



GOBIERNO DE CHILE

CHILE

SECRETARÍA DE COMUNICACIONES

NEWS

International Analysis and Press Department • Communication Secretariat • La Moneda Palace

September 4, 2009 • No.104



President Michelle Bachelet at the opening ceremony of the 49th Conference of Chiefs of the American Air Forces.

Visit to Paraguay and Mercosur Summit

Traveling to Paraguay for the fourth time during her administration, on July 22 and 23, President Michelle Bachelet stated: “Chile has accumulated experiences that we would like to share with our brothers and sisters in Paraguay.” Based on these experiences in the area of social protection, the President launched the program “Paraguay Solidario” together with President Fernando Lugo. The initiative arose from joint efforts by experts in both countries, based on Chile’s past successes.



The leaders also signed a joint declaration reiterating their firm commitment to the sovereignty and self-determination of peoples, the strengthening of democracy, the rule of law, pluralism, citizen participation, solidarity-based regional integration, and the promotion and protection of human rights.

Later, the South American Football Confederation (Conmebol) recognized President Bachelet for her work in supporting and promoting the sport during her administration, presenting her with the “Gran Collar” Extraordinary Award. The President explained that since the start of her time in office, she has prioritized the expansion of sports infrastructure in the country, with the largest investment in the past 47 years.

On July 24, she participated in the 37th Mercosur Presidents’ Summit, where she emphasized the bloc’s firm agreement in the face of the political crisis affecting Honduras and repeated its condemnation of the coup d’état. With regard to the world economic crisis, she asserted that in addition to reforming international financial institutions, it is important to maintain strong fiscal responses, “and Chile has done this.”

Fruitful business gathering



Responding to an invitation from Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President Bachelet traveled to Sao Paulo on July 29 and 30, to participate in a seminar entitled “Brazil-Chile: New Frontiers for Economic and Commercial Relations.”

DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ In late 2010, an unprecedented initiative for the use of renewable, non-conventional energy sources will make its debut at La Moneda Palace. The seat of the executive branch will become the first public building to use photovoltaic panels for lighting and geothermic systems for heating. The initiative is expected to save 30% on electric bills and 25% on gas.
- ★ Laguna San Rafael National Park, in the Aysén Region, has marked its 50th anniversary. Its 1,742,000 hectares include glaciers, San Valentín Mountain, and the San Rafael ice fields adjoining the lake of the same name.
- ★ Chile is the world’s leading producer of lithium, a metal found in abundance in the north of the country. It is used in technology – including batteries, cellular phones and personal computers – as well as lubricating fluids and pharmaceuticals. Since 1998, exports of the metal have risen by 460%.



QUOTES FROM PRESIDENT BACHELET

“Edward Kennedy was a great politician who supported Chilean democrats during difficult times for our country. He raised his voice forcefully to denounce human rights violations and called for the restoration of democracy.”

In reaction to the death of the U.S. senator.
Santiago, August 26, 2009.

“We have agreed that the priority for our bilateral relationship during this new stage is to share the Chilean experience of democratic transition and democratic governability, as well as our efforts to eliminate poverty and all forms of social discrimination, which call for the design of development strategies based on democratic governability and economic growth with social development.”

After her meeting with the President of El Salvador, Mauricio Funes.
Santiago, August 25, 2009.

“This association of countries (Unasur) has become a resolute and substantive protagonist in promoting and defending democracy in our region. And it cannot be otherwise, because Latin American men and women, South American men and women, have said ‘never again’ to coups d’état; ‘never again’ to arbitrary regimes and violators of human rights; ‘never again’ to the breakdown of democracy.”

Upon passing the *pro tempore* presidency of Unasur to Ecuador.
Quito, August 10, 2009.

“We will continue to support all of the initiatives, both in accordance with President Arias’ proposals, which have been generously accepted by President Zelaya, as well as the actions of the Organization of American States (OAS), headed by the secretary general.”

After her meeting with the constitutional President of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya.
Santiago, August 13, 2009.

“If we want to be more effective in increasing our level of influence in the new global environment, we have to change the way we work. And we demonstrated this understanding when we decided, along with President Lula, to create a special working group, the Chile-Brazil Bilateral Commission.”

During a business seminar in Brazil.
Sao Paulo, July 30, 2009.

At the seminar – held at the headquarters of the Federation of Industries of the State of Sao Paulo (Fiesp), Latin America’s largest business organization – participants analyzed the new challenges confronting both countries in areas such as infrastructure, production chains, and trade in goods and services.



During the event, as well as at a banquet with the theme “Tastes of Chile,” the President invited Brazilian entrepreneurs to gain firsthand knowledge of “the results of the tremendous effort for which Chilean fruit, wine and seafood are the standard-bearers.”

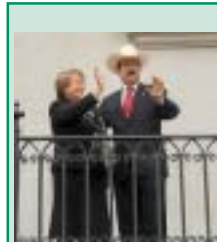
At a meeting with President Lula, she characterized the two nations’ political affinities as “real and substantive.” The leaders also signed a range of bilateral agreements, including a Social Security convention which will benefit more than 30,000 Chileans residing in Brazil and some 15,000 Brazilians living in Chile; an agreement between the University of Sao Paulo and the Chilean Ministry of Education, providing 50 scholarships each year to Chilean postgraduate students; and customs, postal and air transport accords. The two Presidents also agreed to create a Bilateral Commission to review trade issues.

Changing of the guard at Unasur

On May 23, 2008, in Brasilia, Michelle Bachelet was elected as the first *pro tempore* President of the recently created Union of South American Nations (Unasur). Upon transferring this responsibility to her Ecuadorian colleague Rafael Correa, on August 10, the Chilean leader affirmed that in little more than a year of existence, Unasur “has become a resolute and substantive protagonist in promoting and defending democracy in our region.”



Among Unasur’s achievements, she pointed to its unanimous backing for the legitimate government of President Evo Morales when Bolivia’s democracy appeared to be under threat in September of last year, as well as the rapid and likewise unanimous repudiation of the coup d’état in Honduras and support for the constitutional President, Manuel Zelaya. In addition, the new South American Councils on Health and Defense represent substantial progress toward integration in delicate and sensitive areas, such as the sharing of information about military purchases and spending, and the establishment of an “epidemiological shield” in the region – particularly relevant in situations such as the current influenza pandemic.



Support for democracy

As part of his tour of several countries, the constitutional President of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, met on August 13 with President Bachelet, who welcomed him with a statement reiterating that Chile recognizes him as “the President democratically elected by the Honduran people.” In response, Zelaya expressed his appreciation to Chile for the fact that “the first call I received after the coup d’état, condemning it, was from President Bachelet.”

FACTS

In July, Chile assumed the three-month rotating chairmanship of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), which it will hold until September 30. Chile's ambassador to the body, Pedro Oyarce, spoke positively of the challenge and emphasized his country's firm commitment to strengthening regional multilateralism.

The Global Peace Index, prepared by the Institute for Economics and Peace, ranked Chile 20th in the world. It holds the highest position in Latin America.

The 2009 Global Enabling Trade Report, the second annual edition from the World Economic Forum, placed Chile among the world's top 20 countries – out of 121 – for ease of doing business, above some major economic powers. The survey measured factors such as access to markets; border administration; transportation and telecommunications infrastructure; and business climate.

In spite of the world economic crisis, tourism in Chile increased by 4% during the first half of the year. Nearly 1,500,000 foreign visitors entered the country – principally from Argentina – and spent some 1 billion dollars.

This is Chile

Finding out more about Chile has become easier than ever, thanks to the new portal www.estoeschile.cl (www.thisischile.cl), a digital initiative of the Imagen Chile Foundation. The project, designed to offer a new window on Chile for the world, delivers convenient, practical information to users in Spanish and English – and in the near future, Mandarin Chinese.



The website has five sections: “About Chile,” covering aspects of the country such as its climate, geography, flora and fauna; “Business,” which describes the country’s favorable conditions for investment, as well as the sectors offering the most attractive opportunities and highest potential; “Tourism,” divided into geographical zones and areas of attraction, along with facts about heritage routes, airports, currency exchange and lodging; “Education,” with information about university and postgraduate programs; and “Living,” a section focused on people who have found Chile a place worth getting to know.



Visitors to the site will also find dozens of videos, Chilean music, links to Chilean radio stations, over 2,000 photographs, articles on a range of subjects, testimonial clips from foreigners living in Chile, maps, climate information, current economic indicators, and statistical data.

As the President stated at the website’s inauguration, “Through this instrument, we want to make use of the tools offered by technology to achieve recognition of who we are and what we do, so we can also look at ourselves through the world’s eyes, and ensure that our national effort makes its mark on the most diverse corners of the planet.”

A bilingual country



“This is a win-win project,” announced President Bachelet, using the English phrase to describe a new national campaign launched on July 29, “Chile Habla Inglés” (Chile Speaks English). The program seeks to support effective language learning through a series of mass initiatives supported by private businesses, the País Foundation and the Ministry of Education.

The first project is a free online English course aimed at children aged 6 to 12 and their teachers. The program, featuring friendly animated flamingos who teach English through interactive learning games, was developed in Denmark by the Mingoville company. More than 800,000 people in 20 countries are currently using it.

The President explained that her administration is making extensive efforts to expand opportunities for learning English. This year, she noted, 2,000 scholarships for intensive English language study will be awarded to higher-level technical students in fields such as computer science, information technology, electronics and biotechnology. “It is clear that our country’s prospects for development depend, in large measure, on our ability to become bilingual. This will favor our integration with the rest of the world and our global competitiveness,” she asserted.



Overheard

"Australia and Chile can work together much more closely in the future. There are many economic opportunities in mineral resources, agriculture, education, science and technology. We also have a very similar way of thinking, and we can work together much more closely in multilateral and international institutions such as the United Nations. This visit is the start of a stronger and better bilateral relationship."

Stephen Smith, Foreign Minister of Australia.
Santiago, August 27, 2009.



"El Salvador is observing the Chilean process with interest, as well as the President's attitude toward establishing an understanding and creating a climate of democratic coexistence, which is necessary for progress in our countries, especially in moments of crisis such as those we are experiencing."

Mauricio Funes, President of El Salvador.
Santiago, August 25, 2009.

"Chile offers a highly educated labor force, with a literacy rate of 96% and rapid growth in English skills. This, combined with the most advanced communications infrastructure in Latin America, a time zone compatible with North America's, and low operational costs, makes this location a natural choice for a new information technology (IT) service center. This new venture demonstrates our continued confidence in Chile's stability and economic growth."

Arun Subramony, general manager of the joint venture in Chile of UST Global and General Electric.
Santiago, August 17, 2009.

"Chile is showing the way in Latin America, and anything that leads to its success will have a positive impact on the world, and it will not be Chile's success alone."

Steve Forbes, entrepreneur.
Santiago, August 12, 2009.

"This crisis provides an opportunity for Chile and Brazil, for Latin America and poor countries, offering them increased chances for progress. Because of this, Chile and Brazil must continue with determination to make trade and investment positive factors for development."

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of Brazil.
Sao Paulo, July 30, 2009.

Chile at the Shanghai Expo



Chile will have a significant presence at the 2010 Shanghai World Expo, as the only country from Latin America to construct its own pavilion. Under the motto "The Seed of the New City," the 2,000-square-meter exhibit calls for "balancing human beings' natural tendency to

accumulate personal wealth with their condition as communitarians, who are only able to create, survive and overcome difficulties in combination with others and with the environment."

These are the same principles which have inspired the Bicentennial Projects currently being implemented for the upcoming celebration of 200 years of Chilean independence, in September of next year.

Protecting Chileans

To inform Chilean men and women more effectively about the State benefits available to them throughout their lives, a new Internet portal has been created: "Red Protege" (Protection Network), www.redprotege.gov.cl Its objective is to raise people's awareness of their rights and how to exercise them.



The eight featured programs, selected for their high impact on the community, are: day care centers and preschools; scholarships for grade school and higher education; youth hiring subsidies; the AUGE program's explicit health care guarantees; housing subsidies; Chile Solidario, which serves at-risk families, individuals and communities; unemployment insurance; and the

Basic Solidarity Pension. These are joined by new benefits such as the bonus payment to mothers for each child, implemented in July, and the special payment to households initiated in August.

"Red Protege" seeks to reduce vulnerability, expand opportunities for children and their families, combat discrimination, reduce inequality and enhance social equity. It not only provides help to the neediest segments of the population, but also addresses the middle class. "We are advancing toward a State which protects individuals, toward a more dignified existence for all Chileans," asserted the President.



CHILE AND AROUND THE WORLD

President Bachelet was one of the two Latin Americans included in the ranking of the world's 100 most powerful women, published by *Forbes* magazine. This year, she rose from position 25 to 22.



Architect Marcial Echenique was presented with the Order of the British Empire by Queen

Elizabeth, for his contributions to urban development in the United Kingdom.

Swimmer Kristel Köbrich participated in the World Swimming Championship in Rome, where she set a South



American record in the 800 meter freestyle. She also took sixth place in the open water competition in the Tyrrhenian Sea and fourth place in the 1,500 meter freestyle in the pool.

In the second annual presentation of the Jack F. Ealy Latin American Scientific Journalism Award, organized by the Institute of the Americas (IOA), journalist Fernanda Landea of *Televisión Nacional* took first place in the Environment category.

AGENDA

- ★ **August 26-27:** Visit of the Foreign Minister of Australia, Stephen Smith. Santiago.
- ★ **August 28:** Extraordinary Meeting of the Presidents of the Union of South American Nations (Unasur). Bariloche, Argentina.
- ★ **August 31-September 4:** 49th Conference of the Chiefs of the American Air Forces. Santiago.
- ★ **September 9-11:** Ninth Ibero-American Environmental Ministers' Forum. Santiago.
- ★ **September 23-30:** General Debate of the 64th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. New York.

Cartagena's heritage route



In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Cartagena – in the Valparaíso Region – became the preferred beach resort for Santiago's inhabitants and the cradle of an expanding bourgeoisie who began to buy summer homes. The strengthening of the economy in the late 19th century boosted the

city's growth, and thanks to European immigrants, it developed its own characteristic and attractive architectural style.

Today, it has become more of a middle-class destination – with some 600,000 visitors each summer – while also preserving its rich history and unique flair. In recognition of this fact, the Ministry of National Assets has created a Heritage Route called "Cartagena: Architecture, Sea and Poetry," an urban tour on foot or bicycle following the information presented in a bilingual guidebook.

The first segment, Cartagena Centro, leads visitors through the city's historic center, the steep slopes of the architecturally rich El Tranque neighborhood, and the 12,180-square-meter Playa Chica ("Little Beach"), with its dramatic rocky outcroppings. The second segment, Barrio Estación, includes nearby fishing wharves, the Cartagena Lagoon – a picturesque natural sanctuary – and the rural town of Lo Abarca.



The home of Vicente Huidobro

The route also includes three National Monuments: the tomb of poet Vicente Huidobro – considered one of the four greats of Chilean poetry, along with Pablo Neruda, Gabriela Mistral and Pablo de Rokha – who lived in this city; the coastal zone

surrounding the poet's home, which is of great architectural, historical and environmental value; and the railway station.



Waterfront scene

PEOPLE OF CHILE

The Andean Rescue Corps



On October 13, 1972, a Uruguayan Air Force plane crashed in the Andes mountains, at an altitude of 3,500 meters, where temperatures range from -25 to -42°C.

The craft was carrying 45 Uruguayan rugby players and family members, of whom 16 survived for 72 days. Their story later gave rise to the book and film *Alive*.



The Andean Rescue Corps (Cuerpo de Socorro Andino, CSA), considered the leading entity of its type in Latin America, played a vital role in their recovery. In 2002, commemorating the accident's 30-year anniversary, some of the survivors paid homage to the CSA, acknowledging that without its work their rescue would have been impossible.

The CSA was founded on May 31, 1949, after an accident on Mount Tupungato on the Argentina-Chile border. The sport of mountain climbing had recently gained popularity in the country, and the need became evident for a technical and professional organization specializing in search and rescue operations.

Today, the Andean Rescue Corps works on mountainsides and rugged terrain throughout the 4,500 kilometers of the Andean chain in Chile. Its 350 volunteers, both men and

women, are active in risk reduction measures and search and rescue operations for lost persons, especially in mountainous areas. All of them have extensive experience in climbing and mountaineering activities, and there is also a prolonged initiation period.



The CSA has also provided assistance in Argentina, Bolivia and Peru. In the latter country, one of its most significant deployments came in the 1970s, when a collapsing glacier from the Huascarán ice fields gave rise to an avalanche, which also buried the town of Yungay.



The work of the institution covers most of Chile's national territory. In addition to its Santiago headquarters, it maintains offices in San Pedro de Atacama in the north; and in Concepción, Chillán, Pucón, Puerto Varas and Punta Arenas in the south; from which the volunteers are deployed to other regions when necessary. The CSA is also currently

working to open an office in Antuco, Bío Bío Region, where 45 conscripts from the Chilean Army's Reinforced Regiment N° 17 perished in 2005 in high-altitude exercises during a blizzard. The CSA was tasked with locating and recovering their bodies.

After an alert is received, it takes approximately two to four hours – or sometimes up to 12 hours – for the volunteers to respond. Their preparation time is mainly spent in verifying that the call for help is genuine, assembling the patrol, identifying the equipment needed in the specific theater of operations, and assembling the necessary resources, including aircraft and/or land vehicles. On weekends, when rescue calls are more frequent, the volunteers remain on permanent alert.

Funds are provided by the government through the National Emergency Office, the same organization which often contacts the CSA for rescue operations. If aircraft are required, they are generally provided by the Chilean Air Force or the Carabineros airborne police unit. An operation may last for only a matter of hours or for months. Although international law calls for a search period of ten days, the volunteers often continue working much longer.



EDITOR IN CHIEF: Juan Carvajal, Director Communication Secretariat / **EDITOR:** María Paz del Río, Chief, International Analysis and Press Department / **TEXT:** International Analysis and Press Department / **PHOTOGRAPHS:** Presidencia de la República/ www.chilehablaingles.com/ <http://en.expo2010.cn/> www.aventuramerica.com/ www.socorroandino.cl/ www.csaconcepcion.cl/ www.estoeschile.cl
TRANSLATION: Patricia Linderman
COMMUNICATION SECRETARIAT / LA MONEDA PALACE
depreint@msgg.gov.cl / www.msgg.gov.cl / www.gobiernodechile.cl