

# Embassy of Ireland in Mexico - Newsletter



## Message from Ambassador

### Sonja Hyland

Greetings from a rainy Mexico City! I'm delighted to present our summer newsletter, which includes some detail of our work in our 7 countries of concurrent accreditation. In addition to Mexico, the Embassy is accredited to Cuba, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Peru, Colombia and Venezuela. This means a lot of regional travel and it has been great to meet thriving Irish communities all over Latin America this year. We are always keen to keep in touch with citizens and friends of Ireland in our countries of accreditation, so pass this newsletter on to friends and colleagues who might want to join our mailing list

### Ireland's Cooperation Programmes in Mexico and the region

The Embassy has made a number of small grants this year on behalf of Irish Aid (Ireland's Official Development Aid programme) in support of Ireland's foreign policy goals. In Mexico, we are supporting a number of Mexican NGOs in their work in promoting gender equality, migrants' rights and poverty reduction in vulnerable communities. In Colombia we partner with Christian Aid in human rights and conflict prevention, while in Central America, Christian Aid and Trocaire work closely with Irish Aid in disaster preparedness, income generation and women's empowerment. We'll be featuring some of these projects this autumn once our new website is up and running.

*The Embassy Twitter Account is nearly at 1,500 followers. Help us get there - join us on @irishembmexico*

### Ireland's Regional Relations



The Ambassador, First Secretary and Consul from the Embassy have been travelling extensively through our network of concurrent accreditations this year promoting political, cultural and trade links with Ireland.

Since January, the Ambassador has presented credentials in Colombia, Cuba (pic left) and Peru & represented Ireland at the inaugurations of new Presidents in Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador (pic above). Our Consul has advanced consular, political and cultural links with Peru, Colombia, Costa Rica and Cuba while the First Secretary's focus was on building trade and investment links in central America as well as Mexico.

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## Economic and Trade News

### Mexico-Dublin Investment Conference

Dublin City Council hosted a business and investment conference on 1-2 May, attended by 90 Mexican companies. Speakers at the conference included Mexico's Secretary of Economy, Ildefonso Guajardo; Director of ProMexico, Fransico Gonzalez; and the then Tánaiste and Minister for Trade and Development, Eamon Gilmore and Joe Costello. The two day event was an excellent showcase for investment opportunities for Mexican companies in Ireland, marking a new phase in bilateral economic cooperation. Key sectors focused on at the conference included ICT, digital and creative media, pharma and financial services.

### Visit of Minister for Trade and Development Mr. Joe Costello TD to Mexico.

Minister Joe Costello and the Chairman of the Oireachtas Foreign Affairs Committee, Pat Breen, TD visited Mexico in April for a global aid effectiveness meeting hosted by SRE and the OECD. Minister Costello took the opportunity to visit Queretaro for a day of economic promotion meetings. He met the Mayor of Queretaro to discuss links in trade, education and tourism and the Governor's representative joined the Irish community lunch. A highlight was a visit to Kerry Group's flagship investment in Mexico in San Juan Del Rio. Minister Costello was also the special guest at the 10 year anniversary celebration of BMT Consulting, Enterprise Ireland's local representatives in Mexico.

### Visit of Trinity College Dublin to Mexico

Education links between Ireland and Mexico are going from strength to strength and the Embassy has been working with Mexican and Irish Universities and with CONACYT to further develop research partnerships and student and faculty exchange programmes. Trinity College Dublin undertook a wide ranging exploratory visit to Mexico in June and met with a wide range of potential partner Universities, as well as with CONACYT and FIDERH. As part of the visit, Ambassador Hyland hosted a reception for Trinity graduates living and working in Mexico.



### Irish Cultural Events

Ireland was invited to be the Country of Honour at a Festival celebrating Colombian-European Relations at the Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla in March of this year with over 3,500 people enjoying Irish cultural activities which were also televised nationally. The Irish aerial dance group Fidget Feet wowed the crowds at the Festival Internacional de las Artes in Costa Rica in April whilst in Mexico City, Ireland participated in the Eurojazz, Culturas Amigas and EuropaJoven Festivals. Querétaro had its first "Encuentro Cultural" featuring Ireland as 'guest country' in July, building on the ever successful Irish presence in the Festival de Comunidades Extranjeras. Good news too that the International Celtic Music Festival will be back in Puerto Vallarta next March after its launch this year.

### New Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade

Charles Flanagan, TD was appointed in July this year as the new Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, replacing Eamon Gilmore and Sean Sherlock was appointed as Minister of State for North-South Cooperation, Trade Promotion and ODA replacing Joe Costello. Jimmy Deenihan has been appointed to a new role as Minister of State for the Diaspora. We look forward to welcoming them to Mexico sometime in the future.

### World Cup Excitement

Since Ireland and Mexico share a green jersey we were very happy supporters in recent weeks and gutted to say goodbye to Mexico's hopes. Costa Rica and Colombia also did us proud!

### Staff changes in Embassy

In September, we will welcome a new Deputy Head of Mission, David Costello, and bid farewell to Catherine Campbell who is returning to Headquarters in Dublin after four very happy years in Mexico!