



GOBIERNO DE CHILE

# CHILE



## NEWS

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President Michelle Bachelet receives members of the Club of Madrid at La Moneda Palace.

### ¿DID YOU KNOW?

★ One of the famous Easter Island statues, or moai, will be exhibited in April 2010 at the Tuileries Gardens in Paris, thanks to an initiative called “Moai to the World.” The idea arose from an agreement between the Easter Island authorities and the Fondazione Mare Nostrum, an Italian organization dedicated to promoting knowledge of the world’s islands.

★ The Chilean ocean tugboat *Poderoso*, a contemporary of the *Titanic* – its construction was completed in Liverpool in 1911 – is the oldest of its type in the world still afloat. Capable of towing up to 40 tons, it remained in active service until 1988. In 1990, the vessel was

declared a Historical Monument. For the past 15 years, it has been anchored at the port of Talcahuano, in the Biobío Region.

★ According to a proposal put forth by a diverse international group of astronomers, the skies of northern Chile, the Canary Islands and Hawaii should be declared World Heritage Sites because of their importance to the world scientific community. The petition is supported by UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee, the International Astronomical Union and the Astrophysical Institute of the Canary Islands.

### Chile and the United States: a strong alliance

Positive results arose from President Bachelet’s Working Visit to the United States on June 23 and 24, which included meetings with President Barack Obama and Vice President Joseph Biden.

At the White House, Bachelet joined President Obama in affirming the “great number of perspectives, values and principles in which we believe and which allow us to look toward the future with great hope.” She also expressed appreciation for her host’s public recognition of the “example” provided by the Chilean economy and its response to the economic crisis: “The fact that our work is recognized abroad is without a doubt a tremendous achievement for our country.”



With Biden – who expressly requested to meet with her personally – she discussed the two countries’ current priorities. The Vice President’s interest in closer collaboration was reflected in his request that their team members exchange telephone numbers, so that they can stay in close contact.

President Bachelet praised the signing of a new memorandum of understanding for cooperation in clean energy production, reflecting the emphasis placed on this area by both governments. The initiative will include the operation of a new Renewable Energy Center in Chile. An agreement was also signed by health officials from both countries for cooperative research on cancer and human influenza.

During a breakfast with members of Washington’s leading business associations, the President pointed to Chile’s effective economic management during the international economic crisis. She encouraged them to have confidence in Chile and invest in the country.



Later, at the 144th session of the Pan-American Health Organization’s Executive Committee, held in Washington, President Bachelet reported that Chile is working with

## QUOTES FROM PRESIDENT BACHELET

"With this step, we are fulfilling an international political commitment and associating our domestic legal system with one of the most symbolic and important international instruments of recent years."

Signing the statute incorporating Chile into the International Criminal Court.  
Santiago, July 6, 2009.

"The truth is that the country did not advance in just any manner; it did not arrive where it is today by chance. Our country has followed progressive leadership, applying public policies in favor of growth, solidarity and opportunity. There has been a Chilean path toward progress, and I am very proud of this."

Reiterating her commitment and that of the government to combat unemployment.  
Santiago, July 2, 2009.

"Challenges such as human influenza can only be overcome with increased cooperation, better coordination and more international support and solidarity; we will only be able to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the health goals, if we redouble our international cooperation."

During her visit to Mexico.  
Mexico City, June 24, 2009.

### Recognizing motherhood

As of July 1, an additional provision of the Pension Reform – a pillar of the Social Protection System implemented by President Bachelet –

has entered into force. The measure provides a bonus payment to mothers for each biological or adopted child, without socioeconomic

distinctions, thus providing concrete recognition on the part of the State for the contribution made by the country's women through maternity and childrearing.

The payment is not issued in cash, but is deposited into mothers' retirement savings accounts, increasing the funds available to them after reaching retirement age at 65 years or above. The initial beneficiaries include some 13,000 retired women. Meanwhile, another 4.5 million mothers who maintain pension savings accounts but have not yet reached age 65 will see their bonus payments begin to accumulate dividends, providing additional savings to help them prepare for retirement with greater peace of mind.



the World Health Organization and the U.S. Center for Disease Control to control the influenza pandemic. Her final stop was the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), where she stressed the need for "a regional consensus on basic issues in order to develop hemisphere-wide policies."

At the Embassy of Chile, she met with the resident Chilean community and inaugurated a bust of Chilean liberation hero Bernardo O'Higgins.



A particularly moving ceremony was held at the monument dedicated to Orlando Letelier, the former Chilean Foreign Minister assassinated in Washington in 1976 by Augusto Pinochet's secret police.

### Support for Mexico

After her visit to the United States, President Bachelet traveled to Mexico with two objectives: celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two nations, and expressing solidarity with the Mexican people as they confront the influenza epidemic. She was the first Head of State to visit the country since the outbreak of the illness.



During the welcome banquet hosted by President Felipe Calderón, the President declared that addressing most of the world's current problems – such as poverty, climate change and the economic crisis – will require "global solutions based on cooperation, not isolation."



She attended a gathering of Mexican business professionals, where she praised the FTA as "a useful tool" which has allowed bilateral trade to expand at an average annual rate of 269%. Some 1,000 Chilean companies export a total of some 2.21 billion dollars' worth of products to Mexico, and the two countries' joint efforts may increase further: "We have the opportunity to forge business alliances to work together within the region, in Asia Pacific and in any other part of the world," asserted the President.

## FACTS

In 2008, foreign investment in Chile totaled 5.242 billion dollars. This represents an increase of 286% over 2007, according to the Foreign Investment Committee. Canada contributed the largest share of investments, focused mainly on the energy and mining sectors.

According to the "Worldwide Governance Indicators" released by the World Bank, Chile is a leader in the region for its effectiveness in controlling corruption.



The Chilean postal service, CorreosChile, took sixth place among 70 nations at the

Vienna International Postage Stamp Exhibition, with its series commemorating the institution's 260-year history. The stamps depict the various façades of the Central Post Office building.

Chile leads the region in the "Institutional Quality Index" prepared by the research organization International Policy Network. The ranking assesses countries' performance in areas such as accountability, the rule of law, corruption, press freedom, competitiveness and institutions that support economic activity.

Chile's Civil Aeronautics Board and the Aeronautics Authority of the People's Republic of China have signed an Open Skies Agreement to facilitate the transport of passengers and cargo between the two countries. It replaces a previous accord signed in 1996.

### A historic step

Chile's perseverance has finally paid off. After ten years of deliberation, the National Congress approved the proposal to join the International Criminal Court (ICC). On June 29, President Bachelet signed the decree ratifying the Rome Statute, through which the country will become a State Party to the ICC.

The President called the measure a "historic step," stating that "Chile is formally joining the universal political effort to prosecute crimes against humanity, both effectively and efficiently, which will mean reducing opportunities (for perpetrators) to act with impunity."

The instrument ratifying the Rome Statute was presented to the United Nations on the same day, June 29. With it, one of the administration's most important objectives in the area of human rights has been achieved.

### Another achievement for women

It was a campaign promise, and it has been fulfilled. On June 2, President Bachelet promulgated a law mandating pay equality for men and women performing the same duties. Employers are now legally obligated to ensure that this principle is fulfilled.



The legislation – approved unanimously by Congress – will enter into force over the next six months, as companies adjust their policies. Distinctions in pay based, for example, on an individual worker's aptitude, qualifications, skills, responsibilities or productivity will not be viewed as arbitrary. However, the President stressed that "all unjustified differentiation is an abuse, and it must be corrected by law."

The law joins other measures passed under the current administration to promote women's political participation and their integration into key sectors of the labor force.

### Fighting human influenza



As soon as the first cases of the current influenza outbreak came to light, Chile's government and health authorities realized that the virus would eventually reach Chile, and they prepared themselves accordingly. The Ministry of Health declared a sanitary emergency, placed its offices on alert,

coordinated public and private health networks, and created a comprehensive registry of identified cases. It also took steps to broadly inform the population about how to treat the illness and prevent its spread.

After the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak a pandemic, President Bachelet signed a decree authorizing extraordinary measures to combat the virus. Antiviral medications are being provided free of charge; 6,500 beds have been readied for patients with respiratory infections, with absolute priority for influenza A(H1N1) cases; and primary care centers will now remain open on weekends.

Through mid-July, 10.400 cases had been identified, with 33 deaths. In light of this situation, the President explained that "in Chile, the number of cases reflects our effective capacity for diagnosis; we maintain registries of all cases, and we are discussing the situation openly, because we believe this is the best way to address it. We are reacting rapidly and with great transparency."

The WHO praised the "reliable information" provided to the public in Chile, as well as the "effective procedures, protocols and clinical guidelines offered by the public and private health systems."

## OVERHEARD

"Chile's accession, bringing the number of ICC states parties to 109, marks a further significant step forward in the international community's efforts to combat impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. The European Union is convinced that Chile will make a highly valuable contribution to the Court's work, and we hope that Chile's accession will encourage other countries to consider ratifying the statute."

The Presidency of the European Union  
on Chile's ratification of the Rome Statute.  
June 29, 2009.

"We very much appreciate this signal of confidence in Mexico and this great gesture of solidarity, which we will never forget. Having served as a notable Minister of Health in your country, you (President Michelle Bachelet) understand the problem of public health in a way that few others do."

Felipe Calderón, President of Mexico.  
June 25, 2009.

"If you look at how Chile has handled the recession, they've handled it very well in part because the surpluses that they got when copper prices were high they set aside. And so they had the resources to deal with the downturn. It's a good lesson for the United States."

Barack Obama, President of the United States.  
Washington, June 23, 2009.

"I am impressed by the quality of the data provided, and the health system that we have seen (...). We are in Chile to learn. Chile's influenza monitoring system is known as one of the strongest of the Americas."

Anthony Mount, head of the International  
Response and Epidemiology Team  
of the Centers for Disease Control, United States.  
Santiago, June 11, 2009.



## Important agreement



On July 14, Chile signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Turkey — its first with a majority Muslim country, and Turkey's first with a nation of the Americas. The accord will benefit the mining, fruit, farming, fishing and forestry sectors and will further expand

bilateral trade, which reached 1,222 billion dollars during the past five years. Upon its entry into force, it will allow 98% of the two countries' trade exchanges to enter free of tariffs; the remaining products will be freed from duties within a maximum of six years.

In 2008, Chile's leading exports to Turkey were minerals (83% copper), cellulose, paper, cardboard, meat, fruit and other agricultural products. Imports from Turkey included crude oil, iron bars and wheeled tractors. On the world level, Turkey is Chile's 14th leading supplier.



## Better protection for children

"There is no excuse" is the campaign's slogan, and it leaves no room for doubt. The issue is protecting Chilean girls and boys from sexual exploitation arising from tourism. Toward this aim, the National Children's Service (Sename) and National Tourism Service (Sernatur) have signed an agreement with the International Labor Organization to combat this crime by informing international visitors of its consequences.



The Interior Ministry's Department for Foreigners and Migration will explicitly incorporate a notice into its migration forms reminding visitors that the child sex trade is illegal in Chile. Sernatur will do the same in its publicity campaigns.

According to the International Organization for Migration and Tourism, more than three million people travel to another country each year seeking opportunities for sexual contact with children. Although it is not one of the most affected nations, the phenomenon does exist in Chile – especially in the form of street prostitution – and the authorities are determined to address it. The new agreement seeks to provide a clear signal in this direction.

In addition, Sename operates 14 State-financed projects offering alternatives to young people who have turned to prostitution as a means of subsistence. During 2008, 330 children under the age of 18 (13.8% of them younger than 12 and 62% between 15 and 18), all from vulnerable sectors of society and lacking stable families, entered these programs and were able to turn their situations around.

## CHILEANS AROUND THE WORLD

U.S.  
President  
Barack  
Obama has  
nominated  
Arturo  
Valenzuela



as the new Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, the top official responsible for U.S. policy toward Latin America. A professor at Georgetown University, Valenzuela also served as an advisor to former President Bill Clinton.

The Chilean ambassador to the United Nations, Heraldo Muñoz, has been named to direct that organization's investigation into the 2007 assassination of the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto.



Pope Benedict XVI praised Saint Alberto Hurtado as a "model priest for the universal Church." The website

dedicated to the "Year for Priests," created by the Congregation for the Clergy, also summarizes the Chilean saint's life and work.

Architect Alejandro Aravena was awarded the 2009 Marcus Architecture Prize, presented by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to an emerging professional in the field from anywhere in the world. In 2008, he won the Silver Lion at the Venice Biennale.

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) has chosen diplomat Cristián Maquieira as its new president.

## AGENDA

- ★ **July 12-16:** World Congress of Political Science. Santiago.
- ★ **July 13:** President Bachelet welcomes the members of the Club of Madrid. Santiago.
- ★ **July 22-23:** Official Visit of President Bachelet to Paraguay.
- ★ **July 24:** Presidential Summit of Mercosur and Associated States. Asunción, Paraguay.
- ★ **July 30:** Business Conference. Brazil.

## Miner for a day

"A fascinating adventure in the bowels of the Earth," reads the sign at the entrance to the "Chiflón del Diablo" (Devil's Draught), a famous coal mine. For 160 years, the mine produced 250 metric tons of coal each day, until it was closed in 1997 due to decreasing production and the rising cost of extraction. It has now been reopened as a tourist attraction, inviting visitors to share an experience which can be eye-opening.



Located in Lota — 39 kilometers from Concepción in the Biobío Region — the mine extends 850 meters beneath the Pacific Ocean. Former miners lead the guided tours, which last 30 minutes to two hours, according to the route chosen. The guides give visitors an authentic sense of what life was really like for mine workers, explaining how they lived, their customs, their challenging working conditions, and the diverse myths and legends which have arisen since the mine's construction in 1837.

The stories naturally include the origin of the mine's name; it is said to come from a story with the same title by Chilean writer Baldomero Lillo, or from the fact that it is the only mine in the world with an adequate "draught" of natural ventilation.



In April, because of its historical importance, the mine was declared a National Monument, as were Pavilion 83, where the workers' homes were located; the Union Number Six Theater; and the Lota Park. The park, covering 14 hectares, was created in the mid-19th century by Isidora Goyenechea, wife of Carlos Cousiño, the founder and owner of the company that operated the mine. It contains century-old trees, a greenhouse, a Chinese gondola, a meteorological observatory, a lighthouse, benches, streetlamps, planters, fountains and sculptures.



# CHARACTERS OF CHILE

## Condorito: best-loved bird

The condor is Chile's emblematic bird, portrayed on its national coat of arms. Sporting a characteristic collar of white feathers, condors can reach a wingspan of up to three meters and are expert gliders. These unique creatures also inspired a cartoon character which is recognized around the world and has just celebrated its 60th birthday: "Condorito."



Condorito's adventures appear in 100 Latin American newspapers and 13 magazines for the Hispanic market; a group of writers works in parallel to adjust the idiomatic language according to the target audience. No matter where he appears, Condorito is mischievous, easily infatuated, a joker and a go-getter, among other traits.



According to his creator, René Ríos Boettiger — better known as "Pepo" — Condorito was born as a reaction to the Walt Disney animated

movie *Saludos, amigos* (1942), set in Latin America. In the film, Brazil was represented by a parrot and Mexico by a fighting rooster. The Chilean character was Pedrito, a determined little airplane (named after popular President Pedro Aguirre Cerda, who had just left office) who crossed the Andes cordillera with great effort to deliver the mail. In Pepo's judgment, Pedrito did not represent the "national soul" as well as a condor, which he depicted as living within the human world, dressed as a *huaso* — a traditional rural man of central Chile.

The first cartoons appeared in August 1949, in the second issue of the magazine *Okey*. In his debut, Condorito appeared a bit crude but ingenious, making plans to become a robber. However, his first victim was an experienced criminal who ended up stealing even Condorito's sandals.



During the years when migration from the countryside was reshaping urban life in Chile, Condorito suffered from a constant shortage of money and great difficulties in obtaining any. Over time, the character was gradually transformed; he lost his poncho and some of his neck plumage, and he began to look more human, with more rounded features. By 1955, when the first Condorito comic books appeared, the character had already taken on his definitive style and

characteristics: simple, mischievous and resourceful.

Pepo invented the semi-rural settlement of Pelotillehue, a play on words referring to the supposed lack of lights among its inhabitants. Condorito lives there with the comic strip's other main characters: Yayita, his eternal girlfriend; Don Chuma, his companion and loyal friend; and Coné, the nephew whom Condorito adopted as a son. The place has everything a real village needs: the newspaper "El Hocicón," ("Bigmouth"), a hotel called "Dos se van, tres llegan" (Two leave, three arrive), the bar "El Tufo" ("The Stink") and the café "El Insomnio" ("Insomnia").



Condorito's typical phrases have long become part of Chileans' vocabulary: "Exijo una explicación" (I demand an explanation) in the face of failure or unexpected events; and "¡Plop!" or "¡Reflauta!" as exclamations of surprise. In addition to occupying a wide range of jobs and positions, Condorito has also satirically portrayed politicians, athletes, scientists, artists and millionaires.



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