican prime minister Andrew Holness at the High-Level Meeting on Haiti.



High-Level Meeting on Haiti convened by CARICOM.



The Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Navy, during the evacuation of 34 nationals from Haiti.



Mexican ARM [BAL-02] ship at Puerto Progreso, Yucatán, upon its return from Haiti.

Evacuation of 34 Mexican Nationals

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE) and the Ministry of the Navy (SEMAR) carried out a joint operation to successfully evacuate 34 Mexican nationals –24 men and 10 women—who had been residing in Haiti and they returned to Mexico on April 4, 2024, due to the growing insecurity in the country. The operation was executed under the directives of then President Andrés

Manuel López Obrador. The group of nationals arrived on April 4, 2024, at Puerto Progreso, Yucatán, after a five-day journey aboard the vessel ARM Isla Holbox (BAL-02). The evacuation was coordinated by secretary of Foreign Affairs, Alicia Bárcena Ibarra, and secretary of the Navy, Rafael Ojeda Durán, who oversaw the operation to ensure the citizens' safe return.



Mexico-CARICOM-FAO Initiative “Cooperation for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in the Caribbean” (July-September 2024).

Four agroforestry training sessions were conducted in participating communes, training a total of 41 individuals, including 6 women. The sessions also covered biodiversity conservation, promoting sustainable practices.

Twelve agroforestry plots were established using 1,200 seedlings of fruit and forest species such as citrus, mango, sapote, coffee, and cocoa. Beneficiaries received basic agricultural tools to support planting and maintenance activities for the plots.

To date, 10,000 seedlings of fruit and forest species have been produced and distributed to farmers, representing a 5% progress toward the final goal of 200,000 seedlings.



Twelve agroforestry plots were established in Haiti.



Training sessions on agroforestry in Haiti.



The beneficiaries received tools to facilitate planting activities.



12

agroforestry plots were installed, using 1,200 seedlings of fruit and forest species such as citrus, mango, sapote, coffee and cocoa.

The Haiti's sociopolitical instability and security challenges have slowed progress in certain activities, particularly those requiring collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment. To address this, actions are being coordinated with the Directorate of Biodiversity, and, in partnership with the FAO, the incorporation of a new partner for activities implementation is being evaluated.



Embassy of Mexico in Saint Lucia

The Eastern Caribbean States: Context and Challenges



The ambassador Luis Manuel López Moreno exchanges letters with the foreign minister of Saint Lucia on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

The six Eastern Caribbean States (ECS) –Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Lucia– are developing nations with poverty levels exceeding 18%. They heavily rely on tourism, which constitutes between 18% and 87% of their GDP and provides employment for a significant percentage of their citizens.

The ECS face substantial challenges due to limited logistical services for transporting goods, their small size, and vulnerability to natural disasters, additionally, they are affected by external factors such as health emergencies and fluctuations in global prices, which

considerably impact their economies; these nations typically import over 90% of the goods and food they consume. As a result, they largely depend on grants, loans, and project financing from traditional donors and, in recent years, from extra-regional actors.

The impact of phenomena such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions has been devastating, as evidenced by the damage caused in 2024 by Hurricane Beryl in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, which affected more than 80,000 people. In this context, the development priorities of the ECS include combating climate change, food security, and strengthening resilience to natural disasters.



Interaction between the ECO and Regional Actors

In 1981, the ECS and Montserrat established the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), which implemented an Economic Union in 2010. This union features a single market, a central bank, a common currency, and a customs union that allows for the free movement of goods, people, and capital among its seven member states. This alliance is part of broader regional mechanisms, including the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), established in 1973, which comprises 15 states aiming for economic integration and political coordination, additionally, there is the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), which promotes cooperation among 25 nations, including Mexico as well as countries from Central America and South America.



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Mexico and its Relationship with the ECO. Progress of the Work Plan 2024.

In this context, and considering that the subregion is strategic for Mexico, during 2024 the activities of the embassy focused on the preservation, strengthening, and consolidation of diplomatic relations between Mexico and the six countries that make up its jurisdiction. During this period, multiple initiatives were carried out to ensure a high level of political dialogue, as well as the promotion and defense of Mexico's interests.

Boost in Trade Activities with Mexico

In the realm of economic exchange and investment promotion, the embassy fostered cooperation with the chambers of commerce from the six countries within its jurisdiction. Connections were established with service providers related to imports and exports, and negotiations began to organize a visit from the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture of Saint Lucia to our country, including preliminary roundtable discussions. This effort aims to facilitate trade

exchanges and increase the presence of Mexican products in those markets. This was achieved through the introduction of La Moderna Mexican products into the Saint Lucian market via the importer Lazy Lagoon Trading Company. Additionally, a conference was held with the general director of Naviyuc S.A. to explore maritime connections between Mexico and Anglophone Caribbean nations, thereby enhancing regional trade. Likewise, meetings were held with COMCE, organized by the General Directorate for Central America and the Caribbean and the General Directorate for Global Economic Promotion, to strengthen the presence of Mexican products in the Caribbean, a promising region for various Mexican economic sectors.



A conference was held with the general director of Naviyuc S.A. to explore the maritime connection between Mexico and the English-speaking Caribbean and thus boost regional trade.



The presence in spaces for Latin American and Caribbean collaboration

During the course of the year, meetings were held with the highest representatives of the ECS government and the region. For example, in March 2024, a Mexican delegation led by the then foreign minister of Mexico, Alicia Bárcena, participated in the VIII Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The occasion allowed the ambassador of Mexico to the ecs to hold bilateral meetings with Ralph Gonsalves, prime minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Terrance Drew, prime minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis; Roosevelt Skerrit, prime minister of Dominica; and Gaston Browne, prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, additionally, there were meetings with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, such as then-minister of Foreign Affairs Keisal Peters and deputy minister Sandy Peters-Phillips, as well as the ministers of Foreign Affairs of Saint Kitts and Nevis and Grenada, Denzil Douglas and Joseph Andall, respectively. At the Summit, Mexico's secretary of Foreign Affairs also met with Cuba's president Miguel Díaz-Canel, Barbados' prime minister Mia Mottley, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Trinidad and Tobago's minister of Foreign Affairs Amery Browne.

The prominent dialogue with the host country and attendees allowed the embassy to secure the participation of Saboto Caesar, minister of Agriculture of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Shelia Imbert, undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Administration at the Ministry of the Public Service, Labour and Gender of Saint Lucia, in the "Hemispheric Meeting on Regular Pa-



Mexican president Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo with Sylvanie Burton, president of Dominica.



Mexican president Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo with Philip J. Pierre, prime minister of Saint Lucia.

thways for Labor Migration." Additionally, there was the distinguished presence of the Vincentian minister of Foreign Affairs, Frederick Stephenson, at the 11th Conference of the Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization (PANHR) of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), hosted in Mexico City.



The Scope of Political Dialogue

Thanks also to the level of dialogue and closeness with the governments of the ECS, the participation of the prime minister of Saint Lucia, Philip J. Pierre, and the president of Dominica, Sylvanie Burton, was achieved at the ceremony for the transfer of Executive Power in Mexico on October 1st.

Throughout the year, commemorative actions were carried out with Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, and Saint Lucia for the 40th and 45th anniversaries of establishing diplomatic relations with Mexico, respectively, these included exchanges of letters between foreign ministers and the dissemination of historical documents related to these anniversaries, shared by the Historical Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Simultaneously, the ambassador and officials maintained continuous communication with ministerial and deputy ministerial officials to address bilateral issues and regional and international matters of common interest. This constant exchange strengthened support for Mexican initiatives and candidacies in regional and multilateral organizations. A notable example was the campaign led in favor of Mexico's candidacy for a judge on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for 2025-2030, achieving written backing from Dominica and written support from Saint Lucia for the Human Rights Council 2025-2027.

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Restorer Blanca Haydee Orea Magaña and archaeologist Moisés Valadez Moreno, specialists from the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH), during a technical consultation in Dauphin Valley, attended by more than 15 officials and technicians from Saint Lucia, as well as volunteers from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Technical and Scientific Cooperation

In 2024, the activities of the First Bilateral Program of Technical and Scientific Cooperation between Mexico and Saint Lucia concluded, and negotiations began to incorporate four new projects into the Second Bilateral Program. In March, on-site activities were conducted with specialists from the National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico (INAH), aimed at identifying biocultural and natural archaeological resources, with the participation of more than fifteen officials and technicians from Saint Lucia. Additionally, in September, the Mexican Institute of Water Technology (IMTA) provided virtual consultations on the collection, management, and processing of hydrometeorological data.

In the regional-multilateral sphere, the Mexico-CARICOM-FAO Initiative for adaptation and resilience to climate change in the Caribbean continued to develop, which includes various subprojects: one dedicated to addressing the water-energy nexus in agri-



INAH specialists, officials, technicians, and volunteers from the Japan International Cooperation Agency during the technical advisory in Dauphin Valley.

culture in Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Kitts and Nevis; another focused on resilient school feeding programs in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia, as well as in The Bahamas, Belize, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago; and a third centered on resilient aquaculture to improve food security in Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Kitts and Nevis, as well as Trinidad and Tobago.

Additionally, the head of the embassy agreed with the minister of Foreign Affairs of Dominica to promote a project for the donation of avocado plants from Mexico to be implemented in 2025, along with other projects under negotiation in the six countries, to be developed in that same year.

On another note, the embassy managed and secured the participation of Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Lucia in the X Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation for Latin American and Caribbean diplomats, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



INAH in Dauphin Valley.

of Mexico, in coordination with the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies and the Organization for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL).



The Cultural Agenda

The cultural activities organized by this representation in Saint Lucia and Grenada had a favorable effect on the attendees, as for many, they represented the opportunity to experience their first contact with Mexico. These activities included a variety of events, among them film cycles, photographic exhibitions, and musical performances. The gastronomic presentation held at the

official residence of Mexico, which was broadcast on the national television network of Saint Lucia, had one of the most significant impacts on the positive image of our country recorded this year. As a result of these initiatives, it was possible to positively influence public opinion and strengthen the favorable perception of our country in the region.

Consular Protection and Minorities

Interaction with the Mexican community in the Eastern Caribbean was constant in the face of climatic phenomena such as hurricanes or storms. Although numerically small, this population is diverse and geographically dispersed. They primarily work in tourism and services, with high labor turnover due to the temporary nature of employment. However, several Mexicans practice professions such as medicine or engineering in the region, where they reside temporarily. In 2024, the head of the embassy met with Mexican compatriots in Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The embassy implemented strategies for services and guidance through honorary consuls and electronic platforms, maintaining close communication with the Mexican community in these countries.

In the same way, personnel from the embassy began implementing the Policy for Linking and Comprehensive Care for Women (VAIM, for its acronym in Spanish) and participated in the initiative to develop a strategy for consular assistance and protection specifically for Latin America and the Caribbean. These actions allowed VAIM to

address a case of repatriation of a victim of domestic violence from Dominica, with support from allies in that country, including the honorary consul of the United Kingdom.

The embassy is part of a group composed of the representations of Canada, the United States, France, and the United Kingdom, as well as civil society organizations, which coordinates actions in favor of the LGBTIQ+ community. This space has allowed for sharing an overview of the situation of that community in Saint Lucia, as well as the availability of financial resources and political support that each diplomatic representation can offer. Gender activities, combating violence against women and girls, human trafficking, and promoting Mexico's feminist foreign policy were part of our daily work.

With these and other actions developed by the embassy, Mexico has managed to distinguish itself as a reliable partner and a reference for common causes in regional and multilateral spaces among the six countries of Eastern Caribbean. This has been greatly facilitated by cooperation initiatives promoted by the Mexican government in recent years.



Embassy of Mexico in Jamaica and Bahamas

Political Dialogue

Working visit by foreign minister Alicia Bárcena

In 2024, political dialogue was consolidated at the highest level with the Jamaican authorities on the most relevant issues on the international agenda the richness of political dialogue in international forums; cooperation between Mexico and Jamaica on peace and security issues to promote political and peaceful solutions to conflicts, as in the case of the working visit to Kingston by then foreign minister Alicia Bárcena to participate on March 11 in the High Level Meeting on Haiti and joint efforts to energize the means to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Development; bilateral cooperation AIMED at preparing for, preventing and mitigating natural disasters, as well as defending multilateralism and respect for international law.



The president of Guyana, Irfaan Ali with the U.S. secretary Antony Blinken; the secretary general Carla Barnett of CARICOM; and the prime minister of Jamaica, Andrew Holness.



Ambassador Juan José González Mijares and the Jamaican foreign minister Kamina Johnson – Smith.

Strengthening political communication

Ambassador González Mijares held a meeting with the new designated ambassador of Jamaica in Mexico, Julia Hyatt 22 May, an appointment that gave a new boost to the bilateral relationship. During their meeting, they discussed the most relevant issues on the bilateral agenda; technical, educational and cultural cooperation programs; language learning, research in science and technology, among others. In addition, within the framework of the ceremony of the 214th Anniversary of Independence in Kingston, organized by this embassy, foreign minister Kamina Johnson Smith highlighted that cooperation and our ties of friendship remain strong, as do the levels of investment and spoke in favour of continuing to build the future on these already solid platforms between our countries.



Working meeting between ambassador Juan José González Mijares and ambassador Jerusa Ali, general director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Bahamas.

Dynamism of the bilateral relationship with The Bahamas

The celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Mexico and The Bahamas (1974-2024) on January 24, 2024, was held through a series of commemorative activities, such as the exchange of letters between foreign ministers; the design of a commemorative logo and messages on social networks on the day of commemoration, reflect the importance of the political ties between the two countries.

The working commission of ambassador Juan José González Mijares to The Bahamas from October 30 to November 4, as well as his meeting with ambassador Jerusa Ali, director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, held on November 1, allowed for the continuation of negotiations for the upcoming signing of the Cooperation Agreement between Diplomatic Academies and the negotiations initiated in September 2024 for the signing of an Air Services Agreement between both countries, in addition to expanding the protection prospects for Mexicans in that country, thanks to the meeting she held on November 1, with the honorary consul of Mexico in The Bahamas, Juan Baccardi (november 1).

Multilateral Affairs/AIFM 28th AIFM Council

Ambassador Juan José González Mijares, permanent representative of Mexico to the International Seabed Authority (AIFM/ISA), based in Kingston, held the Presidency of the 28th AIFM Council for one year (March 2023-March



Ambassador Juan José González Mijares at the 28th Presidency of the AIFM Council [Kingston].

2024). During this period, the general secretariat of AIFM prepared the Consolidated Text of the Presidency, which currently serves as the basis for the negotiation of future guidelines for the exploitation of seabed mineral resources. Mexico chaired the Council of this organization belonging to the United Nations system in 2023, which contributes to the country's diplomatic tradition and its multilateralist vocation.

The 29th session of AIFM/ISA was held between March and August 2024, held in two parts. At the beginning of the work of the 29th Council from March 22 to 29, the permanent representative of Mexico, ambassador González Mijares handed over the rotating presidency of the said body to the Norwegian Olav Myklebust. During the second part of the Council, the first reading of the Consolidated Text on the future operating regulations was completed.

1. "ISA Council opens the first part of its 29th session", 19 marzo 2024, International Seabed Authority, en <https://www.isa.org.jm/news/isa-council-opens-the-first-part-of-its-29th-session/>



Election of the secretary general of the AIFM

During the second part of the 29th session of the International Seabed Authority, on August 2nd, 2024, the Assembly elected by direct vote the candidate from Brazil, Leticia Carvalho, as the new secretary general of the organization for the period 2025-2028. Carvalho will assume her new duties in January 2025. With its vote, Mexico gave strong support to the candidate and sent a positive signal from our country that reflects the importance of its participation in the Council. In addition, during the 2nd part of said session, the members who will fill the vacancies of the Council for the period 2025-2028 were also elected.



Leticia Carvalho and ambassador Juan José González Mijares. Election of the general secretariat of the ISA in Kingston.



Ambassador Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo, judge of the International Court of Justice 2024-2033.

Candimex ICJ (2024-2033) / multilateral meetings

The ambassador González Mijares negotiated key support with the Foreign Ministries of Jamaica and the Bahamas for the candidacy of ambassador Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo to the ICJ in the elections held in New York in November, 2023. The Bahamas expressed its interest in September that Mexico support its re-election candidacy to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters (CCAAP/ACABQ/2025-2027/ New York, Nov/24) thanks to a previously arranged vote by reciprocal exchange of support (ACABQ/ICJ) candidacies. It was also possible to arrange the important meeting of the undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Joel Hernández García, with the Jamaican foreign minister, Sen. Kamina Johnson Smith within the framework of the 54th General Assembly of the OAS on Jun 26 in Asunción, Paraguay to discuss the support between countries for important candidacies.



Jamaican foreign minister Johnson Smith and undersecretary Joel Hernández at the 54th AGOEA.



Cooperation and Cultural Affairs



The ambassador González Mijares with the minister of culture Olivia Grange and permanent secretary of culture, Deanroy Bernard, alongside INAH experts and underwater researchers in Port Royal, Jamaica.

Memorandum of Understanding on Academic-Diplomatic Collaboration

With the support of this embassy, negotiations were successfully concluded between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Mexican States and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, with the aim of confirming the date and place of signature.

Mexico Chair

Thanks to the efforts of the embassy and following the signing on May 15, 2024 of the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico for the continuity of the Chair at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica.

General Cooperation Agreement between IPN and UTECH

The negotiation was finalized between the institutions, the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN) sent to the University of Technology of Jamaica (UTECH), for its consideration, the proposal of the Specific Agreement on Student Mobility that will accompany the Specific Agreement for its formalization.

SEDENA-SEMAR MOU negotiation

The embassy continues to support the negotiations in their final phase, which will affect maritime security, intelligence, training of military and naval schools, as well as logistics for natural disaster response.

Cooperation between INAH and the Jamaica Heritage Fund

This program in the field of underwater archaeology, as well as the visit of the researchers in January 2024, progressed to the collaboration of the head of the embassy having a prologue in the book with photographs of the findings and the translation from English to Spanish of a documentary of the sunken city of Port Royal, whose efforts continue for its inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List.



Mexico-Jamaica Bilateral Technical and Scientific Cooperation Program, 2023-2025

The project for the “Strengthening of Institutional Capacities in Monitoring and Evaluation” has taken an important step with the acceptance of the Cabinet Office for the formalization of the relationship with CONEVAL through a Memorandum of Understanding, to facilitate the exchange of personnel, knowledge, skills and best practices in Monitoring and Evaluation, through the steps carried out by the embassy throughout 2024.

These programs also include the project on Capacity building of small ruminants in feed and fodder conservation strategies to mitigate climate change; the project on Assessment and management of land suitable for agriculture, using GIS and remote sensing as well as the project on Bioengineering of yams/camote, other selected Caribbean roots and tuber biomaterials for the expansion of value chains and pre-marketing analysis are still ongoing with the respective virtual trainings.



These include the project on Capacity building of small ruminants in feed and forage conservation strategies to mitigate climate change and the project on Assessment and management of land suitable for agriculture, using GIS and remote sensing.

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Maintenance and restoration of the Friendship Mural by Oaxacan artist Irving Cano.

Project to Promote Mexican Muralism

Following the completion of the “Music Mural”, the “Celebration Mural” and the “Friendship Mural” largest mural of Jamaica, by Oaxacan artist Irving Cano, which received maintenance and restoration in February at the Carib Cement silo; The mural “Man of the Corn” was painted in Tivoli Gardens, by the artist Miguel Angel “Ras Levy”, a specialist in African ancestry and blackness. This consolidated the Mexican presence in the streets of Kingston with the accompaniment and support of the artist by the embassy.



Ambassador González Mijares with executives and Mexican business people, Ocho Rios, Jamaica – Business meeting.

Economic and Commercial Promotion

Institutionalization of economic dialogue

The ambassador González Mijares was able to institutionalize dialogue in the field of economic and commercial promotion with representatives of leading companies to exchange experiences and facilitate the expansion of the business portfolio between Mexico and Jamaica, through the implementation of

high-impact projects. CEMEX's new investment of 40 million dollars is a reference of the scope and growth of Mexican investments in Jamaica, in addition to the investments of Grupo Aeroportuario del Pacífico (GAP) to expand runways and consolidate terminals at Montego Bay and Kingston airports starting in 2024.

Hotel infrastructure development Mexico-Jamaica

The embassy assisted in supporting and facilitating the arrival of Mexican labor in Jamaica, particularly in favor of the Mexican construction company Ticonsa, which employed more than 300 local workers and 80 Mexicans, which was completed in 2024 the construction of a 1,000-room hotel for the Spanish group "Princesa", on Green Island, in the west of the island.

The Hard Rock Hotels, owned by the Mexican company ACD Hotels, has been revised and the investment cost has increased from 250 million to 800 million dollars.

The unico Montego Bay resort, with 451 adults-only, all-inclusive luxury rooms, will be complemented by the construction of 1000 housing units for hotel workers, in collaboration with the Jamaica Housing Agency, also will provide more than 1000 construction jobs and 600 jobs servicing the operating rooms. In the long term, the RCD Group's investment project could expand to 2,000 rooms, including the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, at which point there will be more than 4,000 construction jobs and 5,000 operating jobs.



Tequila promotion with liquor distributors, importers, and interested public in Jamaica.

Projection of new opportunities

In addition to the above, the acquisition of the Secrets St. James Hotel, a 350-room seaside resort in Montego Bay by Grupo Tortuga, the hotel division of the Aeroportos del Sureste group, and the new investment by the Hard Rock Hotels group, which is building a 500 million dollars hotel complex in Montego Bay, thanks to the rapprochement achieved by the embassy between businessmen from both countries to finalize projects.

Grupo Karisma still plans to invest 1 billion dollars in its Jamaican operations over the next 10 years by building 10 hotels with a total of 4,700 rooms.

Mexican multinational Grupo Calidra is also investigating the possibility of opening a limestone production plant in Jamaica.

All the above represents an accumulated increase in Mexican investment in Jamaica of approximately 25 % over the last three years.

Economic Promotion of Tequila

The embassy successfully carried out the first and second phases of tequila economic promotion, in collaboration with the National Chamber of the Tequila Industry (CNIT), in which tastings and private meetings were held with distributors/importers of spirits in Jamaica and other interested parties. In 2024, Destilería El Magnífico, Tequilería Cava de Oro and Selectos de la Tierra Azul, s.A. de c.v. joined this collaboration, expanding tequila's presence in the English-speaking Caribbean and helping to increase demand for the legendary product.



Karisma Group still plans to invest 1 billion dollars in its Jamaican operations over the next 10 years, building 10 hotels with a total of 4,700 rooms.



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