



Iconic monument of Mexico City, the Angel of Independence went green on St. Patrick's Day! For the first time ever Mexico joined Ireland's Global Greening Campaign, together with over 100 globally recognised sites in a wonderful celebration of Irish culture

***The Embassy Twitter Account now has over 1,000 followers. Join us on @Irishembmexico***

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EMBAJADA DE IRLANDA

## Message from Ambassador

### Sonja Hyland

The content of our Spring newsletter focuses on the St. Patrick's Day period in Mexico. This year, celebrations were bigger than ever with a wide range of events organised by the Embassy and the Irish community. We were delighted to have the first Ministerial visit to Mexico in some years for St. Patrick's Day and were honoured to welcome the Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Alan Shatter TD, to Mexico. Minister Shatter is pictured below during his meeting with Mexican Secretary for Foreign Relations, José Antonio Meade Kuribreña

### Visit of Minister Alan Shatter to Mexico



Minister Shatter's visit was part of the Government's Promote Ireland programme undertaken annually to build trade, economic, and cultural links with Ireland's key partners. During his meeting with Secretario Meade the Minister updated him on trade cooperation since the President's visit, the Mexico – Dublin Investment conference (more below) and the increased activity by Irish companies in Mexico this year. An important message by the Government for the St. Patrick's Day period is to highlight that Ireland's economic recovery is gathering pace. The Minister had a number of engagements with representatives of the business community in Mexico to discuss opportunities and carried out a series of press engagements. His launch of the Turissste social tourism programme for Ireland gained wide coverage in Ireland and Mexico. Links to interviews and more photos on @irishembmexico and our website.

## Visit of Lord Mayor of Dublin

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Oisín Quinn visited DF and Guadalajara from 4-7 March. His programme focused on promoting Dublin's Digital sector and planning for the first ever Mexico Investment conference in Dublin in May. The Lord Mayor met with Mayor Mancera, Secretary of the Economy Ildefonso Guajardo, the Coordinator of Mexico's National Digital Strategy, Alejandra Lagunes, the Mayor of Guadalajara and representatives from COMCE and ProMéxico. He also visited one of SmurfitKappa's plants in Mexico City. Ambassador Hyland hosted an event with business, tourism and education contacts to discuss with the Lord Mayor the opportunities for cooperation and investment in Dublin and Ireland.

## Mexico-Dublin Investment Conference

Dublin City Council is hosting an investment conference on 1-2 May, aimed specifically at attracting Mexican companies to invest and do business in Ireland. Secretary of the Economy, Ildefonso Guajardo will be a key note speaker and, with the support of ProMexico, will bring a delegation of Mexican companies.

The most up to date programme brochure can be found on <http://eurgate.eu/the-conference>

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

City, State 55555

As we go to press, another Ministerial visit from Ireland is ongoing! Minister Costello and the Chair of the Oireachtas Foreign Affairs Committee, Pat Breen, TD are in Mexico for a global aid effectiveness meeting, with Minister Costello also visiting Querétaro. See our next Newsletter for the outcome of their visit!



## Commemoration of San Patricio Battalion

A highlight of Minister Shatter's visit was his participation in the traditional commemoration ceremony for the San Patricio Battalion, on St. Patrick's Day itself. The Minister was particularly pleased to remember the contribution of the armed forces in both Ireland and Mexico. A local San Angel school did the honours of flag bearing for the event (see photo above).

## Irish Community in Mexico

The participation of the Irish community in Mexico was an essential ingredient in the Minister's visit and he was pleased to have an opportunity to acknowledge your contribution to Irish-Mexican relations. We are reviewing Ireland's relationship with the diaspora and your comments and input are very welcome at <https://www.dfa.ie/our-role-policies/the-irish-abroad/diaspora-policy-review>

## Community St. Patrick's Day Festivities

The Embassy was delighted to participate in a number of events organised by the Irish community and friends in Mexico. Special thanks to Stephen Murray for his wonderful photo exhibition in Plaza San Loreto throughout March, the Saint Patrick's Battalion Pipes and Drums band for organising the international Celtic Music Festival in Puerto Vallarta and singer Louise Phelan for a standout performance representing Ireland at the Eurojazz festival. Finally, well done to Charity Coalition for hosting the excellent Go Green Family Day at the Museo de Papalote.

## #Ireland Inspires

The St. Patrick's Day promotional video from Tourism Ireland was a phenomenal hit, being the 7<sup>th</sup> most viewed item on item on Youtube in the world during March.