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At the end of the Summit, the 21 APEC leaders were photographed wearing *chamantos* – the traditional garment of the Chilean countryside – in La Moneda Palace's Patio de los Naranjos. Santiago, November 21, 2004.

APEC Chile 2004

Santiago was a focus of the world's attention from November 19 to 21, as it hosted the 21 leaders of the economies making up the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum. The organization of the summit and its associated meetings earned high marks from the attending leaders, who pledged to vigorously advance efforts to promote free trade, combat corruption and implement anti-terrorism agreements.

At the summit's closing, President Ricardo Lagos officially presented the Santiago Declaration, which included the leaders' commitments to support further advances in the Doha Round as a top priority for the achievement of trade liberalization; to adopt a set of best practices for the negotiation of regional trade accords and free trade agreements; and to promote structural reform in the region, including the enhanced functioning of markets. Special concern was expressed for global security issues and the need to implement measures to prevent terrorist networks from utilizing the international financial system.

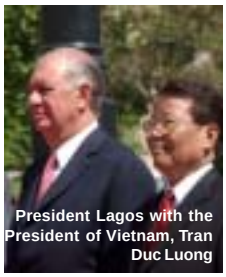
From the end of this summit until the next gathering — in South Korea in 2005 – measures will be put in place to combat corruption and ensure transparency. The group's Senior Officials (SOM) were also tasked with achieving progress under APEC's sustainable development strategy, to ensure that growth and development will benefit future generations. Further high-priority issues included the need to increase capacity building through public-private alliances, and to undertake special efforts in education, promoting information technologies, and the English language as entrepreneurial tools for microenterprises and small- and medium-sized businesses, as well as women and youth.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi; U.S. President George W. Bush; Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin; and President Ricardo Lagos.

Parallel to the summit, a meeting of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) was held, as well as the APEC CEO Summit, which brought together more than 330 business leaders from the Pacific Rim.

Official visits: concrete results

In addition to their participation in the Leaders' Summit, six Heads of Government paid official visits to Chile. The President of Vietnam, Tran Duc Luong, was the first to be received by President Lagos at La Moneda Palace, on November 18. During their meeting, the two leaders signed cooperation agreements in the areas of fisheries and scientific research, and Chile announced its support for Vietnam's entry into the World Trade Organization.



President Lagos with the President of Vietnam, Tran Duc Luong

DID YOU KNOW?

- At the age of 83, Chilean Margot Duhalde continues to accumulate thousands of flight hours as a pilot. In 1937, she entered the Air Force's School of Aviation as an "auditor," because the institution did not accept women at that time. Responding to General Charles de Gaulle call to fight the Nazis, she piloted heavy bombers and powerful fighter planes for the Royal Air Force during the Second World War. She was later named a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

- More than 3,000 university students have become tutors for socially at-risk children, providing them with affection as well as defending their rights, helping them learn skills and advancing their educational development, with outstanding results. The program, called Adopta un Hermano ("Adopt a Sibling"), is administered by the Fundación Nacional para la Superación de la Pobreza.

- Mataveri Airport on Easter Island — 3,600 kilometers off the coast of Chile's Third Region – is equipped for space shuttle landings.

FACTS

The Chilean economy grew by 6.8% during the third quarter of the current year, thanks to exceptional performance in the areas of industry, mining, construction, fisheries and trade. The figure – the greatest expansion for the period during the past seven years – brings Chile's cumulative growth to 5.6% during the first nine months of 2004, compared to the same period in 2003.

Chile's trade balance registered a surplus of 7.323 billion dollars during the first ten months of 2004, as a result of the overall increase in exports, and especially the strong recovery in copper prices.

Foreign investment in Chile showed a rise of 242% between January and August compared to the same segment of 2003. The projects initiated during this period represented a total investment of 5.237 billion dollars, the highest level in five years.

CorpBanca, the country's fifth largest private bank, has become the first Chilean company to list its shares on the New York Stock Exchange during the past seven years.

The Netherlands, Canada, and France increased their purchases of Chilean products between January and October, at rates greater than 73% compared to the same period in 2003.

The Economist placed Chile 31st in its ranking of the "best countries to live in." Leading the Latin American countries, Chile is close to France (25), Germany (26) and Great Britain (29).

President Lagos with the President of China, Hu Jintao

On the evening of the same day began the official visit of Chinese President, Hu Jintao, who together with President Lagos announced the decision to undertake negotiations for a FTA. A technical working group has been constituted for this purpose by the Chinese Ministry of Trade and the Chilean Foreign Ministry. Hu Jintao characterized the two countries' ties as those of "partners in a comprehensive relationship of cooperation" and confirmed Chile's designation as an approved tourist destination for Chinese citizens. In turn, Chile recognized China's Full Market Economy Status.

Within the framework of the visit, the Chilean National Copper Corporation (Codelco) and Minmetals, China's leading mining company, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a view toward achieving a cooperation agreement to help satisfy the Asian country's enormous demand for copper.

With the President of South Korea, Roh Moo-Jiang

The official visits of the leaders of South Korea and the Russian Federation were carried out on Friday, November 19. Korean President Roh Moo-Jiang expressed satisfaction after his meeting with President Lagos, in which the leaders agreed to establish the "Chile-Korea Korea-Chile" organization to boost the interchange of technological research and cultural initiatives. "We will follow Chile's spirit of success to achieve success in Korea," noted Roh Moo-Jiang, who added that he would appreciate "the help of the Chilean government in teaching us about its experience" after the summit.

With Russian President Vladimir Putin

During the visit of President Vladimir Putin – the first by a Russian Head of Government to Chile – agreements were signed to avoid double taxation and to prevent tax evasion, in addition to a technical assistance accord in the area of national defense. Chile signed its adherence to the Russian Federation's incorporation into the WTO, and in a joint declaration, both Heads of State expressed their "satisfaction regarding the high level achieved by the political dialogue and cooperation" between the two nations.

Presidents George W. Bush and Ricardo Lagos

The President of the United States, George W. Bush, arrived at Chile's presidential palace on Sunday, November 21. After the end of the APEC Summit, he praised the event's organization, saying that Chile "really did a great job." Bush also expressed his appreciation for President Lagos' advice and support for the United Nations in Haiti, commenting that these are the actions of "an ally of the U.S., a good Latin American citizen and a friend of freedom. Together with my fellow citizens, I anticipate a future of stronger, closer relations between our countries in the coming years."

With the Prime Minister of Japan, Junichiro Koizumi

It was finally the turn of Japan, whose Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, met with the Chilean President on Monday, November 22. The leaders announced the formation of a joint study group, including both the private and public sectors, to evaluate the possibility of a FTA. President Lagos emphasized Chile's areas of agreement with Japan, especially the need to reform the United Nations system to strengthen

Quotations from the President

"Like Chile, Japan also wants a world at peace and a region at peace. Japan wants a world with clear rules, and one with an environment that is cleaner and more amenable to human beings, as the Kyoto Accord shows."

At a joint press conference with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. La Moneda Palace, November 22, 2004

"I hope that after this summit, the world will be viewed in a different way. We are portraying this planet in a different manner, and the Pacific is becoming a central actor."

At a press conference after the Santiago Declaration. La Moneda Palace, Santiago. November 21, 2004

"Our sphere of cooperation is extremely wide; we share essential values that form the foundation for our relations. We want democratic, pluralistic societies, open societies, in which entrepreneurial opportunities are available to many. As we have said during these days, economic growth and trade are incompatible with terrorism and incompatible with corruption."

At a joint press conference with U.S. President George W. Bush. La Moneda Palace, November 21, 2004

"When Chile joined the Security Council, we had the opportunity in that forum to demonstrate our many areas of agreement. Our two countries are committed to constructing an international system with fair and balanced rules, where large and small countries share a common framework of reference."

At a joint press conference with Russian President Vladimir Putin. La Moneda Palace, November 19, 2004

Characterizing Chile and China as partners in a comprehensive relationship of cooperation "is a definition that raises our ties to a level of greater friendship and mutual confidence, providing a broader framework for our cooperative efforts (...). Thus, your visit marks a greater and more profound advance in the nature of our relations and projects them over the long term."

At a joint press conference with Chinese President Hu Jintao. La Moneda Palace, November 18, 2004

its effectiveness, operational capability, and legitimacy: "We agree on promoting reform of the United Nations, and in this context, we would like to signal Chile's support for Japan's incorporation as a permanent member of the Security Council," he stated.

Truth and recognition

After intense work, the National Commission on Political Imprisonment and Torture, headed by Monsignor Sergio Valech, has delivered its report to President Lagos. The report, commissioned by the President, contains more than 35,000 statements from individuals who were incarcerated and suffered abuses from the period after the military coup in 1973 until 1989 (see ***ChileNews N°56***).

Monsignor Sergio Valech delivers the report to President Lagos

"Chile should be very proud of what it has done," noted the President. "I do not know of another country that has provided a six-month opportunity to allow those whose human rights were violated to present their declarations, their testimony. This documentation is unprecedented in the history of the world."

The National Commission on Political Imprisonment and Torture at La Moneda Palace

The report, released by the President on November 28 and available over the Internet, represents a further significant step toward knowledge of the truth, justice, and reparations for the victims, a process which was initiated with the Rettig Report in 1991; the Dialogue Roundtable in 1999; and the 2003 proposal, "*There Is No Tomorrow Without Yesterday*," based on material prepared for the President.

President Lagos emphasized the Army's new position on past human rights violations, announced days earlier by its commander in chief, General Juan Emilio Cheyre: "The Chilean Army has made the difficult but irreversible decision to assume the responsibilities which fall to it, as an institution, for all of the wrongful and morally unacceptable deeds of the past."

"With this historic step," stated President Lagos, "the Army has consolidated the process of integrating itself into today's democratic Chile, reinforcing its character as a permanent institution of the Republic, in which all Chileans see themselves reflected. In addition, it has reaffirmed its important and active contribution to the construction of tomorrow's Chile: a Chile that is more united, more cohesive, more just, more fraternal, and more developed."

Deciphering the ice

Chilean scientists and military personnel have undertaken one of the greatest research efforts ever carried out by a Latin American country: the first scientific expedition to the South Pole by land.

The journey began on November 13 from the Lieutenant Arturo Parodi Station, at the Patrio Hills Antarctic base. The team, composed of researchers from the Center for Scientific Studies (CECS), and Army personnel, covered more than 2,000 kilometers across the Western Antarctic, the Antarctic Peninsula and the North Patagonian Ice Fields, in order to assess the effects of global climate change on the glaciers.

Overheard

"If we achieve an agreement, Chile may become Japan's platform for increasing its ties with Latin America."

Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan. Santiago, November 22, 2004

"Chile is an incredible country; Chileans are good-hearted people who treasure their liberty and are dedicated to democracy. The people of this country understand the importance of economic freedom; modern Chile insists on the rule of law, ensuring the basic rights and liberties of its people."

George W. Bush, President of the United States. Santiago, November 21, 2004

"We are interested in strengthening our relations, in further developing our political and economic cooperation (...). We have agreed to promote closer cooperation in the areas of business, mining, energy, high technology, atomic energy, and space."

Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation. Santiago, November 19, 2004

"The Chinese government places maximum importance on its ties with Chile, viewing your country as a trustworthy friend in Latin America, and we are ready to raise our relations to new heights."

Hu Jintao, President of China. Santiago, November 18, 2004

Chileans around the world

Motorcycle racer Carlo De Gavardo won the world championship in the 450cc category of the World Rally Raid, as well as first place in the Por las Pampas Rally in Cordoba, Argentina.

After more than nine months in Iraq and an experience that they report "changed their lives," a team of young volunteers has returned to Chile. The group traveled to the country to construct a humanitarian aid center for the Kurdish population. In spite of the risks to foreign citizens, they successfully completed their mission, earning praise from the non-profit Millennium organization.

For their roles in the Chilean film *Cachimba*, Mariana Loyola and Julio Jung were awarded the "Cólon de Plata" for best actress and best actor at the Thirtieth Huelva Iberoamerican Film Festival.

During the expedition, the glaciers' overall volume and thickness were studied, as well as the existence of superficial crevices, the internal structure of the ice, and changes in snow accumulation. To overcome obstacles such as *sastrugis* (snowdrifts ranging up to one meter in height), the team rode in a TL-6 tractor, a high-traction vehicle with great resistance to the cold. The area has one of the planet's most hostile climates, with temperatures that can reach more than 80 degrees Celsius below zero.

The project is part of the ITASE (International Trans-Antarctic Scientific Expedition), an international initiative aimed at studying the impact of climate change during recent centuries. In December, the Chilean Navy and the Center for Scientific Studies, in conjunction with NASA, will carry out a second expedition, this time by air. The mission will ascertain how much the glaciers have shrunk since 2002, when the first aerial expedition of the zone was undertaken, indicating significant shrinking of the ice masses in recent years.

The world through a lens

Throughout November and December, more than 160 exhibitions in Santiago and the country's regions are inviting Chileans to share the unique views offered to the world by hundreds of photographers during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The exhibits are part of FotoAmérica 2004, the country's first photography festival, which provides viewers with a window on unrepeatable moments of history and the people who experienced it.

Museums, art galleries, cultural centers, universities, plazas, restaurants, elevators, hospitals, and even public rest rooms: all imaginable spaces are being used to exhibit the work of more than 400 photographers, displaying an enormous variety of resources, techniques and formats.

"*Retrospective*" of famous French photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson, and "World Press Photo," with heart-rending scenes from the war in Iraq and the scourged African continent, have been two of the most-visited shows. Hundreds of different themes are represented, such as the diverse and eclectic work of Chilean Oscar Wittke, which explores the limits of the technique; the strong emotions captured in the images of Italian Guido Albi; the depictions of exile and documentation of human rights violations in the work of Argentine Marcelo Brodsky; and the renowned Cuerpos Pintados of Chilean Roberto Edwards, displayed in the Plaza de la Constitución, across from La Moneda Palace.

Henri Cartier-Bresson

And in Santiago's Parque Forestal, near the National Museum of Fine Arts, a "natural gallery" has been set up in the hope of receiving hundreds of photographs from all those who wish to participate in FotoLibre. The installations includes dozens of meters of cable, from which hobbyists can hang their prints for others to view.

Pablo de Rokha, after 110 years

"One is born a Rokhian, with bitterness and exuberance one is born a Rokhian, without stridency, thinking in stone and with dignity one is born a Rokhian …" wrote Chilean poet and Cervantes Prize winner Gonzalo Rojas.

Recognition of the value and legacy of the work of poet Pablo de Rokha — the pseudonym of Carlos Díaz Loyola — was late in coming. When it came, it was from the young, who rescued his work with amazement from the marginality to which it was relegated by the poetry critics of the first half of the twentieth century, into whose canons the "dark" poet did not fit.

The 110-year anniversary of the poet's birth was celebrated in October. Today, he is remembered as a "utopian vanguardist," a "messianic patriarch," an "indefatigable militant" and a "torrential user of profanity," who, as a tragic witness of his era, paid for his writing with his life.

He was obsessed with social justice, socialism, and the defense of democracy. An all-encompassing zeal for criticism marked his life: "Pablo de Rokha lived as he wrote and died as he wrote. There was an integration between his life and his principles. He carried his manner of being and thinking to the final consequences," comments Naín Nómez, a student of his work.

He was indifferent to the literary genres of the European tradition. In contrast, the text he constructed was complex, chaotic, fragmented, multidisciplinary and contradictory. His aesthetic broke away from ordinary reality, creating a parallel universe for his writing: hateful and injured, violent and dissonant.

De Rokha liked to define himself as a "proletarian gentleman," who viewed his existence as an ongoing struggle against philistinism. Those who knew him emphasize that he was rigorously ethical and incorruptible. Although recognizing that he could sometimes be arbitrary and unfair, they insist that he would never stoop to deception. "If he attacked, he attacked frontally, in capital letters, and he took clear responsibility for the justice or injustice of his words," recalled his friend Eugenio Matus.

His prolific work began to appear in 1916, with "*Versos de infancia*" followed by "*Los gemidos*", which was met with surprise as well as fierce rejection. Since the public showed little interest in buying the book, most of the print run was sold by the kilo to wrap meat in Santiago's slaughterhouse. The majority of his 38 books were self-published, and he sold them in person throughout the country, traveling from north to south on third-class train tickets.

Together with the writer Winétt de Rokha (the pseudonym of Luisa Anabalón Sanders), he formed a family with nine children, four of whom survived him.

The death of his wife and the suicide of his son Carlos cast him into a profound depression which he was unable to escape. He took his own life on September 10, 1968. "I very much admire the conscious suicide, the man who puts an end to his sufferings with full consciousness and by an act of his sovereign will," he wrote in an unpublished work which was discovered after his death.

AGENDA

- November 17–December 5: 31 International Traditional Handicrafts Exhibition. Parque Bustamante, Santiago
- December 1-2: Official visit of the King of Morocco, Mohammed VI. Santiago
- December 8-9: Participation of President Ricardo Lagos in the South American Summit. Lima, Peru
- December 10: Official visit of President Ricardo Lagos to Peru
- December 16: Participation of Foreign Minister Ignacio Walker in the Mercosur Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Ouro Preto, Brazil
- December 17: Participation of President Ricardo Lagos in the Mercosur Summit. Ouro Preto, Brazil

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Javier Luis Egaña, Director Communication and Culture Secretariat / TEXT: Maureen Schäffer, International Press Department / PHOTOGRAPHS: Presidencia de la República
COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE SECRETARIAT / MINISTRY GENERAL GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
depreint@segegob.cl / www.segegob.cl / www.gobiernodechile.cl