

Fletcher Takes on Mexico City



2018 MEXICO TREK

The 2018 Fletcher Latin America Group (FLAG) Mexico Trek took 14 Fletcher students to Mexico City for eight days to explore all aspects of U.S.-Mexico relations. At a time of great friction between the two countries, the need for more awareness about issues of mutual interest, and the perspectives of people on both sides of the border, could not be greater. During our week in Mexico City we met with leaders in the public, private, and non-profit sectors, including several notable Fletcher alumni.

FLETCHER LATINA AMERICA GROUP (FLAG)

Overall, the trek served as a tremendous opportunity to network with individuals working in foreign policy, business and energy and the environment realm, giving us key insights into how these organizations operate in the complex network of actors in Mexico. Below are a few of the more memorable meetings during our trip. This opportunity would not have been possible without CIERP's financial support, so thank you so much for your contribution!



PEMEX

March 21, 2018

Meeting with Sergio Valladares Yanez, Elena Badiuk, and Dr. Alejandro Dieck Assad

On March 21st, we met with several top executives at PEMEX or *Petroleros Mexicanos* to discuss the history of the state-run company. Of central interest was the impact of the recent constitutionally-mandated energy reform on the company's organizational structure. We also learned about PEMEX's role in the Global Compact 2008 - which expands its environmental focus, and the growing impact of technology in their company - particularly smart information architecture.



Following the group meeting, I sat down with Ms. Badiuk to further delve into the consequences of the reform for PEMEX and how they might respond to the future influx of International Oil Companies (IOCs). The meetings with PEMEX and Ms. Badiuk greatly improved my knowledge of natural resource management in Latin America which is an interest of mine. She also provided a fascinating example of the corporate restructuring of a Latin American state-run enterprise and perhaps some transferrable lessons for how other such companies in the region might respond to such a dramatic change in public policy. This experience has definitely given me inspiration for writing my future capstone.

- Leif Hansen

Foreign Affairs Ministry

March 23, 2018

Meeting with Erika Casamadrid
Gutiérrez and Gisele
Fernández Ludlow

I had the wonderful opportunity to meet with two women from the department of Global Affairs at the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, Mexico. They gave me an overview of Mexico's NDCs and some of the policy framework that the country has in place to meet its climate change goals such as the General Climate Change Law and the National Strategy on Climate Change. I was amazed by how much commitment Mexico had shown well before the 2016 Paris Agreement and impressed by how knowledgeable both women were on their respective issues.



One of my most memorable takeaways was learning just how susceptible Mexico is to climate change and that those most vulnerable areas are largely inhabited by indigenous populations. Mexico has two very large coasts that are subject to flooding and a dry central area that experiences frequent droughts, negatively affecting much of the country's farmland. I was also interested to learn about Mexico's reforestation campaign in order to reach net zero emissions from forests by 2030. Overall this experience helped me with my research for a policy memo assignment in Professor Kelly Sims Gallagher's Climate Change & Clean Energy course.



- Maria Elena Juarez

NETWORKING

Another wonderful event during the Trek at networking dinner at Mr. Luis Mancera's house. The evening began with a lecture by Mr. Luis de la Calle - the former Mexican Negotiator for NAFTA (in the 1990s) - on the current state of the NAFTA renegotiations. He underscored the net positive effect NAFTA has had on the US, Mexican and Canadian economies over the past twenty years and the many reasons why it should be retained moving forward. In addition, he highlighted the importance of *ripeness* for successful trade deals and why the current political atmosphere in North America has been resistant to free trade deals. Following the lecture, we had the opportunity to chat with various Fletcher Alumni including: criminal defense attorney Agustín Acosta, Ulises Canchola - former Ambassador to Iran, and Cesar Hernandez - former Deputy Secretary for Department of Energy.

This was a very impactful experience for all of us because it made us recognize the strength of the Fletcher Network. As we go on to assume new roles in our respective fields, we will be in a position where we can collaborate with each other and help connect rising graduates with employment opportunities.



WHO WE ARE



Leif Hansen

I am a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy candidate expecting to graduate in May 2019. I'm concentrating on International Environment and Resource Policy at The Fletcher School. More specifically, I'm focusing on expanding sustainable energy access as well as implementing climate change adaptation strategies in the developing world, paying special attention to the Latin America region. Prior to Fletcher I served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Peru, working for several years on Potable Water and Sanitation projects in the La Libertad province. I also have experience working in education and youth development in Southeast Asia. I graduated from

Willamette University in 2013 with a degree in Politics and a minor in Spanish.

Maria Elena Juarez

I am a first year Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy candidate. My focus is US-transnational trade relations and I am most interested in exploring China's economic role in Latin America, particularly Mexico. Before coming to Tufts, I spent the past 8 years working in politics in Washington, DC, first as a staffer on Capitol Hill, then as an appointee in the Obama administration. I have always been an advocate for representing minorities in government. One particular highlight of my career was conducting outreach to Hispanic residents in Flint, Michigan during the federal government's response to the Flint water crisis while working for the US Environmental Protection Agency. I'm a native of Southern California and come from a "Chicano" Mexican-American background.

