



PRESS RELEASE

MEXICO SHOWS ITS CULTURAL ROOTS AT THE EXPO THROUGH THE PRESENTATION OF MAYO INDIGENOUS DANCES

June 22, 2005

Aichi, Japan, June 17, 2005. Mexico shows its cultural roots through the Mayo indigenous dances from the Mexican state of Sonora by the presentation of the *Danza del Venado* (the deer dance) from June 23 to 29 at the Expo Aichi 2005.

This dance will be performed by Antolin Vazquez-Valenzuela, Alfredo Buitimea-Yebisemea, Hilario Valenzuela-Yocupicio and Pilar Leyva Baumea. They are all from the *Mayo* tribe from the Northern Mexican state of Sonora.

The *Mayos* are considered the largest indigenous community of Sonora, with a population estimated over the 72,000 inhabitants. The *Danza del Venado* (the deer dance) has been performed at the Northern region of Mexico for more than three centuries and consists in the recreation of this animal life, expressing its fears, happiness and reposes, while illustrating the fusion of human beings with nature.

A central feature of the *Danza del Venado* is the outfit wore by the dancer which consists in a red kerchief over the head holding a deer stuffed head. The kerchief symbolizes the happiness while the labels and flowers set around the deer stuffed head represent the nature. Dancers also hold rattles in the hands in order to drive away wickedness during the performance as well as butterflies cocoons tied at the dancer calf recreating the rattlesnake.

The sounds and music that dress the myths, religion, life and death in the *Danza del Venado*, are another taste of Mexican culture richness at the Expo Aichi 2005.

Scheduled Presentations:

June 23 to 24

14:30 hrs: Canopy of the Mexican pavilion

16:30 hrs: Global **Common 2** Stage

June 25 to 26

14:30 hrs: Canopy of the Mexican pavilion

16:30 hrs: Global **Common 3** Stage

June 27

14:30 hrs: Global **Common 3** Stage

June 28 to 29

14:30 hrs: Canopy of the Mexican pavilion

16:30 hrs: Global **Common 2** Stage

Toshie Yokoyama
Mexican Pavilion
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