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CONSUL...TING

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FINANCIAL EDUCATION WEEK (SEF 2019)

On April 3rd and 4th, the eighth edition of Financial Education Week (SEF 2019) was held in Toronto, coordinated by the Institute for Mexicans Abroad (IME, for its initials in Spanish).

The Consulate General organized four activities based on the slogan for SEF 2019, “Financial Education without Borders: Save, Invest and Start Up”, with the aim of supporting students, professionals, small business owners and participants in the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) in Ontario.



The financial solutions company AIONTECH offered a talk on “Community Startups in Canada”, describing their experience and the most important elements for a successful startup.

AIONTECH also presented its “EasyTransfer” application for sending money from Mexico to students in Canada via a secure technology platform for international financial transactions.

Representatives from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) were invited to present the talk “Money Transfers to Mexico and Financial Products for Young People and Parents” on the first day of the event.

The session included explanations of the most economical global money transfer services, credit cards for young people and savings products for parents to finance their children’s studies.



The financial advisory firm Rubach Wealth referred to the “Protection of savings and investment of Mexicans in Canada”, presenting various financial options for savings and investment, retirement, mortgage, education of children and inheritance.

On the second day, the Consulate General visited three farms to share practical tools of financial education with the Mexicans participating in the Agricultural Workers Program (SWAP).

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

DELEGATION FROM THE STATE OF QUERÉTARO VISITS TORONTO

A delegation from the state of Querétaro headed by Governor Francisco Domínguez Servién carried out an important trade mission to Montreal and Toronto from March 25th to 29th.

On March 28th, Governor Domínguez Servién held various meetings with companies based in Toronto to expand Canadian investments in Querétaro, including Martinrea, Exco Technologies, and the Automotive Parts Manufacturer's Association (APMA).

As part of the visit, on March 29th the company American Industries (AI) organized a seminar on the automotive industry, including a round table with the Chief Technical Officer of the APMA, AI's Director for Querétaro, and the Director for Mexico of the International Trade Programs Division of Ontario's Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.



Fuente: Gobierno de Querétaro

The Consul General opened the seminar with a speech highlighting the strategic relationship that exists between Mexico and Ontario, the province responsible for 72.5 per cent of total trade between Mexico and Canada.

The Querétaro Governor and Secretary of Sustainable Development promoted the state as a destination for investment opportunities and highlighted its comparative advantages, including its skilled human resources, and its geographical location.

Governor Domínguez held a meeting with Ontario MPP Michael Parsa, the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, at which they discussed areas of opportunity in both regions, and agreed on the importance of strengthening cooperation between Querétaro and Ontario.



Fuente: Gobierno de Querétaro

ACADEMIC COOPERATION

CONSULATE GENERAL WELCOMES DIRECTOR OF AMEI



In the context of the 60th Annual Convention of the International Studies Association (ISA) in Toronto, the Consul General welcomed the Outreach Director of the Mexican International Studies Association (AMEI), Dr. Jessica De Alba Ulloa, who is also a researcher with the Faculty of Global Studies at the Mexican university Anáhuac.

ISA has been meeting since 1959 and cooperates with 57 international studies organizations in more than 30 countries, in the interests of facilitating analysis, the exchange of ideas and networking to improve understanding and learning in areas on the global agenda, including dialogue between academics, educational professionals, public policy experts, representatives of the private sector and independent researchers.

The main purpose of the discussion with the AMEI's Outreach Director was to compare views in order to establish new exchanges of students, teachers and/or researchers in areas of mutual interest with universities and post-secondary institutions in the province of Ontario.

The AMEI is a not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to promote studies of the international reality. In addition, it encourages the exchange of views for a better understanding of global issues and works closely with public and private institutions dedicated to studying global events.

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY AND TRADE EVENT AT TRINITY COLLEGE



Presented at the event was a report on commercial and cultural diplomacy as a tool for political and social criticism.

NACDI's mission is to revitalize the conversation about cultural diplomacy and to report on the development and implementation of public policy.

Participating in this inaugural event were the Director of the Bill Graham Centre for Contemporary International History, John English; the ROM's Associate Vice President, Strategic Initiatives

and Partnerships, Sascha Priewe; and Carleton University professor Sarah and César Villanueva, Professor of Public Diplomacy at Universidad Iberoamericana.



The event was organized by the North American Cultural Diplomacy Initiative Jessup and Professor Ben Schnitzer (NACDI), the U of T's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, the Foundation Vice-President Christine Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) and the Bill Graham Centre.

The event also featured a panel on cultural diplomacy with Dean Lynda Jessup and Professor Ben Schnitzer (NACDI), the U of T's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, the Foundation Vice-President Christine Nakamura; and the Mexicans Salvador Alanís, President and Founder of the Institute for Creative Exchange (ICE),

The panelists concluded that cultural diplomacy is essential in times of change and that we need to foster the creation of networks to leverage the potential of cultural diplomacy.

CONSUL GENERAL MEETS GWEN BURROWS, U OF T EXECUTIVE



On March 22nd, the Consul General met with Gwen Burrows, Executive Director, International, at University of Toronto (U of T). Notable among the issues discussed at the meeting was the follow-up on the visit to Mexico in October 2018 by U of T's Vice President International, Ted Sargent, to promote the scholarship program for Mexican PhD students in engineering, launched in 2017 with Mexico's National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT).

Also discussed was the progress with the agreement signed between U of T and the Mexican Foundation for Education, Technology and Science (FUNED) to support Mexican students pursuing post-secondary studies at Canadian educational institutions and to promote development in the area of leadership. The agreement establishes that U of T will offer 20 scholarships to complete a master's degree in biomedical engineering at the university.

DIRECTORS FROM UNIVERSITY OF LAKEHEAD VISIT MEXICO

Vice-Provost, Aboriginal Initiatives, Denisse Baxter and the Chair of the Department of Indigenous Learning, Robert Robson, at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, took part in the International Fair of Indigenous Cultures at Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo, which was held from April 1st to 5th, with an extensive work program with universities and post-secondary institutions in Mexico.

The executives met with officials from the Directorate-General of International Relations of Mexico's Secretariat of Public Education (SEP) and from the international area of the National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) to evaluate student mobility programs and activities in the areas of culture, translation and Canadian studies.



Fuente: Universidad de Lakehead

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

GERARDO MONTIEL IN "ICE PHOTOGRAPHY AND SOUND IMMERSION SERIES"



The Institute for Creative Exchange Americas (ICE) of Toronto inaugurated on February 27 the first edition of the cycle of academic and cultural events called "ICE Photography & Sound Immersion Series", in which the Mexican photographer Gerardo Montiel Klint gave an immersion workshop to contemporary artists and members of the professional community in the region. The exhibition successfully closed on March 2.

Montiel collaborated with a group of photographers and artists to exchange opinions, experiences with image and sound and explore the porosity of visual and sound media. Montiel's work has been appreciated in international collections, such as the Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts (Japan), Guangdong Museum of Arts (China), Museet for Fotokunst (Denmark), Museum of Fine Arts (Houston), and the Museum of Fine Arts, Modern Art of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil).

FUTURE EVENTS

HOT DOCS CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

Fuente: Festival de Hot Docs



The XXVI edition of the Canadian Hot Docs International Documentary Film Festival includes the participation of five Mexican cinematographic pieces. The festival takes place in Toronto from April 25 to May 5.

This is the largest documentary festival in the Americas, which on this occasion showcases 200 films from around the world, with the aim of supporting the work of documentary filmmakers and promoting excellence in film production.

This year, the following five Mexican documentaries were selected: "The Guardian of Memory", directed by Marcela Arteaga; "When I close my eyes", by Sergio Blanco Martín and Michelle Ibaven; "Family of midnight", of Luke Lorentzen; "3 Minute Hug", by Everardo González, and "Call Confession", by director Arturo Aguilar.

For more information: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/p/hot-docs-festival?ep=1>

Fuente: Festival de Hot Docs



Fuente: Festival de Hot Docs



Fuente: Festival de Hot Docs

MEXICO PARTICIPATES IN THE CANADIAN MUSIC WEEK

Mexico will be represented in the Canadian Music Week by Man in Motion, a duo formed by Sarmen Almond and Omar Lied. The festival is the most important for the music industry in Canada.

Man in Motion is characterized by a deep and sophisticated sound, thus becoming a representative project within the Mexican alternative electronic scene.

Thursday May 9, 10PM at Drake Underground, Toronto. 1150 Queen St. West.

For more information: <https://cmw.net/music/artists/man-in-motion/>



MEXICAN MOVIE AT TORONTO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



The 27th Toronto Jewish Film Festival runs from the 2nd to the 12th of May this year, showing 85 films from 24 countries, from downtown to uptown.

This year, we are thrilled to be co-presenting the Mexican film Leona playing on Thursday, May 9 and Saturday, May 11.

For more information at <https://tjff.com/>. #TJFF19



INTERVIEW WITH MEXICANS

BUSINESSMAN AND INNOVATOR MAURICIO MEZA



What is Tecla-e?

Tecla-e is a device that helps people with a motor disability, like individuals with multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries, Parkinson's, and other conditions. These are devices that can be integrated into a wheelchair to be able to use a phone, turn on the lights, connect to a tablet, send text messages, and control the thermostat, air conditioning, and fan.

What has your experience been like as an immigrant?

In Toronto I've always felt welcome. As it's such a culturally diverse city, most people feel included. Arriving with a job helped a lot. I was able to go to university, as a business owner I didn't have a lot of barriers, and the advantage I had was that I could break into the US market more easily.

Do you see Toronto as a centre for innovation?

Yes. The Canadian government offers a lot of incentives to develop technology; for example there is a tax credit that allows you to recover your investment in technological development projects. There are also incubation and accelerator programs for small businesses (startups).

Do you think there is a niche in Canada for Mexicans in the field of technology?

Definitely. I have met several Mexicans who have technology companies in Toronto. There are also programs like LATAM Startup, which collaborates with Mexican companies that open offices in Toronto for marketing.

What plans do you have for the future?

To keep developing technology. We've created relationships with other companies to integrate solutions into their products. To break into other markets; we see opportunities in Europe, Australia and Japan. We don't have a presence in Latin America or Mexico; we need to find a different model to be able to enter those countries. That's our goal.



Who is Mauricio Meza?

I studied biomedical engineering at Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico. I couldn't decide whether to study engineering or medicine, so I opted for biomedical engineering and discovered the field of rehabilitation, which involves helping people with disabilities to be more independent. When I had to do my internship, I came to Canada to work at the Rehabilitation Institute, where I found a project for people who had suffered spinal cord injuries and were training to use a manual wheelchair so that they could return to work.

Why did you decide to come to Toronto?

I finished the internship and returned to Mexico, and then when I graduated in 2002, the Institute contacted me and made me a job offer through the North American Free Trade Agreement, and that was how I came to work at the Institute for eight years. I went back to school to do a master's in business because while working with researchers I noticed there was a gap in the area of marketing of technology. When I finished the master's, I got in touch with another student in the program, also a biomedical engineer, who was working here in Toronto at a research centre. We got together and I found out that he had a prototype for a new product for which I developed a business plan. That's how we started working together.

We applied for support from technology marketing organizations and we received funds. Together we did a pilot study and we worked with various hospitals. After that we got support from a telecommunications company that gave us cell phones with data plans, and we found users with disabilities, gave them the technology and monitored them over several months to see how our product could be improved, what functions needed to be added before launching it. And so we launched the first, very basic version of our product, and then the second version, which was smaller, had a battery included and could be connected to Android, IOS, or to a computer. With feedback from users we kept developing it until we launched the latest version last year.

USEFUL LINKS

XXIII Children's Drawing Contest "Este es mi México".

"ESTE ES MI MÉXICO"
XXIII CHILDREN'S DRAWING CONTEST
From March 1st to August 26th, 2019



The Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto is open to the public by appointment.

For Mexican passports, birth certificates and powers of attorney, appointments must be requested through MEXITEL at:

https://citas.sre.gob.mx/mexitel_web/

(1-877-639 4835)

For any other service, please request an appointment by calling:

(416) 368-2875 ext. 236

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Institute of Mexicans Abroad (IME), invites children from all over the world to participate in the XXIII Children's Drawing Contest "Este es mi México".

The objective is for the children to draw "Idols and Figures of Mexico" that throughout the national history have made important contributions to the world. The drawings must have the characteristics described in the call, which will be open until June 28, 2019. The contest rules are available at:



CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Call for Submissions for the Mexican Government's Excellence Grants for Foreigners 2019 The Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (SRE), through the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), announces a call for submissions from foreigners interested in studying in Mexico at the levels of specialization, master's, PhD and post-doctoral research, as well as mobility programs for undergraduate and graduate students, to apply for the Mexican Government's Excellence Grants for Foreigners 2019. More info:

<http://www.gob.mx/amexcid/acciones-y-programas/becas-para-extranjeros-29785>

USEFUL LINKS

- Presidency of Mexico: presidencia.gob.mx
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: sre.gob.mx
- Mexican Embassy in Canada: embamex.sre.gob.mx/canada/
- Mexican National Council for Culture and the Arts: conaculta.gob.mx ecultura.gob.mx
- Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Mexico: cancham.mx
- Mexico-Canada: <http://mex.can.sre.gob.mx/>
- Visas and consular services: consulmex.com
- Mexican restaurants in Toronto & GTA: [click here](#)
- MEXITEL
1-877-639-4835
<https://mexitel.sre.gob.mx/citas>

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