

**SRE**CONSULATE  
GENERAL  
OF MEXICO IN SAN DIEGO

PRESS OFFICE

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Consulate General of Mexico's Weekly Bulletin  
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## Address to the Nation on Health during Third State of the Union Address

Friday, August 28, 2009 | Special Events/Communications/Speech by President of Mexico, Felipe Calderón



México City.- Enjoying good health services is one of the desires and aspiration of all Mexican families. That is why it is crucial for them to have clinics, doctors and medicines available for when they need them.

I know that many families, particularly during these difficult times, are worried about not being able to afford a doctor if one of their children falls ill or about having to cut back on expenses if there is an emergency. Health should not be a privilege for those that can afford it. Health should be within all Mexicans' reach.

Federal Government's commitment is that before the end of this administration, Mexico will achieve universal health coverage, in other words, doctors, medicine and treatment for any Mexican who needs it. This is a fundamental, historic step for guaranteeing Mexicans' well-being. It is something that many nations in the world would like to achieve and something that we are achieving.

Today, thanks to the fact that the budget for the Popular Insurance Scheme has tripled in three years, 10 million families that are not affiliated to the Social Security Institute or the ISSSTE can have insurance that will cover their medical expenses and have access to the health services they deserve, without getting into debt.

We have already begun to do this with all new Mexicans. All newborns come with Medical Insurance under their arm. With Medical Insurance for a New Generation, we are providing health services for over 2,200,000 children and their families, from the time they are born. And not only that. As a result of the Health Pregnancy Program, 400,000 women are receiving the medical care they and their babies need during and after pregnancy.

In order to deal with the health needs of more families, this year, we are investing over 9.3 million pesos in the construction and remodeling of clinics and hospitals. This is twice what was invested in clinics and hospitals at the beginning of my administration. Over the past three years, we have completed over 1,300 hospital works by Federal Government. Moreover, through the Health Caravans, which are mobile teams, with doctors, nurses and a small surgery, we are taking medical services to over 13,000 villages and marginalized communities, whereby we will be benefiting over two and a half million Mexicans throughout the country who had not previously had medical service.

All this has been possible due to the fact that since 2006, the amount of money assigned to health has been increased by 50%. This year, the budget for this sector is approximately \$350 billion pesos, a hitherto unprecedented figure. Rest assured that we will go on working for your health and that of your family. That is our duty and our commitment.

## Arco Norte Project Will Connect National Highway System and Reduce Times and Costs: President Calderón

Tuesday, August 25, 2009 | Special Events/Communications

\* Highlights importance of private investment in triggering national economy

\* Inaugurates stretch of Pachuca-Tula I Highway, which completes Arco Norte Project

**Atitalaquia, Hidalgo.**-President Felipe Calderón declared that despite the international economic crisis, his government has invested \$50,000 pesos in infrastructure, 80% of which have already been assigned for constructing better highways and roads that will bring the country's communities together.

On tour of the state of Hidalgo, during the inauguration of the stretch of the Pachuca-Tula I highway of Mexico City's north flyover, the President declared that the aim is to promote Mexico's economy and competitiveness in order to create jobs and ensure fair economic development.



He added that this administration has proposed to increase spending on infrastructure to 5% of the Gross Domestic Product, despite the adverse economic situation.

"We know that Mexico is experiencing complex, difficult moment and that this international recession, the most serious one registered in decades, has significantly impact the country because of our proximity to the United States and the importance of our manufacturing sector, which has been seriously affected worldwide. But we have also acted firmly to prevent the enormous economic decline registered in the international environment from translating into a sharp drop in terms of employment and available income," he said.

Accompanied by state governor Miguel Ángel Osorio, as well as entrepreneur Carlos Slim, the President acknowledged the importance of the inauguration of this stretch of the highway, since it completes the Arco Norte Project by linking the states of Puebla, Tlaxcala, Hidalgo, Querétaro and Mexico State. In this respect, he said that in order for Mexico to grow and develop quality, world class infrastructure, it must promote investment by firms in the private sector in all spheres to make the national economy more competitive.

He reported that this work costs \$6.2 million pesos and that during the three years of its construction, it produced over 2,000 direct jobs and approximately 11,000 indirect ones.

President Calderón added that the project has 131 vehicle overpasses and 15 junctions built to technical specifications that will prevent accidents, traffic and pollution.

"So this is an extremely important work, particularly for the states it goes through: Puebla, Tlaxcala, Hidalgo, Querétaro and Mexico State and Mexico City's inhabitants, because of all the heavy traffic it will prevent in the city. Arco Norte is a great work that we are inaugurating today and which will serve the entire country's economy," he said.

He said that Hidalgo is one of the states that has benefitted most from government works, since it is there that the Bicentenary Refinery will be built and tenders are already being accepted for the Atotonilco Wastewater Treatment Plant, which will be the largest in Latin America.



## **STATEMENT BY MEXICAN AMBASSADOR ARTURO SARUKHAN**

### **Senator Edward Kennedy**

The United States has lost a Statesman and a leader. Senator Edward Kennedy was a larger than life figure in American politics, a champion of causes large and small, a tenacious and effective advocate for the values and ideals of his country, whose passion as a public servant had a tremendous impact not only for Americans but for millions of others abroad.

During a long and exceptional career in Congress that spanned over four decades, Senator Kennedy sponsored and promoted countless initiatives in favor of millions of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans that live and work in this country. At the same time, at the international level, he was always a staunch supporter of deepening and widening the bilateral relationship between Mexico and the United States, always showing a strong friendship for our country.

This was particularly evident in his leadership in the immigration reform debate and his steadfast defense of minorities, including of course those of Hispanic origin. His stand on these and countless other issues were an inspiration to many in this country, and the Mexican people fully recognized and are grateful for his efforts in this regard.

A descendant of Irish immigrants himself, Senator Kennedy was an indefatigable defender of immigrants and immigrant rights in the US Congress. His profound knowledge and rigorous analysis of this issue allowed him to invariably present practical solutions to confront the many challenges arising from this phenomenon, without ever losing sight of its human dimension. He consistently pushed to provide the newest generations of immigrants with the framework and the tools that in the past allowed its predecessors to fully integrate into US society and enrich it. Senator Kennedy fully recognized that immigrants were not a burden to this country, but rather contributed to the economic well-being and vitality of the United States. For that reason he firmly believed that the solution to the many challenges posed by immigration is a comprehensive reform that would include, among other things, a fair, legal and orderly way for undocumented migrants to adjust their status and introduce adjustments to the system so that it would better respond to labor market needs, while reintroducing the circularity in the flow of workers that had been lost over the past few years.

The protection of minorities was also a lifelong concern of Senator Kennedy. Throughout his extraordinary career he was a passionate defender of the rights of minorities in this country, a position that greatly benefited Mexican-Americans and the Hispanic community as a whole. In particular, Senator Kennedy promoted legislation to provide these groups with better access to education and healthcare, facilitate the exercise of their political rights, and protect them against discrimination. All of these policies helped to empower these groups over the years, allowing them to fully exercise their citizenship and thus enabling them to contribute even more to this nation.

Over a long and illustrious career in Congress, Senator Kennedy developed the valuable virtue of conciliation, building alliances and constructing bipartisan agreements on countless issues, invariably identifying common ground and areas of shared interests. For all he did for his country and his people, Senator Kennedy's legacy will remain with us forever. For all he did for Mexican-Americans, Mexicans and Mexico, he will be sorely missed on both side of the border and remembered as a true friend of our country.

## Consul General Remedios Gómez Arnau receives the *Community Advocate Award 2009*



**San Diego.-** As part of the “Latina Luncheon” program during the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce (CHCC) that took place in San Diego last week, the financial institution Wells Fargo presented the Community Advocate Award 2009 to the Consul General of Mexico in San Diego, Remedios Gómez Arnau for her contribution in the economic promotion of Mexico in this region.

Consul Gomez Arnau stated that she accepted the award “on behalf of the women in Mexico that struggle to advance in all walks of life”. She also noted before an audience of successful businesswomen the essential contribution of women in the economic development of both Mexico and the United States.

Monica Lozano, Director of La Opinión (the Hispanic largest newspaper in the nation), California Assemblywoman Lori Saldana and author Alisa Valdés-Rodríguez, among other prominent leaders, also participated in the “Latina Luncheon” program.

The 31<sup>st</sup> CHCC Meeting included the participation of more than 65 chambers of commerce and different organizations that came together from different parts of California, representing over 720 thousand businesses in the state. The objective of this event was to promote education and resources, as well as to access financial programs to support and fortify Latino businesses around the state.

## Mexican Pavilion at Expo Comida Latina California 2009 to be inaugurated this Sunday

**San Diego.-** A wide array of products from 65 Mexican food companies will be on display starting this Sunday as part of the **Expo Comida Latina 2009** at the San Diego Convention Center. The **Mexican Pavilion** will be inaugurated at 11 AM on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, by the Consul General of Mexico in San Diego, Remedios Gómez Arnau and the Trade and Investment Commissioner from ProMéxico (the Mexican trade promotion agency) in Los Angeles, Mario Juárez.

**Expo Comida Latina 2009**, is the only industry trade event focused on the Hispanic retail and foodservice markets. The event congregates hundreds of exhibitors from different countries in Latin America and thousands of attendees. **Expo Comida Latina 2009** will be held through Tuesday, September 1, 2009 in conjunction with the Western Foodservice & Hospitality Expo.

Consul General Gomez Arnau and Commissioner Mario Juarez conducted this week a press conference to provide details of the participation by Mexican companies at the exhibit. They indicated that the Mexican states of Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Veracruz, Sonora, Michoacán, Estado de México and Jalisco will be represented at the Pavilion coordinated by ProMéxico.



**Expo Comida Latina** was launched in Los Angeles in 2002 as the first-ever business event for the Hispanic food and beverage market. Expo Comida Latina is now firmly established as a leading resource for the Hispanic food and beverage industry, where foodservice and retail buyers can explore new authentic Latin products from suppliers throughout the Americas. More than 6,000 visitors and 500 exhibitors attend the fair.

According to the market research firm *Packaged Facts*, the Hispanic market will top \$7 billion in sales by 2009. More than 70% of U.S. households buy authentic ethnic food and beverage products today, according to Liz Plizga, Show Director for **Expo Comida Latina**. For more information, please visit the web site <http://www.expocomidalatina.com>



More products



## Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego

August 28th, 2009

### MEDIA ALERT

For Immediate Release

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**What: Opening Ceremony and Press Conference of Labor Rights Week  
(Semana de Derechos Laborales)**

**When: Monday, August 31, 2009**  
Opening Ceremony at 10:45 AM  
Press Conference at 11 AM

**Where:** Mexican Consulate in San Diego (1549 India Street, San Diego, CA 92101)

**Who:** The Mexican Consulate, government agencies, faith communities, legal experts, immigrant advocates, the UFCW, other labor unions and community organizations, working in collaboration to insure workers have information on national, state and local labor laws and protections.

**Why:** ***Semana Laboral* is an outreach and education program-** to provide labor, immigration and human rights information through a week-long, multi-media campaign. *Semana Laboral* is an important opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution of Mexican workers in the United States.

- Week long activities to engage diverse media outlets in organizing workshops, staff informational stations at the Mexican Consulate, as well as organizing neighborhood- based training and other activities.
- A Collaborative project designed to tap the experience, resources and expertise of labor, government and community partners in communities within San Diego.