



AIESEC ALUMNI INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2011 Mexico

From the Thursday 16th to the Sunday 20th February some 150 AIESEC alumni representing more than 25 nationalities and multiple leader-generations, ranging from last year's to those of the late 50's, came together to share friendship, knowledge and fun!



AAI presents our journey in Mexico!

Fun

Receptions

Business Forum

AAI meetings

Mexico



The **AIESEC Alumni International Meeting and Ibero American Business Forum 2011** has recently ended and we have all the great memories of friends met, subjects learnt, and the knowledge that Mexico is a great and hospitable country full of history, extraordinary nature and a dynamic people.

With the event being co-sponsored by **AIESEC ALUMNI INTERNATIONAL** and **AIESEC ALUMNI IBERO AMERICA**, we all benefited from a welcomed "Latino" atmosphere where work and fun were well balanced.

This alumni meeting was the reflection of what AIESEC is and what impact it has had on our lives. The reunion rapidly becomes a family event, which we all want to repeat as soon as possible.

With the brief report of this outstanding Meeting in Mexico we all realise how fortunate we were to have attended but regret that many more did not attend. We will see each other again and through this AAI Newsletter we will keep you updated on the next AAI event.

Our invitation: **Don't miss it next time!**



AIESEC Alumni International Meeting & Ibero American Business Forum
25 years linking Alumni worldwide

The traditional global village, Mexican alumni reception and a special opening ceremony at the Mexican Opera House



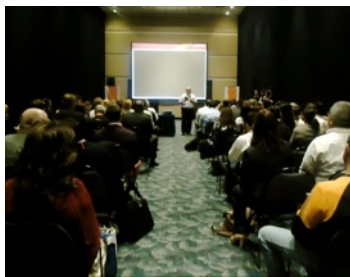
The alumni event began on the Thursday afternoon with the visit to the **Global Village** when alumni and students began the intermingling exercise. We observed first-hand what participating countries brought in terms of culture, products and contribution to AIESEC.

Later that afternoon a number of alumni were personally hosted by the **founding members of AIESEC-Mexico** who created the national association back in 1963. Approximately 10 alumni from that generation gracefully invited their foreign guests to the Mexico City Bankers' Club, one of the most prestigious and exclusive private club, within the historical and colonial part of the City.

Thereafter, we proceeded to the *Palacio de Bellas Artes*, the Mexico City Opera House, built largely in Carrara marble at the beginning of the last century. Not only is it an extraordinary structure but also its impressive paintings of Mexico's most famous muralists. This was the "opening ceremony", bringing together students and alumni. An unforgettable event due to the most impressive venue, to the intergenerational atmosphere created and to the generosity of the catering, both in food and wine!



Kicking off the Business Forum and reception at the Mexican landmark: *the Chapultepec Castle*



On Friday the agenda was centred on Mexico's and Latin America's current economic and social developments and future challenges. From Peru's transformation in the past decade; the Digital Divide impacting the World in general and Latin America, to the inner workings of the European Union, among many other important presentations.

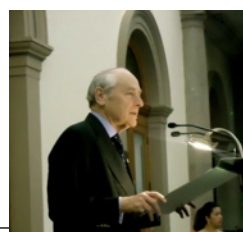
But Friday's highlight came in the evening when alumni held a reception at the incredible venue of the Chapultepec Castle, which was the official residence of Maximilian I, emperor of Mexico from 1864 to 1867 and subsequent Mexican President. This is an extraordinary beautiful place, rarely opened for such "private" occasion, to which we were privileged to participate in.

AAI working time, sustainability day and gala dinner together with the students

On Saturday, AAI and AA-IB met separately to debate on organisation and legislative issues. In the afternoon, a most interesting session focused on Corporate Social Responsibility, with a presentation by a leading Mexican bank executive; on a major biodiversity initiative in Colombia and also on a project launched by an alumnus to help badly injured children from the Haiti earthquake who require major surgery which is available in the USA. This humanitarian project has solicited support from AA-IB and it will also be disseminated via future issues of this AAI Newsletter.

On the evening, the Gala Dinner gathered both students and alumni with numerous sponsors. At that time AIESEC Awards were given to two MC's for outstanding projects accomplished and the formal announcement was made on the launch of the Victor Loewenstein Fund. But the evening closed with Mariachis, endless dancing and sheer good fun!

By the way, we were also able to participate in the announcement of the elected AIESEC International President PAI: Tatiana Mykhailiuk from Ukraine



Current status of AIESEC, best Alumni practices and afternoon at the “Xochimilco” gondoliers



Inevitably, the Sunday session was late starting! But we had an excellent presentation made by the current President of AIESEC International: Hugo Pereira. All alumni were proud to learn on how strongly the Association is developing in internships, geography and international recognition. As alumni we all felt that somehow each one of us had contributed a grain of sand in building today's stronghold.

This was followed by a session of **best practices** when each representative of a national alumni association talked about the situation in their own country, their opportunities and challenges, from which we all learnt so as to improve our own organisations.

But the “summit” was still to come! For Sunday lunch we were taken to the Park of Xochimilco, which is the outing place for native families since it has gardens, walks, food stands and canals. On those canals sail very colourful and much decorated barges skilfully moved by powerful Mexican “gondolier”.

We had six barges for the alumni, each with a long table with chairs plus one carrying the caterer's kitchen and a large reserve of beer and Tequila! We sailed for hours and occasionally changed boats so as to be with and talk to all while eating, drinking, dancing and singing. Other boats came along with singers, musicians, embroideries, flowers, etc.... This truly was an unforgettable experience.

When it finally ended, time came for farewells. It was with sadness that we said good-bye, as if we had all spent years together when, in reality, we had only met three days before.



Recognition & thanks!

We acknowledge that the success of the Mexico AAI Meeting depended on the ability to identify and attract outstandingly dedicated alumni who could turn this “dream” into reality. Those Alumni who were willing to put the effort and the weight of their knowledge and contacts so as to achieve exceptional goals, as well as providing a memorable experience and superior satisfaction to fellow alumni.

This is what **Juan Manuel Ferrón** achieved in conjunction with other Mexican alumni who closely worked with him. In addition, a very professional OC team headed by **Nayeli Escobar**, including **Ligia, Mariana and Mónica** deserves our sincere thanks and deep-felt appreciation.



Thank you also to the AAI friends in Mexico participating in the sessions, supporting us in the logistics on site and reporting through the Facebook page to share with other alumni via virtual ways. We thank also to our AAI board members: Susanne and Victor for their participation and representation of AAI in Mexico.



We invite you to check all the photos of the event here:
<http://www.facebook.com/AIESECALumniMeeting2011>

*Let us look forward to the next AAI Meeting about which we will be writing about in coming Newsletters.
 Make sure that you engrave the dates on your diary so that we do not miss you again!*