



GOBIERNO DE CHILE

# CHILE



## NEWS

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President Michelle Bachelet presents the Pablo Neruda Cultural Artistic Order of Merit to Cuban artist Leo Brouwer.

### Ibero-American Summit in Chile

For three days, Santiago stood at the center of Ibero-America, as host of the 17th Ibero-American Summit held on November 8, 9 and 10. The gathering sparked international interest due to the distinguished assembly of Heads of State and Government, as well as the spirited discussion focused on social cohesion and policies to achieve more inclusive societies.



The Summit was attended by 19 Latin American countries joined by Spain, Portugal and Andorra, which together make up the Ibero-American Community. As host of the gathering, President Michelle Bachelet proclaimed in her inaugural address that the debate over social cohesion “expresses our determination to make the dream of so many men and women a reality: social justice and more equitable and freer societies (...). We hold the opportunity in our hands to change history – which has witnessed so much injustice, along with momentous struggles to overcome it – so that we can reach our bicentennials of independence with an Ibero-America that is working together and making progress toward eliminating poverty and inequity and consolidating democracy.”

After intense debate, particularly during the unprecedented “retreat” of the Heads of State and Government, the leaders signed the Santiago Declaration. The statement “reiterates the shared aims of moving toward the increasingly important objectives of inclusion, justice, social protection and social assistance, and strengthening a sense of social solidarity, belonging and identity.”

In addition to 24 points “aimed at achieving social cohesion in the region,” the document includes an extensive Action Program. Among its most noteworthy provisions is the implementation of a Ibero-American Social Security Agreement, which “will allow more than five million migrants to transfer their retirement insurance funds to the country where they choose to retire.”



Agreement was also reached for a Pro-Childhood Program, aimed at setting up a social protection system for the children of Ibero-America. Chile agreed

### DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ Chiloé was placed third in a ranking of the world’s best-conserved islands, prepared by *National Geographic’s Traveler* magazine and the University of Washington. The list arose from a poll of 522 experts on sustainable tourism, who rated 111 islands and archipelagos around the world. From these, ten finalists were chosen.
- ★ The Chilean Navy’s Search and Rescue Operations Center rescued 154 passengers from the Liberian cruise ship *Explorer*, which was shipwrecked 76 kilometers off the coast of King George Island, in Antarctica. After being transferred to Chilean bases, the passengers were taken by the Air Force in a Hercules plane to Punta Arenas, Magallanes Region, to begin the journey to their home countries.
- ★ Young Israelis joined Palestinians of Chilean origin for a project organized by both communities in conjunction with the Chilean Embassy in Israel. The encounter, held in a town 50 kilometers from Tel Aviv, focused on studying ecological problems and encouraging the development of personal friendships to promote peace between the two peoples.

## QUOTES FROM PRESIDENT BACHELET

"It is a source of great satisfaction for us that our pioneering agreement with China has already provided an extraordinary impulse to our trade exchanges."

At the inauguration of the first China-Latin America Business Summit. Santiago, November 27, 2007.

"The central focus of this agreement is to guarantee quality education for all. I take great pride in noting what our country's political forces can do when we place the national interest first, when we understand that our work here is for the benefit of all Chileans."

At the signing of the National Agreement for Education Reform. Santiago, November 13, 2007.

"At this gathering, we are placing social cohesion at the center of our policies, placing people at the center of our policies. We are making this issue a new pillar of our cooperation and integration processes, and thus we are making it a new point of convergence for our shared efforts in Latin America."

At the first working session of the 17th Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government. Santiago, November 9, 2007.

"We have evaluated the opportunities for developing closer cooperation in our region, and thus contributing to the strengthening and consolidation of democracy, as well as promoting social cohesion, which is the theme of the 17th Ibero-American Summit."

At a meeting with the President of Portugal, Anibal Cavaco Silva, during his Official Visit to Santiago. Santiago, November 7, 2007.

to create a special fund of one million dollars as an initial "kickoff" for this proposal, which will benefit the 205 million children in the region living in poverty.

Additional components of the extensive action program include the creation of a Drinking Water Fund, the Pablo Neruda Ibero-American Program for Postgraduate Academic Mobility, and an Ibero-American Basic Education and Literacy Plan for young people and adults, aimed at eradicating illiteracy by 2015. Achievements such as these made the Santiago gathering "the most fruitful Summit we have had during 17 years," as Ibero-American Secretary-General Enrique Iglesias noted.

### Visit to the Antarctic

Surveying the area in person, he witnessed the loss of Antarctic ice and the retreat of the glaciers in southern Chile with his own eyes: "It is a marvelous, impressive landscape, and at the same time, a disturbing one," commented Ban Ki-moon.



After attending the Ibero-American Summit as an observer, the UN Secretary-General was invited by the Chilean government for a firsthand view of the shrinking of the great glaciers and the thinning of the ozone layer, during a two-day tour of Antarctica and Patagonia.

"We must take urgent action. It is very hard to find a place this pristine in the world; we must preserve this natural environment. My visit to Antarctica and Torres del Paine has strengthened my commitment to work with the international community and its leaders on this issue," Ban affirmed.

The Secretary-General's on-site experience helped him prepare for the UN conference in Bali, which is expected to lay the groundwork for an emissions agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol.

### A decisive step for education

A recent accord reached by the government and opposition leaders – the National Agreement for Education Reform – has been hailed as "historic in all of its aspects." "This is a great day for Chile. We have shown that we are able to overcome our differences and reach a solid national agreement for the benefit of all," affirmed President Michelle Bachelet with satisfaction at the end of the ceremony held at La Moneda.



The document signed by the President and the heads of the leading political parties – from the Concertación coalition as well as the opposition Alliance for Chile – calls for the creation of a new General Educational Law to replace the current Organic Constitutional Law on Instruction (LOCE). The LOCE was enacted on March 10, 1990, only one day after dictator Augusto Pinochet relinquished power. The new measure is the first concrete response to the President's appeal for a broad social pact to address the country's aspirations and key challenges in areas such as public safety, social security reform, transparency and ethics.

The agreement, which must now be debated in Congress, elevates the State's obligation to provide quality education



## OVERHEARD

"I would like to express my pleasure at being in Chile during the presidency of President Bachelet. It is an honor for reasons of both friendship and conviction, and also because of my expectation that her administration will advance the democratic process in Chile, while also achieving economic progress and increased social equality under her leadership."

**José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, Prime Minister of Spain. Santiago, November 9, 2007.**

"Chile is currently an observer, but it will soon be a player in world politics, and it will benefit from sharing with its peers while also helping the rest of the world. Because of its successes in many areas, Chile is more important than Switzerland for many countries which can take advantage of its experience and its ideas."

**Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General. Santiago, November 8, 2007.**

"The generous hospitality of the Chilean people; the magnificent work of the President of the Republic, Michelle Bachelet; and the efforts of the entire Chilean government in its capacity of Secretariat Pro Tempore are the best guarantees of success for this Summit."

**King Juan Carlos I of Spain. Santiago, November 8, 2007.**

"Chile has opened its economy to the entire world; it has signed free trade agreements with 70 countries; and it enjoys a vigorous economy. This is a vision that we share, and one we would like to see shared by other governments in Latin America."

**Fernando Araújo, Foreign Minister of Colombia. Santiago, November 8, 2007.**

"Relations between Portugal and Chile are excellent on every level, and we have also achieved great progress in the economic sphere in recent years. Chile is already Portugal's second leading customer in South America. We believe that there is still enormous potential to be explored, and because of this, I am accompanied by a prominent business delegation, which is interested not only in forming contacts but in creating opportunities for business and investment."

**Anibal Cavaco Silva, President of Portugal. Santiago, November 8, 2007.**



## Preserving indigenous heritage

After years of debate and the search for an effective agreement, President Michelle Bachelet has signed a Constitutional Reform Bill for the Recognition of Indigenous Peoples. The measure will provide State recognition for the rights of the Rapa Nui, Atacameño, Quechua, Colla, Mapuche, Aymará, Kawashkar, Yamana (Yagán) and Diaguita peoples.



Acknowledging the multicultural nature of the Chilean nation and the continuing presence of its original peoples, the bill guarantees the exercise of their rights and the protection of their lands and waters. It also pledges to preserve, develop and strengthen their identities, languages, institutions and productive activities, as well as the traditions which make up their culture.

The proposal responds to demands arising from the National Indigenous Peoples' Conference, held in 2006 with the involvement of more than 200 organizations representing the country's nine original peoples. It is also in line with the growing recognition of indigenous peoples' rights in Latin America and around the world, as reflected in the recently approved UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The next step will be to ratify ILO Convention 169. The Convention is the only international legal instrument which regulates and protects the rights of indigenous peoples.



## The coveted Chilean sky

Northern Chile is one of the world's most favorable locations for astronomical research, scoring high in all of the factors considered by researchers: accessibility, topography, climate, political stability, a clear atmosphere and cloudless nights. With some three billion dollars already invested in scientific installations, the Chilean sky has become a coveted resource for researchers around the world.

Since 1950, both European and U.S. institutions have established observatories in the region. APEX (the Atacama Pathfinder Experiment) and Paranal are located in the Atacama Desert, in the Antofagasta Region, while the Coquimbo Region is host to Las Campanas, La Silla, Tololo, Gemini Sur and SOAR (the Southern Observatory for Astrophysical Research).

Two other important projects are currently being constructed. At 5,100 meters above sea level on the Chajnantor Plain, Antofagasta Region, facilities are being prepared for the ALMA (Atacama Large Millimeter Array) installation. The complex of 66 antennas and a radiotelescope, scheduled to be placed in operation in 2012, is sponsored by the European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO), along with the U.S. and Japan. The project will search for answers to some of the fundamental questions of astronomy and cosmology, including the formation of the first galaxies and their development as the universe expanded.



## CHILEANS AROUND THE WORLD

President Michelle Bachelet is the second most favorably viewed Head of State in the region among Latin Americans, according to a poll by Latinobarómetro. The survey covered a total of 20,212 respondents in 18 Latin American countries.



Chile's Minister of Culture, Paulina Urrutia, received the award for Best Actress at the 22nd Latin American Film Festival in Trieste, Italy, for her work in *Tendida mirando las estrellas*. Another Chilean, director Luis Vera, was named Best Director for his film *Fiestapatria*.

Singer Lucho Gatica received a Lifetime Achievement award for musical excellence from the Latin Recording Academy (Latin Grammy) organization. The 79-year-old artist expressed his appreciation for the honor, calling it "recognition for an entire generation."

Researchers Jorge Carrasco, Gino Cassasa, Luis Cifuentes and Sergio González, together with former U.S. vice president Al Gore, have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The scientists participate in the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, where they have worked together on a range of studies, committees and reports.

## AGENDA

- ★ **December 4-5:** China-Latin America Business Summit. Santiago.
- ★ **December 10:** President Michelle Bachelet attends the inauguration of the President of Argentina, Cristina Fernández. Buenos Aires.
- ★ **December 16:** President Michelle Bachelet meets with Bolivian President Evo Morales and Brazilian President Lula da Silva to announce the creation of a bi-oceanic corridor connecting the three countries. La Paz, Bolivia.
- ★ **December 17-18:** Summit of Mercosur Presidents. Montevideo, Uruguay.

Also under construction is the LSST (Large Synoptic Survey Telescope) Observatory, on Pachón Hill in the Coquimbo Region. Located at 2,640 meters above sea level, its telescope, expected to be placed in service in 2014, will have the largest reach of any on Earth. It will be used to trace a star map automatically and continuously, taking only days rather than several years as required by other telescopes. This new and powerful tool for observing the universe is supported by the Universities of Arizona and Washington, the company Research Corp. and the National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO).

## The rebirth of Violeta Parra

"Gardener, potter, seamstress. Ballerina of transparent waters. Tree filled with songbirds." This address by Nicanor Parra evokes some of the diverse artistic paths followed by his sister, this "sweet neighbor of green jungle, eternal guest of flowering April, sworn enemy of the brambleberry, Violeta Parra."



Her legacy includes not only poems written in *décimas* (ten-line stanzas) and songs such as *Gracias a la vida*, *Volver a los 17* and *Runrún se fue p'al norte*. Further reflections of her talent include sculptures and visual art, although they have remained largely unknown. These works can now be seen and appreciated by the public, thanks to an exhibition at La Moneda Palace Cultural Center entitled "Violeta Parra: la que viene escondida" (The Hidden Violeta Parra).

The first of three exhibitions which will be presented consecutively, the show includes 25 oil paintings, 13 *arpilleras* (appliqué tapestries) and nine paper-maché sculptures, ceded to the center by the Violeta Parra Foundation for restoration, conservation and exhibition under an eight-year agreement signed in 2006. The cycle begins with "La celebración, fiesta, vida y música" (Celebration, festival, life and music), offering 15 works that express the festive nature of popular culture. The second exhibition, "El Chile de Violeta" (Violeta's Chile), will present the artist's interpretations of Chilean history and figures from popular tradition. The final show in the series, focused on spirituality, will address her vision of life and death.



Violeta Parra achieved an artistic milestone in 1964, when she exhibited her tapestries, paintings and wire sculptures at the Louvre's Museum of Decorative Arts. It was the first time that the Parisian institution highlighted the work of an individual Latin American artist. An attack of hepatitis in 1958, which confined her to her home for months, proved to be the spark that awakened this side of her creativity. Without artistic training other than that of life itself, she began to paint, embroider and create works of ceramic art. "In my tapestries, I tried to show Chilean songs and legends, the life of the people. I feel that the ideas I have must be expressed somehow," she explained.



The show is part of a broader initiative to commemorate the 90th anniversary of Violeta Parra's birth, which took place in San Carlos on October 4, 1917. Her journey ended on February 5, 1967, when she took her own life. Yet her creations live on, and her voice is unaltered, singing a song that will never end.

# PLACES OF CHILE

## Alternative tourism

It is not only Chile's impressive landscapes that serve to attract thousands of tourists each year – the country also offers a lively array of unique and unusual places and activities.

For instance, in the Andean foothills of the Maule Region, Chile's "Mystical and UFO Route" draws visitors interested in the phenomenon of unidentified flying objects ("Ovnis" in

Spanish). Headquartered in San Clemente – known for the country's highest incidence of UFO sightings – the project offers tours of a bizarre landscape of perfectly hexagonal stones, two meters in height. The stones' mysterious origin and significance have inspired diverse theories about extraterrestrial visitors. According to data from the National Forest Corporation, foreign tourists make up the bulk of visitors to the area. It is even noted that Tibetan monks hold annual retreats in this setting of towering mountains and transparent skies.

The excitement over San Clemente was recently heightened with the screening of the documentary *Testigos del Cielo* (Witnesses from the Sky) at the Second World UFOlogy Forum, held this month in Curitiba, Brazil. Prepared by Chile's UFO Research Group (AION), the film described the most significant UFO events in the area since the 1970s, when the phenomenon gained worldwide recognition.

Those interviewed in the film conclude that "we are not alone in the universe."

A very different tourist offering can be found at the General Cemetery of Santiago, with its nighttime tours aimed

at visitors thrilled by gloomy places, supernatural experiences, and stories from beyond the grave. The nocturnal excursions, aimed at both Chilean and foreign visitors, are led by guides dressed as monks. The initiative has been a clear success, attracting 2,230 participants in 2004 and 3,000 in 2005, with visitor numbers already surpassing 8,000 in 2007. The necropolis – Chile's oldest as well

as one of the most important in Latin America – features beautiful gardens, imposing mausoleums and over 2,500,000 tombs, including those of national heroes, former Presidents and distinguished figures from Chilean history.

Meanwhile, for travelers wishing to spend a few days in an environment completely different from their usual surroundings, ethnic tourism can be an ideal choice. In a wide range of offerings, indigenous peoples open their settlements and homes, immersing visitors temporarily in the local culture.

In the northern Tarapacá Region, Aymara and Atacameño microentrepreneurs offer visits to

indigenous villages on the altiplano and to Andean lodges. The tours include typical cuisine, alternative medicine, thermal baths

and activities aimed at highlighting the region's typical architecture, ancestral lifestyle and unique local identity.

Ecotourism excursions are offered by the indigenous communities in the mountains of the Biobío Region. Visitors can enjoy the area's imposing natural landscapes, take tours with Pehuenche guides or simply relax at locally operated campsites and cabañas.

Farther south, in the Araucanía Region, travelers can gain firsthand experience of the beliefs and customs of Mapuche life by spending time with a local family. Several communities in the region have set up their own projects to welcome tourists. Experiences such as sleeping in a ruca (traditional cabin), learning how to prepare typical dishes, participating in traditional planting or harvest activities, working at wool spinning and weaving, or celebrating Wetripantu, the Mapuche New Year, can be unforgettable for visitors who seek to escape the stress of modern life for a while and experience authentic contact with an ancestral culture which remains vital today.



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