

FIRST NORTH AMERICAN SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

The North American Sustainable Economic Development Summit



GEN. AL ZAPANTA & CONSUL GENERAL DR. J. OCTAVIO TRIPP

The North American Sustainable Economic Development Summit held August 26, 2014 in Las Colinas-Irving, Texas, brought together private and public sector leaders in energy, infrastructure, transportation, logistics, and border facilitation to address the challenges and opportunities present in North America. In his welcoming remarks, Al Zapanta, President and CEO of the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, commented that the topics encompassed a wide range of

interests, including the quest to secure energy independence and the effects on international trade due to the Panama Canal expansion and the opening of the Northwest Passage in the Arctic. From border facilitation, to transportation and infrastructure, to the technologies that support all industries, the Summit interwove a vital framework of industry and commerce through panel discussions and forums. Mexico's Consul General in Dallas, Dr. Jose Octavio Tripp, welcomed attendees and noted the important changes in Mexico's energy sector.

Congressman Greets Guests

U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions (R-TX), greeted guests at the Summit, stating "...we must consider the notion of North America in the context of today's present obstacles, including security and global governance."

The idea of North America assumes major significance and relevance. In the context of the international arena, the influence of NAFTA institutes a global asset of enormous value, making this the right moment to strengthen North American region economic integration.



US CONGRESSMAN
PETE SESSIONS



TEXAS STATE REP.
ROBERTO ALONZO

Energy Centerpiece of the Day

The centerpiece of the day was the recently approved Mexico energy reform and the growth of domestic U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG). As the United States, Mexico, and Canada continue to integrate their economies through trade, facilitation of knowledge, and shared systems, the region's competitive edge will sustain the growth. North American trade requires a comprehensive approach that takes into consideration infrastructure, logistics, transportation, and energy, with a focus on sustainability. These platforms of commerce drive current developments including negotiation for a Trans-Pacific Partnership, the ambitious 21st century trade agreement that the United States is negotiating with eleven Pacific countries. As NAFTA's partners leverage their relationship to strengthen North America's resolve in addressing issues of sustainable development and growth, the resultant actions are sure to drive the competitive advantage of the region.

Energy Panel

Moderating the Energy Panel, Texas Member of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, Steve Molina, noted the importance of energy independence in North America. The reforms recently implemented in Mexico are creating an extraordinary opportunity for powerful, joint programs that shape the basis for a regional community.



STEVE MOLINA



SANTIAGO CREUHERAS

Santiago Creuheras of Mexico's Ministry of Energy outlined the 21 laws that consolidate the new legal regime for the sector. The energy reform alone will have an enormous effect on the future of North America, creating hundreds of business opportunities in the hydrocarbon sector and supporting industries including technology, financing and investment, and education and training, among others.

Former Deputy Assisting Secretary of Technology and LNG Mr. Emil Pena with the U.S. Department of Energy, shared how the oil market is at a crossroads with multiple game-changing influences strongly affecting outcomes; from the economy to technology and geopolitics, it is time to strategically plan for energy independence and to collaborate between nations on how best to leverage North American assets in the effort of sustainability. NAFTA partners must embrace the coming energy revolution. Energy independence will be the cornerstone in North American sustainability.



EMIL PENA



DEPUTY SECRETARY VICTOR MENDEZ

Grow America Act

Victor Mendez, Deputy Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation, shared with the audience the vision contained in the initiative “Grow America Act,” an ambitious plan to increase transportation investment on national infrastructure to keep pace with the growing demand, and also mentioned that the DOT is currently working to develop a national Freight Strategic Plan, which “...will look at freight movement in the U.S. from a multimodal perspective that includes rail, highways, and ports.”

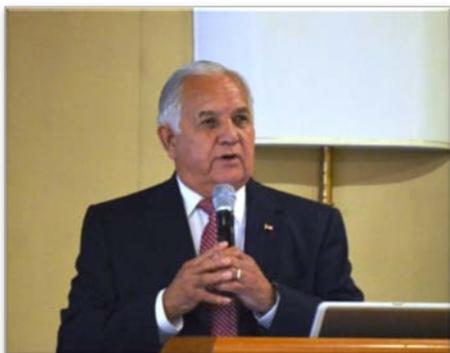
Mexico’s Telecommunications Sector

Monica Aspe-Bernal, Coordinator in the Agency for Knowledge and Information in Mexico’s Ministry of Communications and Transportation provided a snapshot of the changes in the legal framework of the Telecommunications Sector in Mexico, and the infrastructure projects in place, such as the transition to digital television and open access mobile network, among others, with a total investment of \$14 billion. She also presented details of Mexico’s National Infrastructure Program, which will double the ports’ capacity, and includes the construction of highways, passenger railroads, high-speed railroads, and a new airport in the Mexico City area.



MONICA ASPE-BERNAL

The Border



FORMER CONGRESSMAN
SILVESTRE REYES

Former Congressman Silvestre Reyes, US House of Representative for Texas, 16th District of Texas-El Paso opened the border discussion with a brief update on the Ports Act; before turning the conversation over to Ana Hinojosa, Deputy Asst Commissioner for the office on International Affairs, Homeland Security and Luis Fernando Pérez Azcárraga, Principal Customs Administrator for Strategic Planning and Coordination, Mexico.

Recognizing the key role that government institutions play in facilitating trade, Luis Fernando Pérez Azcárraga, presented Mexico's plan to meet the demands of foreign trade with the use of new technology and expanding facilities, while Ana Hinojosa, and explained the daily activities of the Customs and Border Protection Agency.



ANA HINOJOSA



LUIS FERNANDO PEREZ-
AZCARRAGA



DR. JOHN CHRISOS

Dr. John Chrisos, Vice President, AS&E, discussed the importance of private sector's continued investment and development in new technologies that expedite trade in a secure and efficient manner along our border. He would go on to explain how advanced technology equips our nations with the tools essential to secure the borders against drugs, currency, and illegal immigration.

North American Focus

The Summit's strategic timing coincided with ongoing discussions between industry and government leaders eager to collaborate across a host of topics and challenges facing North American sustainability with urgency. North America cannot afford to delay sustainable economic development another moment. Energy driven initiatives will reawaken, and investments will once again pour into our region and into transportation infrastructure, and leadership must be in a position to respond appropriately.

Ambassador Juan Sosa commented that commerce will capitalize on the investments made in Panama to increase the capacity of the Panama Canal.

The Arctic Region and Northwest Passage will play an increasingly greater role in global logistics and commerce, as reported by John Higginbotham, Senior Fellow, Carleton University and Center for International Governance Innovation, Canada.



AMBASSADOR JUAN SOSA



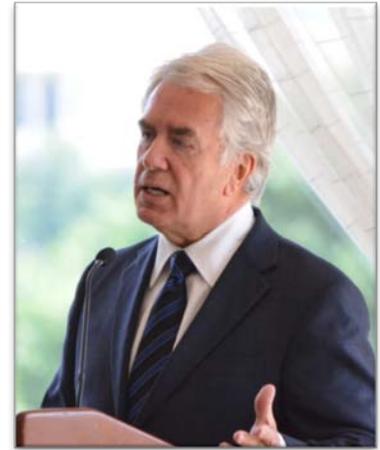
DR. JOHN HIGGINBOTHAM

Canadians Perspective

Senator Doug Black, Province of Alberta, Canada, and David Manning, Government of Alberta's Representative in Washington, shared how it is imperative that North America forge a new regional spirit of cooperation to drive progress especially in the energy sector, especially as it relates to logistics and important pipeline transportations systems and projects such as the XNL/Keystone Pipeline.



CANADIAN SENATOR DOUG BLACK



ALBERTA REP. DAVID MANNING

While we can be proud North America has already begun to implement innovative and advanced technologies that reduce risk, lower costs, improve performance, and generate revenues, we must become even better at it in order to drive sustainable development while we protect the environment. It is time to write a new chapter on North American integration.

Awaken to a New Day

North America awakens to a new day. The framework and strong network of relationships built over decades and generations exists for this moment. It is a time for strength, for innovation, and for a renewed, more integrated and sustainable North American economy.

Tony Jimenez, President, MicroTech, shared how energy and technology will require an educational component to maximize results. North America needs knowledge brokers, men and women equipped for the work ahead, and trained to deliver results. These future leaders must be skilled and keenly aware of the dynamics of bi-national and tri-national relationships, masters in their industry, and champions of reform. This new generation of leader will need to know how to efficiently manage public/private initiatives.



TONY JIMENEZ

Luc Ringuette, of the United States-Mexico Market Exchange (UMEXX) commented, we must become adept at commercializing the technology transfer of Research and Development and capitalize on e-commerce platforms, such as "Connect Mexico," that bring advantages to businesses in North America, while optimizing the supply chains of major industries.



LUC RINGUETTE

Gala Dinner

A highlight of the Summit was the Gala Dinner, where Kenneth Smith-Ramos, Director of Trade and NAFTA Office at the Embassy of Mexico to the U.S., spoke on behalf of Mexico's Secretary of the Economy, Ildefonso Guajardo. Mr. Smith-Ramos' comments centered on the increasing scope and magnitude of Mexico's economy and global trade within North America, and the benefits to be derived from the various and broad reforms implemented in Mexico.

It is time to put sustainable measures into practice. Global energy resources show that over the last twenty-five years, energy consumption has doubled as developing countries came onboard and online. The growth in these markets will create a surge in energy use that will see the consumption of energy resources double again within fifteen years.

North America must address the energy crisis and create new technologies, implement new efforts, and achieve energy independence. By this tri-national partnership, prosperity will be emboldened, opportunities will abound, and the education of our future leaders enriched. As industry and government work in tandem to deliver solutions for a strong, sustainable economic development, we must collaborate in public-private partnerships to this end. Nations must build bridges embracing cultural ties and work jointly to address tri-national concerns; from infrastructure, to security, to energy independence



COMMISSIONER DR. ELBA GARCIA



EDUARDO BRAVO, AL ZAPANTA & JOHN WILLIAMS SIGN
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
ASOCIACION DE EMPRESARIOS MEXICANOS & THE US-MEXICO
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



GEN. AL ZAPANTA & KENNETH SMITH-RAMOS

Center for North American Sustainable Economic Development

In essence, over the next 10 years, the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce and its Foundation, through the actions of the Center for North American Sustainable Economic Development, will be focusing on the goals articulated during the Summit. More specifically and based on the results of the Summit, the Center and the Foundation will be developing the following action plan:

- *Continue Issue-Focus Summits and Seminars;
- *Establish a North American Energy Training Consortium;
- *Promote Technology Transfer Activities at the National Laboratories;
- *Implement "Connect Mexico:" an Information Technology & Supply Chain Platform.

The Summit confirmed that the North America sits on the cusp of an energy renaissance. Canada, rich in oil and gas, is optimistic of the opportunity to set the benchmark on balancing environmental stewardship with oil and gas enterprises, and is working with the United States to move oil and gas cleanly, safely and efficiently. Mexico is applauded for its resolve to push reforms that will capture the promise of a robust economy and sustainable economic development. The United States continues developing known oil and gas reserves towards North American energy independence.

Complete Summit proceedings, with research, graphs and charts, at: www.usmcoc.org

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