



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

# CHILE NEWS

International Press Department • Communication and Culture Secretariat • July 1, 2005 • No.71



President Ricardo Lagos receives former U.S. President Bill Clinton, on a private visit to the country, at La Moneda Palace.

## The rebuilding begins

Fear and destruction were left behind by the earthquake which struck Chile's far north on June 13. With a magnitude of 7.9 on the Richter scale, it was the second-strongest quake registered this year, after the one occurring in May in Sumatra.

Upon receiving the news in Sweden, where he was paying an official visit, President Ricardo Lagos canceled his planned tour to Holland and Spain and returned immediately to Chile. Arriving directly in Iquique, the capital of the First Region, he met with an emergency committee made up of the Ministers of the Interior, Francisco Vidal; Public Works, Jaime Estévez; Housing, Sonia Tschorne; Health, Pedro García; and Social Planning, Yasna Provoste.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ The missile that will impact the Tempel 1 comet, 132 million kilometers from Earth, on July 4, is coated with Chilean copper. Some of the best places to observe Deep Impact – one of NASA's most ambitious missions – will be the European Southern Observatory's installations in northern Chile: La Silla and Cerro Paranal.
- ★ On June 21, the winter solstice, *machis* and *yatiris* (spiritual guides) celebrated the arrival of the new year for the Mapuche and Aymara peoples. The holiday is a time for renewal, thankfulness and prayer.
- ★ With the arrival of winter, the ski season has begun in Chile, at more than ten locations ranging from the country's central zone to the far south, in Punta Arenas. There, visitors can enjoy a view of the Magellan Straits while skiing down the slopes – and on a clear day, even catch a glimpse of Tierra del Fuego.

The earthquake destroyed highways and secondary roads as well as hundreds of homes. Twelve people died, 200 were injured and 6,000 suffered property damage. The villages of the region's interior – most of them constructed from adobe and of great historical value (see *Chile News N°68*) – suffered the worst destruction. Many rural houses collapsed, while access to them was cut off by landslides from hills and ravines. Many of the area's churches – some of them two centuries old – were destroyed or had to be demolished because of serious structural damage.

“It is my duty to be here,” the President stated. With his wife, Luisa Durán, he toured cities and villages in the interior, where he listened to inhabitants' concerns, visited the injured and those living in shelters, and explained the government's measures to ensure the rapid arrival of assistance. In support of this aim, he designated seven townships as disaster areas, which will help them obtain the necessary resources for reconstruction as expeditiously as possible.

The Ministry of Housing launched a generously-funded initiative to reconstruct the homes of 5,500 families through the provision of special subsidies. The subsidy amounts will be based on the level of property damage as well as the residents' socioeconomic condition. The Ministry is



The President and his wife, Luisa Durán, tour the town of Tarapacá.



## FACTS

Since its entry as an associate member in 1996, trade between Chile and the Mercosur countries has increased by approximately 100%. Last year, Chilean exports to the bloc totaled 1.195 billion dollars, while imports reached 7.000 billion.

The agency Ogilvy & Mather Santiago, represented by its creative director César Agost Carreño, was awarded the Grand Prize in the Outdoor category at the 2005 Cannes Lions international advertising festival. The award – the festival's top honor – recognized the Chilean agency's creativity in using huge photographs to simulate Lego blocks as elements of building construction.



In June, copper rose to its highest value in 16 years: 1.66 dollars per pound on the London Metal Exchange.

Chile had the fourth-largest presence at the 2005 Vinexpo wine exhibition, held from June 19 to 23 in Bordeaux. The country had its own pavilion, where approximately 60 wineries displayed their products. In 2005, Chilean wine exports are expected to reach 1 billion dollars.

The Chilean seed industry registered sales of 273 million dollars in 2004. The figure makes the country the world's fifth leading exporter of this product, and the first in Latin America.

also organizing an interdisciplinary technical team with the Chilean Construction Chamber and associations of engineers and architects to analyze the structures' behavior during the earthquake and design new technologies for housing in the zone. In addition, the team will present plans for reconstructing homes and churches of particular historical value which respect the buildings' traditional architecture but employ materials able to withstand future earthquakes.



### Close relations

An emotional meeting with more than 250 Chilean exiles living in Sweden was President Lagos' first activity in Stockholm. There, the President – along with his wife, Luisa Durán, and Foreign Minister Ignacio Walker – attended the launch of a biographical book describing the experiences of a group of Chileans as they integrated into Swedish society.



Swedish Prime Minister  
Göran Persson and  
President Lagos.

The President noted that “the most dramatic moments and those with the greatest vicissitudes also leave us with the most significant lessons,” remarking that the book is “an homage to those who left one culture and encountered another, and who can now say we belong to two cultures and contribute to both.”

Ties between Sweden and Chile are historic in nature. The President characterized today's relationship as being “more modern and more mature.” The cooperation agreements signed between the two governments, as well as the interest of Swedish business groups in investing in Chile, give evidence of this.

Foreign Minister Walker and Swedish Deputy Prime Minister Lers-Olof Lindgren signed the final document of the Task Force created in 2003 by President Lagos and Prime Minister Göran Persson to define bilateral cooperation priorities. The agreement will generate additional resources for innovation, trade, investment, and public transportation.

The President also met with prominent Swedish business leaders, who indicated their interest in participating in new investment projects in Chile, encouraged by the transparency prevalent in the country. Chile's Corfo (Corporación de Fomento) and the Swedish government's innovation agency, Vinnova, launched a joint initiative to design a strategy for strengthening

## QUOTATIONS FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Respect for individual rights, and for the democratic institutions which guarantee them, have gained a firm hold in the region. Nevertheless, our democracies continue to confront significant challenges in their quest to become fully consolidated and to preserve, regain or broaden their support among citizens. Democratic governability requires better and stronger institutions. At the same time, we must ensure that our economic growth goes hand in hand with social progress.”

In a newspaper column entitled “El gusto de ir a Panamá” (The Pleasure of Going to Panama), in *El Panamá América*, June 28, 2005

The awarding of scholarships to indigenous youth “is evidence of our commitment to a future in which we can preserve our diversity and remain a country rich in traditions, visions, songs, and culture. If we achieve this, we will enter this 21st century – which will be the century of the global world – with our heads held high, because we have our own identity.”

Santiago, June 24, 2005

“Human capital is our best source of opportunity, so that young people can greatly improve their chances” (...). “The way to combat inequality is with serious public policies, without demagoguery or political opportunism.”

Regarding new resources for young people pursuing technical careers. Santiago, June 22, 2005

“We believe that in today’s world, in the area of foreign policy (it is important to speak) with a common voice, starting from each one’s position and where each one belongs” (...). “We belong to this part of the world called Latin America, and Mercosur is a very important nucleus for this. If we want people to listen to us, we must speak in an integrated manner.”

28th Mercosur Summit. Asunción, June 19, 2005

technological innovation in Chile. The aim is to determine the Chilean system’s strengths and weaknesses and offer appropriate recommendations.

Corfo also reached an agreement with the University of Jönköping’s School of Business to design and implement a program of assistantships in technological management for executives of small and medium-sized Chilean businesses. In turn, the Chilean Ministry of Education and the Swedish Folkuniversitet reached an accord aimed at providing English language training to students and professors in the field of education. Finally, Fundación Chile signed an agreement in the environmental sphere, calling for the design of an action plan which will include research projects in the areas of mining, forestry, and waste treatment.

### Energy integration

“This is a great opportunity, and we will give it our full support,” stated the president of the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB), Enrique Iglesias, referring to the initiative to create an “energy ring” among Latin American countries. In addition to sustaining regional economic growth, the project will help deepen integration and boost the region’s competitiveness.

The Energy Ministers of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay met with Iglesias in Washington, where the IDB president officially announced his commitment to the ring, characterizing it as “a milestone in the history of South American integration.” Along with a wide range of technical cooperation instruments to support the necessary environmental



impact studies, the organization will contribute financing mechanisms as well as its experience in energy projects with private sector participation.

The Chilean Minister of Economy, Jorge Rodríguez, affirmed that the project will be completely open in nature: instructions have been given for the technical team created by the governments to invite representatives from Bolivia and Paraguay to participate in the feasibility study process. As Rodríguez explained, a key aspect of the initiative is to generate a legal framework which provides a certainty of security for private companies, giving them the confidence to invest and trade in natural gas.

At the 28th Mercosur Summit, held on June 19 and 20 in Asunción, President Lagos stressed the need to involve all interested parties in discussions on the subject of energy, because the broader and more diverse the project becomes, the greater the benefits to the participating countries.

## OVERHEARD

"Chile is an example for Latin America. It is the country with the greatest achievements in the economic, social, and human rights spheres, having successfully established a liberal and democratic society."

André Regli, ambassador of Switzerland to Chile. Santiago, June 27, 2005

"I respect (Lagos) very much. I believe he has done a very good job, and I have suggested to him that we will be able to do many things together after his Presidency. I hope that we will work together in the future."

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton. Santiago, June 24, 2005

"From Chile, we received solidarity and political support for the operation of democratic institutions in Bolivia. This was fully communicated at the meeting."

Bolivian Foreign Minister Armando Loayza, after meeting with Chilean Foreign Minister Ignacio Walker. Asunción, June 20, 2005

## CHILEANS AROUND THE WORLD

Soprano Verónica Villarroel sang as a special guest at the 50th Hellenic Festival in Athens – held in the historic Herodes Atticus theater – together with tenor Plácido Domingo.

In the 2005 Rowing World Cup, Miguel Cerda and Felipe Leal won the silver medal in the men's lightweight pair without coxswain division. The athletes achieved a time of seven minutes 23 seconds in the competition, held in Munich, Germany.

Three Chileans have been honored with 2005 Guggenheim Scholarships: Gino Casassa, director of the Glaciology Department at the Center for Scientific Studies in Valdivia; Dante Minniti, associate professor of astronomy at Chile's Catholic University; and Jaime Luis Huenún of Temuco's Mapuche Journalism Association.

Eduardo Guillisasti, general manager of the Concha y Toro winery, and Eduardo Chadwick, president of Viña Errázuriz, were included by the British specialty periodical *Decanter* in its ranking of the world's 50 most powerful individuals in the wine industry.

The plan is to extract natural gas from Peru's Camisea deposit and transport it through pipelines connected to the existing network between northern Chile and Argentina, for subsequent delivery to Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay. According to the IDB, the required investment for the project will be some 2 to 2.5 billion dollars, and Peru will be able to supply the network with 30 million cubic meters of natural gas per day.

### Learning without difficulties

At first glance, there may seem to be no great difference between the new facility of Dr. Sótero del Río School, N° 116, and other recently-constructed or remodeled buildings in the country. However, its characteristics make it unique in Chile: it is the first subsidized school constructed especially for children suffering from cancer or chronic diseases.



Thanks to access ramps, oxygen outlets in the classrooms, and large rest rooms with space for wheelchairs, the school's 80 students can continue their studies without being hindered by their medical conditions. The 400-square-meter building, located on the grounds of the children's hospital of the same name in Santiago, was inaugurated by the Nuestros Hijos (Our Children) Foundation.

The school, with a total capacity of 100 students, has four classrooms, a library, a computer room, a dining room, a health clinic, and a spacious roofed patio. Among its enthusiastic pupils are children undergoing chemotherapy as well as those with severe heart or kidney problems or other types of chronic conditions. The teachers offer personalized instruction, and the schedule is flexible, so that the students can attend medical exams and appointments and even be hospitalized. When that happens, their teachers go to the facility where they are being treated.

### Betting on technology

In late May, a modern building with infrastructure designed to house companies working with state-of-the-art technology was inaugurated in Valparaíso, on Chile's central coast. It is the first facility to emerge from a promising initiative: transforming the city – declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO – into a technological hub for Chile and the region.

The aim is to solidify Chile's position as a platform for technology and services, encouraging Chilean and foreign companies to undertake investment projects with regional and global reach. In support of this objective, the government has created Invest@chile, the High Technology Investment



## AGENDA

- ★ June 12-14: Official visit of President Ricardo Lagos to Sweden.
- ★ June 19-20: Participation by President Lagos in the 28th Mercosur Summit. Asunción, Paraguay.
- ★ June 20-23: Third Inter-American Seminar on Government E-Purchasing. Santiago.
- ★ June 28: Participation of the Minister of Mining, Alfonso Dulanto, in the First Meeting of the Chile-Russia Intergovernmental Commission for Trade and Economic Cooperation. Moscow.
- ★ June 29: Official visit of President Lagos to Panama.
- ★ July 7-8: State Visit of the President of Portugal, Jorge Sampaio. Santiago.
- ★ July 14-16: Official visit of President Lagos to Australia.
- ★ July 18: Participation of President Lagos in the Andean Summit. Lima.



The tasks of planting, harvesting, and grinding wheat brought the main island's inhabitants in contact with those living on smaller islands and in more isolated places. The mills functioned as active social centers. The people made long journeys to obtain flour, but also to get together with others, catch up on the news, and even plan marriages. In the evenings, fires were lit inside the mills, burning late into the night. For years, this was also the setting in which the stories were woven that today form part of Chiloé's rich mythology.

Program, which supports and facilitates companies' installation in Chile of projects such as shared service centers, call centers, technical support offices, IT and back office services, software development centers, biotechnology operations, and electronics assembly and integration facilities, among others.

The Valparaíso building, owned by Corfo, cost six million dollars to construct and has an area of 6,000 square meters distributed over six floors. According to plans, 60% of its capacity will be occupied by technological companies by the end of this year. As a start, three foreign multinational corporations – Software AG, Appear Networks and Microsoft Chile – will move in.



The German firm Software AG, an international pioneer in this industry, has announced that it will invest 1.5 million dollars and hire over 200 workers for its regional platform. Sweden's Appear Networks, provider of value solutions for wireless networks, will install a Context-Aware Mobile Solutions Center, in addition to researching and creating products for the Latin American market in association with the Chilean company Disc. Microsoft Chile will develop software applications and technologies for Microsoft Corporation. The facility will be that company's only Technological Development Center in Latin America.

### The Mill Route

Distributed throughout the archipelago of Chiloé, in southern Chile, water-driven mills have formed part of the region's economy and traditions for many years. Today, in an effort to save the few remaining mills from destruction and oblivion, a project being carried out by the Ford Foundation and the Municipality of Castro – the area's leading city – aims to return them to the central position they occupied for decades.

The plan calls for a tourist route inviting visitors to get to know six of these structures, restored by Chiloé carpenters using skills passed down from their fathers and grandfathers. Three of the mills are located on the island of Curaco de Vélez, two in Quinchao and one in Castro. The idea is not only to create a new tourist attraction, but also to recover a portion of the community's cultural heritage, which revolved around the mills until the early 20th century.



# ANIMALS OF CHILE

## Endemic fauna

Chile's peculiar geography translates into a wealth of diverse ecosystems, bounded in the north by the world's driest desert, in the east by the Andes mountain chain, in the west by the Pacific Ocean and in the south by the Antarctic ice fields. These conditions have given rise to numerous plant and animal species found nowhere else on the planet.

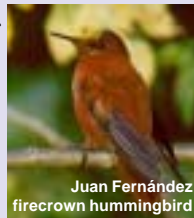
While Chile lacks the extensive variety of animal species found in some other places, the riches of its biodiversity are reflected in its high percentage of endemic species, as a result of the powerful natural barriers surrounding the territory. Twelve percent of mammal species in Chile are endemic, as are 44% of insects, 51% of reptiles and 62% of amphibians.

Chile's island territories, especially the Juan Fernández archipelago – off the country's central coast – possess a great number of native species. The Juan Fernández fur seal is one example. It lives in caves, some with underwater entrances, where it seeks shelter and raises its young. Reaching a weight of 600 kilos, it can measure more than three meters in length. Underwater, it is capable of reaching a speed of 50 kilometers per hour. In contrast to other sea lions, it is curious and friendly. A distinctive characteristic of its coat also sets it apart from other sea lion species around the world: it has two types of fur, one short and one long.



Juan Fernández fur seal

A unique bird is also found on the archipelago: the Juan Fernández firecrown hummingbird, currently in danger of extinction with a population of only some 400 individuals. Weighing eleven grams, it is larger than mainland hummingbirds,



Juan Fernández firecrown hummingbird

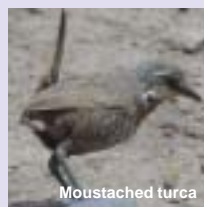
making its ability to remain suspended in the air even more surprising. Its song is varied and melodious. The male is dark red in color, with the top of its head covered in shiny gold.

Some of mainland Chile's bird species are also exclusive to the country, such as the long-tailed meadowlark and the *turca*. The former ranges from the Atacama Desert in the north to the Magallanes region, in the extreme south. Measuring between 26 and 28 centimeters, it has an intensely red throat and breast. Its habit of forming flocks during the winter has led to the folk tradition of announcing the start of the season at the sight of these birds flying in groups. The *turca*, native to central Chile, is not easily observed,



Long-tailed meadowlark

although its curious song – sounding like a bottle of water being emptied – distinguishes it from other birds. It also has an unusual way of walking: a crouching motion with its tail perpendicular to the ground.



Moustached turca

A small marsupial inhabits central Chile: the *llaca* or mouse opossum. Rat-like in appearance, it

has a long, prehensile tail; an elongated, pointed snout; sharp teeth; large ears, and black patches around its eyes.

The chinchilla is an attractive animal, with long whiskers and large eyes and ears for its size: 23 to 28 centimeters. One of the country's largest rodents, it reaches an average weight of 200 to 270 grams, although some individuals have been captured that weighed nearly half a kilo. A long-lived animal, sometimes reaching 15 years of age, it inhabits mountainous areas, from 3,000 to 5,000 meters above sea level. Its fur is long and silky.



Mouse opossum



Chinchilla

In humid woodlands and the Valdivian forests, Darwin's frog can be found. Unlike toads, it has smooth, flat skin, and it is easily recognized by the characteristic pointed shape of its head. After the female lays her eggs, the male collects them and keeps them in special pouches inside his mouth for the entire gestation period.



Darwin's frog

The pudu is the smallest of the South American deer, reaching only 45 centimeters in height and weighing an average of 10 kilograms. Fearful and shy, it can be glimpsed at night only by fortunate observers. It mainly inhabits the rainy temperate forests of the country's central and southern zones, although some have migrated into Argentina.



Pudu

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Javier Luis Egaña, Director Communication and Culture Secretariat / EDITOR: María Paz del Río, Chief International Press Department / TEXT: Maureen Schäffer, International Press Department / PHOTOGRAPHS: Presidencia de la República, Corfo.

COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE SECRETARIAT / MINISTRY GENERAL GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT  
depreint@segegob.cl / www.segegob.cl / www.gobiernodechile.cl