



GOBIERNO DE CHILE  
MINISTERIO SECRETARÍA GENERAL DE GOBIERNO  
SECRETARÍA DE COMUNICACIÓN Y CULTURA

# CHILE

## NEWS

International Analysis and Press Department • Communication Secretariat • La Moneda Palace

August 11, 2006 • No.81



President Bachelet participates in the presidential inaugural ceremonies in Peru. Lima.

### Active tour of the region

President Michelle Bachelet pursued an intense regional agenda during June and July. The first phase of her travels, undertaken between June 8 and 11, took her to the United States, Jamaica, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. On July 20, she departed for Córdoba, Argentina, to participate in the meeting of Mercosur Heads of State, and from July 27 to 29 she attended the presidential inaugural ceremonies in Peru.

In Washington, the Chilean leader's busy schedule included a luncheon meeting with President George Bush, visits to the U.S. Congress and the headquarters of the OAS. After their meeting, President Bush emphasized that it is "very important for our country to be engaged and working with friends and allies to help others." She also attended a dinner organized by The White House Project, a women's group promoting the election of a female president of the United States.



During her stops in Kingston, Port-au-Prince and Santo Domingo, the President stressed Chile's commitment to the stabilization of democracy in Haiti. In the Haitian capital, she visited the Chilean contingent participating in the United Nations peace mission in that country.



President Bachelet pursued an equally rigorous agenda at the 30th Meeting of Heads of State of Mercosur and Associate Nations, held on July 21 in Córdoba, Argentina. Starting in the early morning hours, she

### DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ Approximately 600 biographies of Chilean musicians, along with news, links and a directory of books and theses about music published in Chile, are contained in the online encyclopedia [www.musicapopular.cl](http://www.musicapopular.cl).
- ★ Chile's irregular geography has obliged the country to construct lighthouses in extremely remote areas. Thanks to this experience, the 14th Conference of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities has reelected Chile to its Directive Council, made up of 24 representatives of countries with involvement and experience in maritime signaling.

## QUOTES FROM PRESIDENTS BACHELET

“Chile does not view its national aspirations and development separately from its integration with the world and the region. Chile has the determination to advance with strength, but also with flexibility.”

Address to the plenary meeting at the 30th Mercosur Summit. Córdoba, Argentina. July 21, 2006.

“We sent this aircraft to bring numerous families out safe and sound, because it is also a responsibility of the State to protect Chilean families, whether they are inside or outside the country. We are glad to have been able to help our compatriots, and also families from other Latin American countries who were in the same situation, in a task of responsibility and solidarity.”

Referring to the more than 100 Chileans and other Latin Americans who left Lebanon in a Chilean Air Force plane via Damascus. Santiago, July 24, 2006.

“I have set forth Chile’s position on energy integration with clarity. About this conversation, I would like to say that Chileans have nothing to fear with respect to cuts. Work is being done to guarantee all aspects of the supply of residential and commercial gas.”

After meeting with the President of Argentina, Néstor Kirchner. Córdoba, Argentina. July 21, 2006

met with Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Ernesto Derbez and then with Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Immediately afterward, she held a bilateral meeting with the President of Argentina, Néstor Kirchner. After participating in the Mercosur summit, Bachelet met with Bolivian President Evo Morales.

On July 27, the Chilean leader traveled to Lima to attend the ceremony inaugurating Alan García as President of Peru. After meeting with the new President, she stated that “we have had an extraordinary working meeting with advances toward topics we would like to continue to develop: from the economic complementation agreement which has been very beneficial for both countries, seeing if we can advance toward a free trade agreement.” She also met with Colombian President Álvaro Uribe.

### A huge step forward in social housing

Jocelyn Varas, her husband and son have spent two years as “allegados”: persons without housing of their own, forced to live temporarily in the home of a family member. With an extremely low income, their only alternative was to apply for a subsidy to receive a debt-free, expandable housing unit of only 25 sq.ms. Now there is good news for Jocelyn and her family.

The government has just announced a change in its housing policy, which includes the expansion of those minimum housing units to two rooms totaling approximately 40 square meters. The plan also includes the provision of 223,000 subsidies aimed at ending the housing deficit among the poorest 20% of the population, as well as a location-based subsidy to prevent geographical segregation. At the same time, the Housing Solidarity Fund II will be implemented, allowing debt-free real estate to be offered to vulnerable sectors of the lower middle class.

“By the time my administration ends, we will have better cities, more humane neighborhoods and more dignified housing. I will be here so that you can remind me of this, and I will also be here to show that the task has been completed,” stated the President during the announcement of the measure.



## FACTS

Foreign investment carried out in Chile during the first quarter of 2006 registered an increase of 21.8% compared to the same period of the previous year.

According to the World Bank, the Chilean economy is expected to grow by 5.6% this year. This result is greater than the 5.2% predicted for 2007, as well as the 5% forecast for 2008.

The U.S. firm Synopsys – one of the world's leading companies creating tools for computer chip development – has set its sights on Chile. In a few weeks, it will inaugurate its facilities in the country.

In a historic placement, the wine Don Melchor 2001 from the Concha y Toro winery was ranked fourth in an exclusive listing of the world's 10 best wines in 2005, prepared by the prestigious *Wine Spectator* journal, the leading publication of the global wine industry.

A new fishing boat, designed by the Rolls Royce Martin company, will be constructed in Chile. The watercraft, involving an investment of 43 million dollars, is projected to be ready for delivery in 2008.

A study published in the specialized journal *Pediatrics* placed Chile among the countries worldwide with the lowest infant mortality rates between 0 and 27 days of life. According to the research, infant deaths in Chile fell between 1990 and 2000 from 8.3 to 5.7 for each thousand babies born.



## Entrepreneurs online

Small businesses now have a concrete source of assistance. The government has created a new tool which will help streamline and simplify their business management and official paperwork, while also providing them with better access to information about ways to obtain financing and increase their competitiveness, thus promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in the country.



The Entrepreneurs' Portal ([www.portalemprendimiento.cl](http://www.portalemprendimiento.cl)) describes the six steps necessary for setting up a business in Chile. Among other helpful information, it also presents a complete selection of links to government offices and private entities offering support to small business managers.

The Portal, part of the Entrepreneur Support Plan being implemented by the Ministry of Economy, is designed as the port of entry for all those involved in the management of a small business. For businesspeople without online access, it will be available at the 378 Chilean public libraries connected to the Internet through the BiblioRedes program.

## Learning to read @ school

First-grade students in six Santiago elementary schools, located in socially vulnerable neighborhoods, sit hypnotized in front of the new instrument which will help them learn to read: a notebook computer. Before this lesson, many of them had never even seen a computer before.



The initiative is part of a pilot project by the País Digital (Digital Country) Foundation, under the auspices of its star education program: Chile@prende (Chile Learns). Aimed at reducing the technology gap and equalizing opportunities for low-income students, it provides support to first- through fourth-grade teachers in the use of technology to



## OVERHEARD

“Chile has done it to this extent, obtaining extraordinary economic and social results. Why can't we do it?”

Alan García, President of Peru. During his inaugural address, referring to the opening of markets and increased interchanges with other countries. Lima, July 28, 2006.

“This is a special opportunity to welcome a woman whose name is becoming well-known, not only in her country, but around the world, because of what she represents, the mission she has taken on and the inspiration she provides to all of us.”

Hillary Clinton, U.S. Senator. Dinner organized by The White House Project in honor of President Michelle Bachelet. Washington, June 8, 2006.

“(Bolivia and Chile) have an obligation to complement each other in support of the needs of our peoples, and because of this I have great hope for this new stage of relations between our countries, seeking solutions to our problems.”

Evo Morales, President of Bolivia. 30th Mercosur Summit. Córdoba, Argentina. July 21, 2006.

teach language and mathematics, with the objective of enhancing the children's learning in these areas.

Toward this aim, the Foundation provided the schools with a technological kit which includes a notebook computer, projector, broadband wireless Internet connection, and a set of digitally-based educational materials, which are specially designed to allow interactive learning in the classroom.

The idea is to promote a new pedagogical approach among teachers, based on the proposition that technologies are not fully useful until they are converted into resources for learning. The project has received an award from APEC's Digital Opportunity Center.

### Sewell: UNESCO World Heritage Site

“An outstanding example of the towns 'planted' by industrial firms around the world in the early 20th century.” On the basis of that conclusion, the Sewell mining camp has been added to the World Heritage Sites list of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Unesco, after eight years of consideration.



Located in the Andes mountain range at an altitude of 2,140 meters, 150 kilometers from Santiago, Sewell was founded in 1906 by U.S. mining engineer William Braden, who established El Teniente, the world's largest underground copper mine, in 1905.

The town, which served as the home of hundreds of miners for more than 60 years, arose as a simple encampment but later included a hospital, theater, heated pool, gymnasium, commissary and church, as well as social salons and various businesses. Its population peaked at about 18,000.



What is most striking about Sewell, however, is its unique urban organization. Too steep for wheeled vehicles, it was built around a massive staircase, from which radiated a network of pedestrian walkways, small plazas and secondary stairways.

Through the Unesco nomination, Chile seeks to share a town with the world which is exceptional for its dimensions, unique location, high technological complexity and impressive variety of services.

## CHILEANS AROUND THE WORLD

Margarita Valdés, director of NIC Chile, was elected president of the Directive Council of Latin American and Caribbean Top Level Domains in Internet. Created in 1998, the body is headquartered in Montevideo. Valdés will hold the position until 2008.

By unanimous decision of the jury, Chilean poet Oscar Hahn won the Casa de América poetry award, granted by that institution and Spain's prestigious Visor Libros publishing house. Hahn – who currently lives in Iowa City – earned the prize with his new book *En un abrir y cerrar de ojos*, which will be published in September by Visor.

Chilean actor Santiago Cabrera is preparing for his October debut on the **NBC** network in the science fiction series *Heroes*. Cabrera already has an impressive track record in television series such as *Haven*, where he starred with Orlando Bloom; the historical mini-series *Empire*; and the not-yet-released film *Love and other disasters*, with Brittany Murphy.



## AGENDA

- ★ **August 6-7:** Attendance by President Bachelet to the inaugural ceremonies for the second term of Colombian President Alvaro Uribe. Bogotá.
- ★ **August 8:** State Visit of President Bachelet to Ecuador. Quito.

## Los Flamencos Reserve

Travelers to the Los Flamencos National Reserve, located in northern Chile, 160 kilometers from Calama – where the Andean, Chilean and James flamingos can be observed in the wild – will now enjoy an added attraction: a visitor's center.

The aim is to provide orientation to visitors by means of interpreter/guides, books, and audiovisual materials (subtitled in English), while increasing awareness about the region's natural environment and its biological diversity. Located in the Soncor sector containing the Chaxa Lagoon, the Center is situated in the heart of the Reserve and of the great Salar de Atacama, ringed by the Lascar, Miscanti and Licancabur Volcanoes.

The Center was developed in conjunction with the indigenous Lickan-Antay Atacama community of Toconao, the National Forestry Corporation (Conaf), and the SQM mining company, which financed the initiative.

The project also included improvements to trails and signs, parking facilities, the Reserve's wastewater treatment system, and its solar panel capacity, among other enhancements.



# LENGUAGES OF CHILE

## Chile: multilingual territory

The unique characteristics of Chile's territory have permitted the survival of numerous traces of the original peoples who once inhabited these lands. One example of this is their languages. In various places throughout the country, the Aymara, Quechua, Rapanui, Mapuche and Kawashkar languages can still be heard, and vestiges still remain of the Chango, Atacameño, Diaguita, Selk'nam, Yagán and Chono tongues.

Although quite weakened by cultural assimilation and the adoption of Spanish, the language of the Aymara people is still used by many of their descendents in the northern Chilean Altiplano, especially in the towns of Caquena, Parinacota and Visviri; in the valleys and gorges of Lluta and Azapa; and in Socoroma, Belén and Tignamar. The language can also be heard in the cities of Arica and Iquique. According to a survey carried out the latter city, 57% of Aymara or their descendents continue to have knowledge of their native tongue.



Considered by experts to be one of the most important languages of the Americas, Quechua, whose true name is Runasimi ("the language of human beings"), did not succeed in imposing itself as a common language, in spite

of the domination of part of present-day Chile (approximately down to the Maipo River in the central region) by the Inca Empire. Studies have uncovered the existence in the recent past of elderly Quechua speakers in Arica and Iquique, who had arrived from Bolivia in the early 20th century to work in the mines and saltpeter deposits of the north and later settled in those cities.

Rapanui or Pascuense is the language of the inhabitants of Easter Island, a Chilean island territory located 3,700 kilometers from the mainland. Although it is only used orally and in limited contexts, Rapanui is the language of the home, the street, recreational activities and interpersonal relationships. Since 1976, it has been taught to island children during their first six years of school. Since last year, a Research Program for Rapanui Language and Culture has also been in place, administered by the Catholic University of Valparaíso and the Summer Institute of Linguistics in the United States, which has published various teaching texts for this indigenous language.



Without a doubt, the most commonly spoken original language in Chile is the Mapuche tongue, Mapudungun ("talk of the people"). According to current

estimates, it is used by some 200,000 people, extending across Chile's Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Regions, with the greatest concentrations in the area around Arauco and several other locations, including Huapi Island, San Juan de la Costa, Catrihue, Alto Biobío, Tolten, Malleco, Cautín and the lands between the Itata and Biobío Rivers.



Through the years, more Chileans have shown interest in learning Mapudungun than any other original language. Extensive efforts have been undertaken by indigenous institutions and organizations to keep their native language alive.

The Kawashkar – inhabitants of the Taitao Peninsula and the Straits of Magellan, in Chilean Patagonia – were the masters of the end of the world, although they didn't know it. Never a very numerous people, today those of "pure blood" can be counted on one's fingers, while some 100 of their descendants are scattered among the towns of Punta Arenas, Puerto Natales and Puerto Edén. In spite of valiant attempts, the rescue of their language remains an unfinished task. The oral storytelling of these people reflects their unique identity, which forms an irreplaceable part of the history of the Americas.



**EDITOR IN CHIEF:** Juan Carvajal, Director Communication Secretariat / **EDITOR:** María Paz del Río, Chief, International Analysis and Press Department / **TEXT:** Mónica Benavides and Aileen Cárcamo, International Analysis and Press Department / **PHOTOGRAPHS:** Presidencia de la República, Aileen Cárcamo, Marcela Torres, MOP, Chile@prende, Minvu / **TRANSLATION:** Patricia Linderman  
**COMMUNICATION SECRETARIAT / LA MONEDA PALACE**  
[depreint@msgg.gov.cl](mailto:depreint@msgg.gov.cl) / [www.segegob.cl](http://www.segegob.cl) / [www.gobiernodechile.cl](http://www.gobiernodechile.cl)