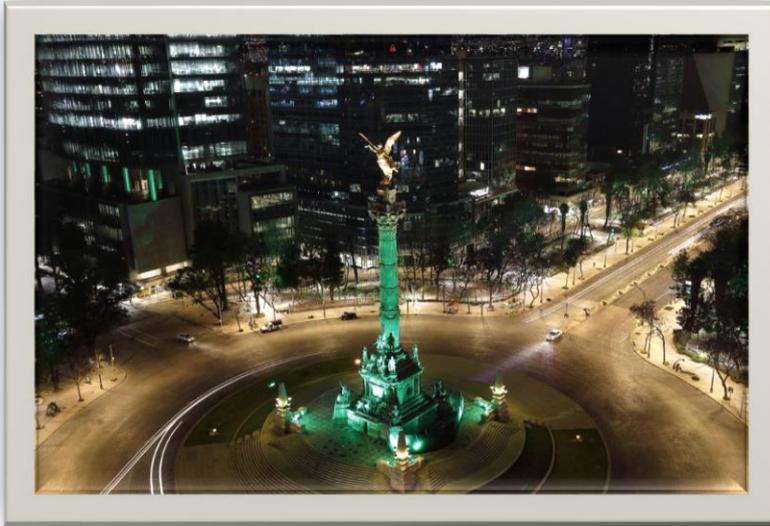




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# EMBASSY OF IRELAND NEWSLETTER June 2015



Global Greening Mexico. Ángel de la Independencia

## *Mexico Went Green on St. Patrick's Day*

17 March 2015

The excitement as we celebrated 40 years of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Mexico made this Saint Patrick's Day very unique. Iconic monuments including the Ángel de la Independencia, the Soumaya Museum, the Cámara de Diputados, the Senado de la Republica and indeed most of Paseo de la Reforma all turned green. Metro Zapata even changed its name for a day to San Patricio! The Irish Minister for Health, Leo Varadkar, came to Mexico to promote Ireland and meet the Irish community and the month of March saw a range of events in Puerto Vallarta, Guadalajara and Mexico City to celebrate Irish culture.



Dear members and friends of the Irish community,

As we are now at the halfway mark of 2015, it feels timely to update you on all the Ireland-related activities that have already taken place in Mexico in the year so far. It doesn't seem too great an exaggeration to say that half of Mexico City turned Green for Saint Patrick's Day!

There has been plenty of activity in our other countries of accreditation as well. I was very pleased to meet recently with members of community in Bogotá and am delighted to let you know that we have a new member of the team in Peru: our Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charlie Flanagan TD., has appointed Mr Eduardo Benavides as our new Honorary Consul in Lima. We will soon be letting you know what this means for the provision of consular services there and I know that he is looking forward to meeting all the Irish community in Peru.

With very warm wishes for the second half of 2015,

Sonja Hyland  
Ambassador



Chamber of Deputies



IRLANDIA  
MEXICO  
40

## Visit of Minister of Health, Leo Varadkar

17-21 March 2015

The Irish Minister of Health, Leo Varadkar visited Mexico City for a St. Patrick's Day programme of political, economic and cultural activities.

These included meetings with the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Jose Antonio Meade and with the DG of Pro Mexico, as well as a visit to Biomedica de Referencia, the award-winning commercial partner of the Irish company Randox.

65% per cent of Irish exports to Latin America now go to Mexico, a significant proportion of which are in the medical devices and pharmaceutical sector.

The visit of course coincided with events celebrating 40 years of diplomatic relations with Ireland and Mexico and the Minister was able to meet with members of the Irish diaspora at the annual St Patrick's Day reception.



Meeting with José Antonio Meade, Secretary of Foreign Affairs



Dominic Hasson (Randox), Ambassador Sonja Hyland and Leo Varadkar at Biomedica de Referencia



On March 19, 2015, the acclaimed Irish band **THE GLOAMING** performed in Teatro de la Ciudad. Their performance captivated a 700-strong audience with a mix of modern and more traditional sounds

On the evening of St Patrick's Day, we held a Twitter context for the best photo with a greened monument. 10 lucky winners receiving free trips to Cancun courtesy of VivaAerobus.

Follow us on Twitter to find out about upcoming events: [@IrishEmbMexico](https://twitter.com/IrishEmbMexico).



## 40 year programme: Mexico

### Irish Music

#### *Tommy Halferty Trio in Eurojazz Mexico*

The Tommy Halferty Trio entertained the crowds at CENART in March as the closing act of the Eurojazz Festival.

Uilleann piper **Gay McKeown** and the **Banda de Gaitas San Patricio** joined bands from Mexico, France and the USA at the 2nd International Celtic Musical Festival in Puerto Vallarta



### Irish Film

The **Guadalajara Film Festival** saw the World Premiere of film 'Price of Desire' with the film's director Mary McGuckian and lead actress Orla Brady attending. The **Ciclo Irlandés at Cineteca Nacional** included films such as Calvary, The Secret of Kells, and the Song of the Sea (nominated for Best Animated Feature in the 2015 Oscars).





*Visit of the Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to Mexico and Cuba*  
April 2015

The Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Niall Burgess, visited both Mexico and Cuba in April for consultations with the Governments of Mexico and Cuba on political, economic and cultural cooperation. During his visit, Ireland and Cuba signed a memorandum on political dialogue and agreed to finalize an agreement on bilateral cooperation.

The visit was also an opportunity to gather the Irish Ambassadors from Latin America together to consider how to strategically deepen Ireland's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean.

*Soumaya Museum celebrate with Irish nights.*

As well as turning green for St. Patrick's Day, the Soumaya Museum organised a series of evenings to celebrate Irish culture including storytellers, music, dance and Irish literature. A Bailey's cupcake anyone?



*Amnesty International Human Rights Event*

May 4th, 2015

Secretary General of Amnesty International, Salil Shetty



Ambassador Hyland hosted a forum in May focused on human rights issues in the Americas, marking the opening of Amnesty International Regional Office in Mexico City. The event, co-organized with Chile, and Costa Rica, featured the participation of the Secretary General of Amnesty International as well as representatives of civil society and of the Mexican Interior and Foreign Affairs Ministries.

*Bord Bia Business Breakfast in Mexico*

The Ambassador Hyland hosted a working breakfast in May with Bord Bia with the participation of over 30 representatives of the Mexican Food and Drink Industry. Ireland is now the third biggest supplier of food and drink products to Mexico, second only to the US and Canada.



DHoM David Costello meeting with the Foreign Minister of El Salvador Hugo Martínez during a visit to El Salvador and Costa Rica

*Tec de Monterrey "YO AMO IRLANDA" event.*

The student association of International Relations ALRI at Tec de Monterrey Mexico City Campus organised a special event in honour of Ireland in April. The event, inaugurated by Ambassador Hyland, filled the University with Irish culture, music, dance, and activities representative of Ireland.



*Irish Children's day in Papalote Museo del Niño*

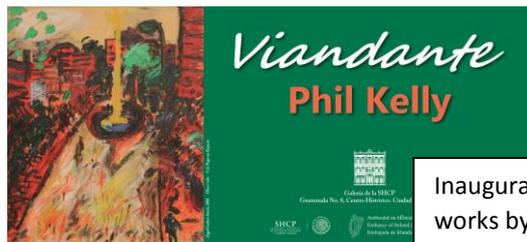
Ireland cooperated with Charity Coalition to have an Irish Children's day at the Papalote Museo del Niño. The event was a huge success.



*Cultural Programme – Our Partners*

The Embassy is deeply appreciative of the support of its many partners and sponsors in Mexico and Ireland, including

- ♣ Culture Ireland
- ♣ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland
- ♣ Government of the City of Mexico
- ♣ Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, México
- ♣ CONACULTA
- ♣ Abbeyfield Group
- ♣ Diageo
- ♣ H&K Internatioanal
- ♣ H24
- ♣ Irelandia Aviation/VivaAerobus
- ♣ Irish Dairy Board
- ♣ Pertek-Erler
- ♣ Quiptech
- ♣ Randox



Inaugurated in April, an exhibition of works by the Irish-Mexican artist Phil Kelly can be still be visited at the SHCP Gallery at República de Guatemala 8 (beside the Metropolitan Cathedral at the Zócalo of Mexico City). The exhibition will run until July 26<sup>th</sup>.

For more of his colourful work and life you can visit:  
<http://www.philkellymexico.com/>



*Meeting with the Irish Community in Colombia June 2015*

Ambassador Hyland met with the Irish community in Bogotá as part of a visit to Colombia in June 2015. The visit also included a number of political and trade elements. Ireland ratified the EU-Colombia Free Trade Agreement in January of this year.

Ireland participated in the seventh edition of the *Feria de las Culturas Amigas 2015*. Ambassador Hyland inaugurated the stand following a performance by the *Batallón de San Patricio* whilst *Shamrock* and the *Bradigan Dance School* gave a performance at the main stage of the Zócalo. There was even an impromptu musical performance at the stand by the music group *Aru Firne* who brought their Irish music all the way from Argentina!



Anyone travelling from Querétaro would have recognised the friendly faces of Tony Wilkes and Mayela Orozco behind the stand sharing information about Irish education, culture, geography and more. Thanks to their work, the Irish stand at the Festival de Comunidades Extranjeras also continues strong!

**A date for your diaries:**

The line-up for this year's Cervantino Festival has been announced and we are pleased to let you know that the Irish aerial dance group, Fidget Feet, will be performing a spectacular free outdoor show. Catch their live performance on 9 & 10 October at Los Pastitos, Guanajuato.