

## TESTIMONIOS

Con el propósito de fortalecer las relaciones bilaterales y multilaterales con los países del Caribe Oriental, en el año 2005 México inauguró su Embajada en Santa Lucía. Al cumplirse diez años de esta iniciativa del Estado mexicano, el primer ministro de San Cristóbal y Nieves, Dr. Timothy Harris, y las cancillerías de relaciones exteriores de Santa Lucía, Antigua y Barbuda, así como San Vicente y las Granadinas presentan un balance de la relación bilateral de sus respectivos países con México.



## On the Occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the Establishment of the Embassy of Mexico in Saint Lucia

Timothy Harris

*Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis*

It gives me great pleasure to be able to contribute to this special issue of the *Revista Mexicana del Caribe*. As I reflect on the excellent relations that the Governments and peoples of St. Kitts and Nevis and Mexico have long enjoyed, since establishing diplomatic relations in 1990, I am particularly satisfied with the progress we have made over the last decade, largely attributed to the opening of the Embassy of Mexico in Castries. With concurrent accreditation to Member States and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), this has augured well for increased dialogue and commercial and cultural collaboration between our countries. In St. Kitts and Nevis, these bonds were further solidified in May 2015 when the Government of Mexico opened a consulate in Basseterre and appointed an honorary consul in the person of Mr. José Rosa Santory to represent the interests of the small but growing Mexican population, as well as the increasing number of tourists from Mexico who come to our Federation every year.

The Caribbean region has long been an important facet of the foreign policy of Mexico, and today it is a great privilege for St. Kitts and Nevis to have benefitted on the bilateral and multilateral fronts from numerous cooperation projects and large disbursements of funds from the Mexican Government, as well as from the Infrastructure Fund for Mesoamerican and Caribbean countries. We are indeed very grateful to the Mexican Government and people for their assistance and commitment to our economic and social development. Your robust contribution to St. Kitts and Nevis in the area of education is highly appreciated. As the great Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world," and it is quite apparent that Mexico understands this, as the Mexican Government consistently provides scholarship opportunities to international students including nationals of St. Kitts and Nevis, to pursue courses

in Diplomacy, the teaching of Spanish, Hydrography as well as master's and doctorate degrees specializing in Tourism, Transportation, Trade, and Natural Disasters.

I am indeed most proud to add that we now have five young professionals contributing positively to our nation building efforts in the public and private sector, who were all recipients of Mexican scholarships and who have all graduated from Mexican Universities with Bachelor's degrees in Economics, International Relations, Tourism Management, Agronomy and Linguistics respectively. Additionally, our Ministry of Education was the beneficiary of scores of books from Mexican and Latin American authors covering a wide array of topics. These were in turn shared with public libraries for the benefit of the entire population.

Importantly, our two Governments have been able to cooperate in the area of security. In 2006, both Governments signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the construction of two police stations in the rural areas of Dieppe Bay and Tabernacle. These capital projects are vital to the Government in its efforts to enhance security and build capacity in law enforcement. The projects were completed in 2011 and 2014, respectively.

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The Ministry of International Trade has been the recipient of expert assistance in the establishment of a business incubator, aimed at increasing opportunities for commerce and promoting entrepreneurial enterprise in our Federation.

However, our collaboration in the regional, hemispheric and international area remains vibrant. Both our countries share common values, rooted in democracy, justice and equality for all, and the rule of law. We therefore often share similar views in multilateral fora such as the United Nations, the Organisation of American States, The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

**On the Occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the  
Establishment of the Embassy of Mexico in Saint Lucia**

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis has supported many Mexican candidatures over the last ten years for membership in international organisations. Most recently was the support for Mr. Arturo López Portillo Contreras for the position of Director of Disaster Risk Reduction and Transport of the ACS during the 7th Summit of the ACS which recently concluded in Havana, Cuba.

The Mexico-CARICOM Summit, initiated in 2010 provides a forum for political high-level engagement for increased collaboration between both sides and St. Kitts and Nevis has always been an active participant.

I believe that the strong bonds of friendship are not only evident between our Governments but also between our people. Latin Fiesta, a local and annual event designed to promote the arts and culture of Latin American people in the Federation is yet another celebrated opportunity that affirms our nation's closeness with Mexico and the rest of Latin America. Last year, Mexico was the featured country. In addition to showcasing Mexican cuisine and music, nationals and visitors also enjoyed a Mexican movie night featuring 'Norteadó' directed by Rigoberto Perezcano.

Our people to people contact is also gaining pace. There is an increasing population of Mexicans resident in our Federation, contributing to our local economy especially in the Construction and Hospitality Industries, critical areas for St. Kitts and Nevis with tourism as a major contributor to the economy. With specialised skills, Mexicans comprise the labour force on some hotel construction sites on the South East Peninsula of the island of St Kitts. Additionally, two Mexican restaurants offering Mexican cuisine are frequented by both tourists and locals alike. These eateries have created and enhanced variety in the culinary aspect of our culture. Further, the Dolphin Discovery Park, an added tourist attraction, opened in December 2014, is owned and operated by Mexicans.

The Government of St Kitts and Nevis is committed to continuing the strong bilateral ties between our Government and that of Mexico and we look forward to celebrating another decade, replete with increased co-operation to our mutual advantage.

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## SVG-Mexico Relations: A Partnership across the Caribbean Sea

Nathaniel Williams

*Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

The forging of alliance between civilizations brings with it many opportunities as well as challenges. However with mutual-trust and commitment, such alliances will stand the test of time. In the Americas one such relation can be found between Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) and the United Mexican States (Mexico). Despite being located on opposite sides of the Caribbean Sea with over 4 000 km between them, both states have and continue to seek out new mechanisms based on the intent of the instrument establishing relations.

Approximately 25 years ago, on July 31, 1990 SVG and Mexico concluded a joint communique, commencing what would turn out to be firm friendship. The initial discussions between countries were led by engagements in the halls of the headquarters of the Organisations of American States (OAS) in Washington D.C. However, with the formation of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) as a means to strengthen ties within the context of the Greater Caribbean, those discussions were amplified through the Embassy of Mexico in Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Further, with the decision of the Mexican Government to open an Embassy in the Eastern Caribbean in 2005, the prospects for even greater collaboration and meaningful dialogue increased even more. This was evident with the first official visit of Prime Minister Ralph E. Gonsalves to Mexico in 2005, marking the first official visit by a Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to Mexico. Resulting from the visit, was the signing of a Joint Declaration by which Prime Minister Gonsalves and then President Vicente Fox Quesada expressed their interest in formalizing co-operation through a Basic Agreement on Technical and Scientific Cooperation.

The excellent relations that began to flourish also prompted the Prime Minister Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves to subsequently make another visit to Mexico in 2008, where he met with the then President of Mexico, His Excellency Felipe Calderon Hinojosa, with whom he discussed issues of bilateral cooperation, regional issues and multilateral agreements.

In the decade that followed, bilateral relations, built firmly on the foundation of respect, cooperation and mutual benefit was strengthened. As you progress through this article, you will see how SVG and Mexico has worked together to effect change in the world through its joint efforts in promoting regional integration and by providing support for each other's candidacy in various international organizations elections. People to people exchanges, though still limited, have brought benefits to both countries, and help create understanding of each others' culture and values.

Furthermore, during these years, cooperation blossomed in the areas of maritime port operation, airport management, the public service and agricultural and land tilting which were identified as critical areas geared towards the development of our tourism industry and for the strengthening of government's ability to deliver efficient and effective services to the general public.

Additionally, during this time, several scholarships were also offered to Vincentians. Today, many of those scholarship beneficiaries can be seen throughout society in our public and private sectors, leading innovations in their respective fields and contributing to the development of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Some have even become teachers and professionals in the cultural industry, imparting their experience in to the minds of the Vincentian populace serving as a testament of the success of SVGs foreign policy relations with Mexico.

Alongside scholarship recipients are those who would have taken part in the numerous technical and vocational training offered by the Government of Mexico. Through these training programmes, Vincentians would have developed knowledge and skills in areas such as, trade negotiation, care and prevention of HIV/AIDS, diplomacy, disaster risk management and agriculture, among others.

The benefits of the training and projects offered to Vincentians are not easily quantified, but they are large and carry a multiplier effect in society, and the communities and families privileged to be recipients. It is therefore



no surprise that the mechanisms that make such cooperation possible are of great importance to us, and work is being undertaken to develop, strengthen and operationalize agreements which fuel them.

### **Solidarity in Times of Disaster**

Following the passage of a tropical trough system over the Eastern Caribbean on December 23-24, 2013 which produced heavy rains resulting in devastating floods across the main island of Saint Vincent, and the recognition of the country as a level 2 national disaster zone with US \$108.4 million in damages or 15 % of the country's Gross Domestic Product. Mexico was one of the countries that readily provided assistance to rehabilitate sections of the country destroyed. To this end, two separate grant funding were facilitated through (i) Infrastructure Trust for Mesoamerica and the Caribbean towards "Bridges Reconstruction & River Embankment Protection Project" in the amount of US\$5 million in the Cumberland –Spring Village Valley and (ii) a Memorandum of collaboration between the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for the Implementation of a Project entitled "Protection and Prevention program for Emergencies and Disaster" in the amount of US \$ 500 000.

These assistance packages are timely and important in supporting the national development agenda of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as they address not only infrastructure but also ensures access to fundamentals rights and freedoms for our people such as access to affordable housing and other public goods such as agriculture and food production, energy and health and tourism which is vital to our continued development.

### **Multilateral Partnership**

Without doubt, the bonds between Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Mexico have been enhanced by our bilateral relations. In like manner, these bonds have been further solidified through our countries cooperation in the multilateral sphere. Though our countries have different characteristics and even priorities, there is a natural synergy between our two states that allow our interest to align, more often than not, as it relates to our foreign

policy. This translates to the importance we place on south-south cooperation, peace and security, the rule of law and democracy.

Today, beyond the OAS, SVG and Mexico are members of Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), regional initiatives which works towards integration and cooperation in various areas for the mutual development of its Member States. To this end, upon Mexico's assumption of the Presidency of the ACS in 2014, His Excellency José Antonio Meade Kuribreña, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, visited SVG, primarily to conduct discussions on how the ACS could work more effectively with the Caribbean region in the functional areas of the organization. This demonstrates the principled and exceptional leadership abilities of Mexico, which SVG acknowledges, and hence have supported Mexico's candidatures to a number of elections within various international organizations.

### People to People Relations

Additionally, it should be noted that relations between two nations cannot simply be measured by political will and cooperation between foreign ministries, but by the people to people exchanges and the level of integration such relations effect. Consequently, we are aware of several Vincentians who have started families in Mexico, who work there, and are contributing to the further development of that country. We are also cognizant of the ambassadorial role they play, to promote SVG in Mexico, and facilitate bonds between our peoples. The more we come to understand each other, the more attractive we will also become to each other, sparking the flames of tourism and investment development.

That being said, there is still much to be done in developing our relationship with Mexico further. Firstly, bridging the language divide, and although strides are being made by the SVG and its allies, to develop a bilingual nation where persons are able to use conversational Spanish, more work has to be done. The issue of differing language limits cooperation that is possible with Mexico, particularly as it related to technical cooperation and people to people exchanges. It should be noted that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is positioning itself to offer the teaching of English as a

second language. To this effect, we have already had success in the teaching of English on our Go-Teacher programme, where dozens of Ecuadorian Teachers received quality English training at the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Community College. We hope to further strengthen this programme, and introduce other Latin America partners such as Mexico.

Secondly, trade and economic activity between SVG and Mexico remains low. It is anticipated that with the opening of the International Airport at Argyle we will see more cooperation in this sphere between both countries. There are huge potential for cooperation in investment and tourism, and with the plethora of goods, products and services produced by both countries, it is imperative for the private sector and the various chambers of industry and commerce to connect, and establish mechanisms and processes to facilitate these economics activities. To this effect, agreements for visa-waivers, air services, and trade and investments will serve to facilitate the process, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have shown its willingness to initiate and to continue dialogue in making such agreements a reality.

Lastly, the process of learning is a continuous one, and knowledge must constantly be challenged, improved and increased in order to improve efficiency and the quality of cooperation mechanisms. That being said, it is important that programmes of technical cooperation between Mexico and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines be perused and enhanced. There is much to be learned from each other, and in understanding each other. The Agreement on Educational and Cultural Cooperation between SVG and Mexico is a good step in achieving these objectives, so it is therefore important that the executive bodies in charge of coordinating the activities derived from agreement to work on its conclusion and operationalization. It will be a welcome initiative when more Vincentians will be able to study in Mexico, on scholarships at both undergraduate and post graduate level or otherwise, as this is another way that the cultural and linguistic divide between us can be closed.

In summary, the advancement of SVG-Mexico relations have been strengthen and driven by the political will of our governments and the bonds of friendships being forged between our peoples. Therefore key individuals in this regard, which includes Ambassadors Ellsworth John of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines first accredited Ambassador to Mexico and

## Testimonios

Ambassadors Sergio Saavendra, Gerardo Lozano Arredondo, Edmundo Font Lopez and Luis Manuel Lopez Moreno of Mexico must be recognized for the excellent work performed during their tenure at the Mexican Embassy in St. Lucia. In most cases, these diplomatic agents are the first form of contact in getting any projects between the states realized.

In the words of Seneca, "One hand washes the other." The point of forming relations with states lives the notion of more can be done together than apart. SVG-Mexico relations have helped to bridge the divide between people that exists when they do not understand or know each other. It has brought insurmountable benefits to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the area of education and other key development areas, and opened doors for opportunities in trade, tourism and investment. Working together, we have influenced international decisions, and made strides in our shared vision of an integrated region of the Americans. Moving forward, it is my hope that both countries will continue to build on the relationship that we have and deepen the existing bond of friendship and cooperation, for the development and mutual benefit of our friendly peoples.

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## Approaching 22 Years of Excellent Relations Antigua and Barbuda and the United Mexican States

On the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September in 1984, the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda and the United Mexican States (Mexico) formally established diplomatic relations with a view to cooperate on a wide range of mutual interests. Now, nearly 22 years later, Antigua and Barbuda reaffirms its commitment to the cordial and harmonious relations that exist with Mexico since the establishment of bilateral relations.

The Heads of State and Government of both countries have allowed for the development of strong relations over the years. The Honourable Sir Lester Bird KNH, former Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, had forged strong relations with the then President of Mexico, His Excellency Mr. Ernesto Zedillo. The most recent former Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the Honourable W. Baldwin Spencer, also forged productive ties with His Excellency Mr. Vicente Fox and His Excellency Mr. Felipe Calderón, during their terms in office. The current administration of Antigua and Barbuda, led by Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne, is in full support of advancing the excellent relations established by his predecessors.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda commends the work of the Foreign Ministries of both countries and expresses its gratitude for the work of various ambassadors, including His Excellency Mr. Lionel Hurst, His Excellency Mr. Colin Murdoch, His Excellency Mr. Anthony Liverpool and Mexican Ambassadors who have served Antigua and Barbuda over the years, namely, His Excellency Mr Hector Manuel Ezeta, His Excellency Mr Sergio Romero Cuervas, His Excellency Mr Jose Juis Vallarta, His Excellency Mr. Benito Andion, Her Excellency Luz Elena Bueno, His Excellency Mr. Sergio Saavedra Melendez, His Excellency Mr. Gerardo Lozano, His Excellency Mr. Edmundo Font Lopez and, finally, the current Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Luis Manuel Lopez Moreno, who continues a strong

tradition of instrumental and productive representation from Mexico. The appointment of Her Excellency Ms. Gail Christian as Non-Resident Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Mexican States and the appointment of Dr. Vanetta C. Rodgers as Honorary Consul of Mexico to Antigua and Barbuda is further evidence of the close ties between these two countries.

Cooperation between Mexico and Antigua and Barbuda extends beyond the normal processes of diplomacy into areas of mutual support, namely health, education, human development, and the development and management of local infrastructure.

Antigua and Barbuda enjoys an active and rich dialogue with the Government of Mexico, both bilaterally, regionally alongside other Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and at the multilateral level, for example, in the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Organisation of American States (OAS), the United Nations, and, more recently, in the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

Mexico has provided development assistance to Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean region, particularly in the area of capacity building. Over the years, Mexico has awarded many students from Antigua and Barbuda with scholarships in the areas of International Relations, Electrical Engineering and Language Training, among others. It is important to mention that the First Secretary of the Embassy of Antigua and Barbuda in Havana, Cuba, Ms Janelle Matthew, is a graduate of La Universidad de Quintana Roo. Ms Matthew joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda in 2012 and her training in Mexico has benefitted the Ministry greatly.

The Government of Mexico continues to be an important partner in human development, and the most recent cooperation initiative between the two countries is in social housing, with a contribution worth US\$5 million.

When the G-20 was created in 1999, it was hoped that this inter-governmental network would fill the need for an exclusive forum where the authorities of both emerging and developed countries could come together to share their perspectives and build consensus, through this high-level intergovernmental dialogue, specifically around measures for crisis prevention and resolution. Academics and practitioners of diplomacy alike have

## Approaching 22 Years of Excellent Relations Antigua and Barbuda and the United Mexican States

conveyed the argument that creating such an informal forum was in the interest of the G7/8, which understood the need for a more harmonised international economic and financial system which would never work without the strong support of emerging powers, or what the G7/8 countries referred to as 'systemically significant' countries.

In 2012, Mexico chaired the G-20 and also hosted the Summit in June of the same year. By assuming the annual Presidency of the G-20 as the second emerging country to do so at the Leaders' level and as the first Latin American Chair, Mexico sought to confirm its role as a responsible and constructive actor, both regionally and globally. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda takes this opportunity to express its appreciation to the Government of Mexico for its advocacy of the issues of particular significance to Caribbean territories during its chairmanship of the G20, namely:

- Economic stabilization and structural reforms as foundations for growth and employment;
- Strengthening the international financial system and fostering financial inclusion to promote economic growth;
- Improving the international financial architecture in an inter-connected world;
- Enhancing food security and addressing commodity price volatility; and
- Promoting sustainable development, green growth and the fight against climate change.

Antigua and Barbuda joins its fellow CARICOM Member States to engage with officials of the Government of Mexico at the level of senior officials and at the level of heads of state at CARICOM-Mexico Summits. A strong relationship between the Heads of Government of CARICOM and of Mexico was developed in the 1970s under the Presidency of Luis Echeverría. During the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government, held in July 2001, in Nassau, The Bahamas, CARICOM Heads of Government welcomed President Vicente Fox as a special guest. At that Meeting, President Fox proposed several areas for cooperation, including regional security, management of HIV/AIDS programmes and other areas of public health, combating global organised crime and drug trafficking, promoting better coordination for the occurrence of natural disasters, and discussing combating global climate change.

## Testimonios

The last CARICOM-Mexico Summit, hosted by His Excellency Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, the current President of Mexico, was a complete success and the Caribbean looks forward to hosting the Mexican President and his colleagues at the next Summit to be convened in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda congratulates the Government of the United Mexican States on the many accomplishments of the relations between these two countries. The Government is confident in the future of its relations with Mexico and seeks to advance these excellent relations to a higher level, particularly through the recent successful visit of Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne and Foreign Minister the Honourable H. Charles Fernandez to Mexico in May 2016, and the work of Ambassador Lopez Moreno and the Embassy of Mexico in Castries, Saint Lucia. The future of the relations between Mexico and Antigua and Barbuda is, indeed, full of hope and promise.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and  
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## **Saint Lucia-Mexico, Bilateral Relations**

The development of strong, healthy and authentic global relationships has always been the core mandate of the Government of Saint Lucia since it attained its independence in 1979. This is reflected in Saint Lucia's membership in international groupings such as the United Nations, as well as regional blocs, such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Organization of American States (OAS). These organisations demonstrate a commitment to advance the process of development and integration, with a focus on political, social and economic growth and stability.

While membership in international organisations such as the United Nations is important, especially as it provides legitimacy to a country's statehood, the equal importance of regionalism also needs to be highlighted. Saint Lucia's membership in the various regional organisations is indicative of the importance that it places on regional collaboration and integration. It is in this vein that Saint Lucia and Mexico have had a long standing and enduring relationship, which dates back to Saint Lucia's independence on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1979, when a delegation, representing the Government of Mexico visited Saint Lucia to witness this most auspicious event. Subsequently, Saint Lucia established diplomatic ties with the Government of Mexico on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1979.

### **I. Establishment of Embassy of Mexico in Saint Lucia**

The Government of Saint Lucia continues to pursue a greater level of bilateral interaction with Mexico. The relations which are shared between the two countries have materialised with the establishment of an Embassy of Mexico in Saint Lucia in 2005. This augurs well for the further deepening of co-operation for development.

## II. Expansion of Bilateral Cooperation

In 2011, the Government of Mexico and Saint Lucia signed a Tax Information Exchange Agreement as well as Double Taxation Agreement. In this current era of globalisation, which facilitates the rapid spread of commerce, people and information worldwide, taxation practices are a main factor. The Agreement between Mexico and Saint Lucia has established a framework to help foster and encourage movement of people and commerce between the two countries

Further with the establishment of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) in 2011, the government of Mexico has expressed a keen desire to strengthen its assistance and involvement in the Caribbean region. Saint Lucia has consequently benefited from such a commitment.

In June 2014, Saint Lucia and Mexico entered into two bilateral agreements which aim to insert a greater Mexican presence in Saint Lucia's national development efforts. The Agreements are as follows:

- Cooperation Agreement in the fields of Education, Culture, Youth, Physical Culture and Sports
- Basic Agreement on Technical and Scientific Cooperation between the United Mexican States and Saint Lucia.
- Under these agreements Saint Lucia has benefited in the areas of commercial and industrial development sector, education, diplomacy, culture, health, natural disasters, youth and sports and science.

### *Commercial and Industrial Development Sector*

In the early stages of Mexico's relationship with Saint Lucia, technical bilateral cooperation with Mexico was oriented towards the commercial and industrial development sector, primarily Arts and Craft. Through the National Fund for the Promotion of Craft (FONART) Mexico has collaborated with the Ministry of Commerce of Saint Lucia to ascertain the viability of the Art and Craft sector of Saint Lucia. Additionally, workshops were held in important

areas such as basket making, soap, paper and textile production and the commercialization of said products. Many Saint Lucian Artisans and small business owners have benefitted significantly from this form of assistance.

### *Contribution to Rehabilitation Post Christmas Eve Trough*

After the passage of a trough system on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2013 in Saint Lucia, which caused widespread damage to the island, the Government of Mexico generously contributed USD \$500 000 towards the rehabilitation efforts.

### *Agriculture*

In 2013, through a triangular cooperation agreement with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Government of Saint Lucia, the Government of Mexico donated two automated greenhouses for protected agriculture that are being used for experimentation and for training students. Additionally, in 2015 the Ministry of Agriculture received 5 000 crops of coconut plants resistant to the lethal yellow disease from the Yucatan's Centre for Scientific Research in Mexico.

### *Health Sector*

Saint Lucia's health sector stands to benefit from these Agreements as national efforts to modernise this sector continue. In June 2015, the Government of Mexico contributed USD \$2 657 890.50 towards the completion of the Saint Jude's Hospital. The two buildings constructed with those resources, namely the morgue and the security and ambulance section, were handed over to the Government of Saint Lucia in November 2016 in the framework of the visit of H. E. Socorro Flores Liera, Vice Minister for Latin America and the Caribbean I the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico.

### *Water Resources*

Furthermore, in March of 2015, the Government of Mexico contributed USD \$5 million towards the implementation and commissioning of the Dennery Water Supply Redevelopment Project. The purpose of the project is to provide the residents of Dennery with a reliable water supply. The

project was officially launched on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February with the sod turning, and the first phase of the project is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

### *Honouring the Work of National Heroes*

Government of Mexico has been instrumental in recognising and honouring the work of our national heroes. In April 2012, in honour of the respective literary stalwarts of Mexico and Saint Lucia, Nobel Laureates, Octavio Paz and Honourable Derek Walcott were both inaugurated at the Octavio Paz-Derek Walcott Hall at the Mexican Embassy in Castries. Subsequently since 2015 the Embassy has participated with great success on the annual commemoration of Saint Lucia's Nobel Laureates.

### *Education and Human Resource Development*

In the area of education, Saint Lucian nationals have benefitted from both undergraduate and post graduate scholarships offered to CARICOM nationals and funded by the Government of Mexico. This initiative aims to enhance the human resource of the Caribbean region as a whole. The awards are made available for study at Universities in Mexico. To date, several Saint Lucian nationals have successfully completed studies in Mexico under this programme, many of whom have since returned to make meaningful contributions to Saint Lucia's national development.

### *Programmes Offered by the Government of Mexico (2012-2015)*

- 5<sup>th</sup> Spanish Language Course for Foreign Diplomats (2<sup>nd</sup> July - 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012)
- Workshop on the Management of Vector Borne Diseases (24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013)
- Spanish Language and Diplomacy Immersion Courses for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) (5<sup>th</sup> August - 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013)  
This course was offered in collaboration with the Government of Chile
- International Workshop on Natural Disasters Associated with Natural Phenomena (25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013)
- Spanish Language and Diplomacy Immersion Courses for the Ca-

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Diplomats (20<sup>th</sup> January - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014) The course was held in collaboration with the Government of Chile.

- 20<sup>th</sup> Mexican Foreign Policy Course for Diplomats (24<sup>th</sup> September - 4<sup>th</sup> October 2014)
- 21<sup>st</sup> Mexican Foreign Policy Course for Diplomats (23<sup>rd</sup> September - 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015)

## Conclusion

The Government of Saint Lucia remains committed to its long-standing relationship with the Government of Mexico and will continue to further strengthen our diplomatic interaction which aims to mutually benefit both our nations and their citizens.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of Saint Lucia*

