

Consulate General of Ireland, Atlanta January 2016 Newsletter

Irish News

Today a State Ceremonial Event to mark the [start of the 2016 Centenary Year](#) took place (see video). The President and Taoiseach attended a reading by the Defence Forces of the Roll of Honour of those volunteers who lost their lives during the 1916 Rising, followed by a Flag Raising Ceremony.

In his [Christmas and New Year's Message](#), the President stated that “How we treat the weakest among us is the finest test of us a nation.”

The [Taoiseach's Christmas message](#) encouraged Irish migrants to come #home to work.

There was more positive news on the [investment front](#) from the IDA in December. Medical technology firms Medtronic plc and phenox GmbH both announced new manufacturing facilities in Galway. GE Healthcare is to double its manufacturing operation in Cork. LinkedIn now employs 900 people in Ireland, with more than 100 new positions announced.

2015 has been the [best year ever for overseas tourism](#) to Ireland, with almost 8 million visitors (+11% over 2014). 2016 is also looking good: Tennessee-based Lonely Planet has listed Dublin in its “Best in Travel 2016”, while *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* is doing so much to feature Skellig Michael.

Severe storms wreaked havoc in Ireland and the U.S. in December. Following numerous meetings of the Severe Weather National Co-ordination Group, the Taoiseach convened a [special meeting at Government](#) buildings today.

On December 12, Environment Minister Alan Kelly [welcomed](#) the agreement by all 196 parties at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC on a new ambitious legally-binding, global agreement on climate change

[Innovation 2020](#) Ireland's 5-year strategy for research and development, science and technology, was published. This should double investment in R&D, led by the private sector, to 2.5% of GNP. Already, this year, Ireland was ranked 8th out of 141 on the Global Innovation Index 2015 [Cornell University, INSEAD and WIPO 2015]

The [Global Irish Media Fund](#) has been established to encourage good quality reporting of all aspects of the Irish emigrant experience. The closing date for applications is January 15.

The [2016 US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards](#) in association with the American Chamber of Commerce Ireland and the Royal Irish Academy are seeking expressions of interest. The deadline for applications January 20.

Upcoming Events

The details of our programme to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising in Atlanta and the South East will be released in early January.

Consulate General of Ireland
January 1st 2016

If there are Irish events you would like us to highlight in future newsletters or if you know others who would like to receive these newsletters [please let us know](#)

<https://www.dfa.ie/atlanta>

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