

HE Eduardo Medina Mora. Ambassador of Mexico in the UK  
Message on the Occasion of the launching of the Mexican Chamber of Commerce in the UK  
June 23rd, 2011

Ladies and Gentleman

Good evening.

I begin by thanking you all for joining us today in this pivotal event.

It is no coincidence that we are gathered here today to celebrate the opening of the Mexican Chamber of Commerce in the UK.

In a global environment of economic uncertainty, countries that provide confidence, stability, strength or sustained growth are difficult to come upon.

It seems that when betting on a country one finds that its economic virtues are interchangeable with its economic deficiencies. Frequently we are presented with the dilemma of choosing between growth followed by overheating or a stable environment with low returns. The financial crisis of 2008 scarred us with excessive precaution or scepticism.

Good opportunities are never partial, but rather unique. A country that grew 5.5% last year and is expected to grow 4.6% this year, yet keeping inflation at a quiet 4.4 % average looks like a good opportunity. An emerging economy that at the same time is the first Latin-American member of the OECD and the 11<sup>th</sup> economy in the world seems like an interesting opportunity. A nation that has enough reserves to pay its debt two fold and graduates 90 thousand engineers and technicians every year, sounds like a terrific opportunity. A country with a higher per capita GDP than Brazil, China and India, appears as an impressive opportunity.

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The good news is that there is one country that combines all of the above; Mexico is indeed a unique opportunity.

To help exploit that opportunity, the Mexican Chamber of Commerce in the UK provides a wide range of services to help generate new business, build a strong network and keep its members informed on relevant commercial and social issues. It aims to consolidate, maintain and develop strong and long lasting relationships among its membership and to become a forum where businessmen, policy-makers, politicians, academics as well as diplomats of Mexico and the UK, can meet to discuss how to create new business opportunities and profit from Mexico's unique business environment.

The Chamber will encompass Mexican companies with UK presence and of course, British companies doing business in Mexico.

I am delighted to be part of this new chapter of the UK-Mexico vibrant relationship, one which I am sure will prove that the more both countries bridge the ocean that stand between them, the stronger and more prosperous they will become. Let us not forget that the competitiveness of a country depends on the competence of its businesses to conquer markets and presence. It is worth noting that the British Chamber of Commerce in Mexico celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, which sets a bar I am sure the enterprise we are launching today will raise.

Thank you.