



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Ireland-Mexico

Programme of events

to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations

Mexico and Ireland celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year. As agreed by President Michael D Higgins and President Enrique Peña Nieto during President Higgins' official visit to Mexico in October 2013, the anniversary is an excellent opportunity to strengthen cooperation, promote trade, academic and investment partnerships and to share artistic and cultural exchanges to the benefit of both countries.

The Embassy of Ireland in Mexico and the Embassy of Mexico in Ireland have elaborated extensive programmes of events to take place over the course of 2015. The programmes are being launched this week with parallel events in Dublin and Mexico City. The launch will be marked in Dublin by Seán Sherlock, TD, Minister for Development, Trade Promotion and North-South Co-operation, together with the Ambassador of Mexico to Ireland, H.E. Carlos Garcia de Alba. In Mexico City, the Ambassador of Ireland, H.E. Sonja Hyland will launch the programme jointly with the Mexican Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for Culture and the Mexico City Government.

It was noted at the launch of the programmes of events in both Dublin and Mexico City, that they take place against a background of excellent bilateral relations. These relations have developed in a climate of understanding and friendship, strengthened by historic affinities and a shared view of many challenges faced by the international community as a whole.

The meeting of the Presidents in 2013 marked the desire of both countries to expand and consolidate political and commercial contacts and continue on the path of close friendship.

Mexico and Ireland currently enjoy strong bilateral ties. Political connections have been strengthened by regular visits, increasing cooperation in the educational, scientific, technological, and cultural fields, and trade and investment.

The close relationship between the two countries is reflected on the international stage with similar positions on issues such as climate change, human rights, sustainable development, and the international effort to combat hunger. Similar views are held on disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and both countries are committed to working closely on a new framework of development post-2015 that is universal, inclusive and sustainable to provide guidance in the development of programs to combat the real causes of poverty and inequality.

Mexico is Ireland's largest trading partner in Latin America and Ireland ranks among Mexico's top ten trading partners within the European Union. Ireland and Mexico recognize the importance of tourism as an engine for economic and social development and as a sector that has shown stable growth in recent years. Mexico is the top destination in Latin America for Irish tourists and Ireland has become an increasingly significant destination for students who wish to improve or learn English, and for postgraduate studies at Irish universities.

The *Mexican Lecture* at Trinity College Dublin is an important forum for the academic and cultural projection of Mexico in Ireland, with participation to date by renowned Mexican intellectuals such as Carlos Fuentes, Juan Villoro, and Elena Poniatowska, to name but a few.

Mexico and Ireland have also worked to strengthen educational, cultural, and scientific ties and to translate these into practical and beneficial results for their respective countries through initiatives such as the digital twinning between Dublin and Guadalajara, signed in 2013.

The extensive programme of activities to be held throughout this year in both countries highlights the importance of this special occasion. It includes the visit of the Mexican Navy's Training ship *Cuauhtémoc* to Dublin, a concert by Alondra de la Parra, traditional ballet by the University of Guadalajara, the first visit to Mexico by the group *The Gloaming* on St Patrick's Day, the participation by Mexico in the Global Greening, the Celtic Music Festival in Puerto Vallarta, the featuring of Irish cinema in Mexico City and Guadalajara, the participation of Ireland in the Festival de Santa Lucia in Monterrey, the Festival Cervantino in Guanajuato and the Feria Internacional del Libro in Guadalajara and a seminar marking the 400th anniversary of the birth of William Lamport, the Irish-born author of the first proclamation of independence in the Spanish Indies, together with concerts, dance performances, seminars, and literary events.

The programme of events to be held throughout 2015 in both countries reaffirms the commitment to continue working to maintain and strengthen the excellent ties of friendship and cooperation between us.

Dublin, 22 January, 2015