



PRESS RELEASE

MR. FERNANDO CANALES OFFICIALLY OPENED THE MEXICAN PAVILION AT THE 2005 AICHI WORLD EXPO

Nagoya, Japan, March 31st, 2005. Mr. Fernando Canales, Mexican Secretary of the Economy visited Nagoya, venue of the 2005 Aichi World Expo, as part of his official visit to Japan. After being received by officers from the Japanese Government and from the Japanese Association for the Expo, Mr. Canales walked through the site and visited the main Japanese thematic pavilions.

Mr. Canales was in charge of heading the official opening ceremony of the Mexican Pavilion. He was accompanied by Mr. Yasuyoshi Ichihashi, Officer from the Japanese Government, Mr. Toshio Nakamura, Secretary General of the Association and H.E. Mr. Mutsuyoshi Nishimura, Ambassador of Japan to Mexico. From the Mexican side also participated Mr. Angel Villalobos, Deputy Secretary for International Trade Negotiations, Dr. Tiahoga Ruge from the Mexican Ministry for the Environment, as well as H.E. Mr. Miguel Ruiz-Cabañas, Ambassador of Mexico to Japan.

The opening speech of Secretary Canales pointed out the strong friendship ties between the Japanese and Mexican peoples. The speech also emphasized the objective of the Mexican participation in the Expo: to show the relationship among our nature and culture, in order to share with visitors our sustainable development history oriented to the environment conservation while using our heritage and facing the challenge of the equilibrium between nature and development.

Mr. Canales also remarked that Mexico's participation in the Expo is a natural response to the present links between Mexico and Japan which have been strengthened for over a century since diplomatic relations were established in 1888.

An important part of the message of Secretary Canales was focused in the Economic Association Agreement between Mexico and Japan that will enter into force on April 1st. It is expected that bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation increases by this Agreement taking the advantages of our economies complementary features.

Secretary Canales also recognized the work done by the Mexican Government and the Mexican private sector in making possible the participation of the country in the Expo. He specially mentioned the outstanding role of the Entrepreneur Coordination Council (*Consejo Coordinador Empresarial: CCE*) and the Mexican Entrepreneur Council for Foreign Trade, Investment and Technology (*Consejo Empresarial Mexicano de Comercio Exterior, Inversión y Tecnología: COMCE*). Both Mexican private sector associations are crucial in the promotion of economic ties between Mexico and Japan.