



GOBIERNO DE CHILE

# CHILE

SECRETARÍA DE COMUNICACIONES

## NEWS

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

January 31, 2007 • No. 84



President Michelle Bachelet watches the "awakening" of *La pequeña gigante* (The Little Girl Giant), created by the Royal de Luxe theatre company of France and presented in Santiago from January 26 to 28.

### The government's priorities

In her first official statement of the new year, President Michelle Bachelet stressed that the government's leading priorities for 2007 will be the reforms to the pension and education systems. She also emphasized that the administration "will continue to work vigorously on our agenda to promote honesty in government."



The President explained that both the capacity and quality of the health care system will be improved; more homes will be constructed to provide "housing with dignity"; and the agricultural sector will be strengthened, with the aim of making Chile a world-class power in that industry. At the same time, President Bachelet asserted, the country will maintain its responsible management of public finances and continue to pursue new international trade agreements. All of this is added to Chile's ongoing goals of ensuring economic growth and improving the quality of its democracy.

The President also provided a brief summing up of her first year in office: "The Increase in basic pensions, the expansion of free health care, the construction of 800 day care centers and improved conditions in pre-schools are tangible examples" of the administration's leadership.

Chile is making progress in protecting and supporting every one of its citizens, she affirmed, "because we want all of our people, from youngest to oldest, to know that their government is working to make Chile a more successful country, but at the same time one that can more effectively protect the most vulnerable."

### For a more transparent Chile

Widespread approval throughout the various sectors of society has been the reaction to President Bachelet's proposed agenda with respect to governmental ethics, transparency, efficiency and the modernization of the State.

The main idea is to fight corruption within the government, increase transparency and avoid abuses during pre-election periods. The proposal is the government's response to various allegations of irregularities in State offices and electoral campaigns.

### Did you Know?

- ★ Hungary's Eotvos József publishing company has released a Hungarian-language translation of *La Araucana*, the epic poem that narrates the conquest of Chile, written by Alonso de Ercilla (1533-1594).
- ★ Amid a semi-desert landscape in northern Chile, the country has established Las Chinchillas National Reserve – one of the few places in the world where chinchillas are officially protected. With an area of 4,229 hectares, the reserve allows the small mammals to roam freely, while visitors can gain a firsthand experience of their habitat.
- ★ *Neruda Songs* was named best classical album of 2006 by *The New York Times*. U.S. composer Peter Lieberman set five sonnets by Nobel prizewinner Pablo Neruda to music, and his wife, mezzo-soprano Lorraine Hunt, sang them. Hunt died of cancer eight months later, at the age of 52.

## Quotations from The President

"The great difference in a democratic society such as ours is that we do not want our prisons to become schools of crime, as a result of overcrowding and inadequate security."

At the inauguration of the Santiago 1 prison, part of the concessions program for penal institutions.  
Santiago, January 30, 2007

"The private sector, the businesses and the banks of this country, have a role to play in building the social protection network to which we are committed as a government, in order to improve the people's quality of life and provide effective support to small and medium-sized enterprises."

At the launch of the second phase of the project to expand the country's network of automatic teller machines.  
Santiago, January 26, 2007

"We must not only assist those who are currently poor, but prevent their number from increasing. (...) If we can make progress on this task, we can contribute, in the near future, between 15 and 20 billion dollars to the Millennium Objectives – an amount equivalent to five times the GDP of Haiti or three times that of Nicaragua."

At a working meeting at La Moneda Palace with the Technical Group of the Initiative Against Hunger and Poverty.  
Santiago, January 11, 2007.

"We will ensure economic growth, and we will also fight a vigorous battle against corruption and in favor of honesty and transparency. We will send large numbers of bills to the legislature, and we hope they will be processed quickly, because this will be for the benefit of the people."

Santiago, January 10, 2007.

The Concertación is "Chile's most successful coalition, because we have provided governability to the country for the longest period of its history. (...) It is the coalition which recovered Chile's liberty and which returned to our national life a critical way of viewing reality, along with an increased spirit of tolerance for diversity. And above all, it has opened up dreams and opportunities for thousands of people who had been condemned to a future without hope because of their social condition."

At the launch of the book *Protección Social en un Mundo Incierto* (Social Protection in an Uncertain World), published by Fundación Chile 21.  
Santiago, January 8, 2007



"In order to reform the State, the first thing that must be done is to believe in the State, and I believe in it. To believe in its capacity to create change, improve citizens' lives and to enhance the liberty of our people; trust in its commitment to provide quality public services to the people," asserted the President.

The initiative includes 30 measures grouped into three main areas: increasing transparency, modernizing the State and improving the quality of political activity.

Key proposals call for full transparency in State expenditures, which will be listed on the websites of each ministry or public service to guarantee public access to the information; extending the special personnel selection system currently used for high government offices to 99 public services, as well as those administering large amounts of State resources; modernizing the office of Comptroller General of the Republic; and creating new superintendencies for education, public works and environmental protection.

In the area of elections and political campaigns, an Electoral Oversight Board will be created to investigate and audit electoral processes. In addition, donations from businesses will be prohibited, anonymous donations will be restricted, and primary elections within parties will be regulated.

## Export explosion

Chilean exports set a new record this past year, reaching 58,996,000 billion dollars – a 45.4% increase over the previous year.

Within this total, the mining sector accounted for approximately 64%, with copper shipments alone representing some 57%. Significant contributions were also made by industrial shipments, led by cellulose at 28%. Sales by the farming, forestry, livestock and fisheries sectors accounted for some 4.5% of the total.



# FACTS

Chile has moved up three places in the Heritage Foundation's ranking of economic freedom, to 11th out of 157 nations. The next Latin American country on the list is El Salvador, at number 29.

Users of the Web portal [www.educarchile.cl](http://www.educarchile.cl) – operated by an alliance between the Ministry of Education and Fundación Chile – can access Google's platform of online applications as well as educational resources provided by Google Earth, thanks to an agreement signed with that company.



Imports reached 35,973,000 billion dollars, for an increase of 18.4% over the year before. As a result, the country's trade balance showed a surplus of 23.0217 billion dollars, more than double the 2005 figure of 10,179,5 billion.

Substantial growth was seen in manufactured exports, which rose 17.7% compared to the 2005 figure, for a total of 6.318 billion dollars. The sectors with the most dramatic increases included paper products (74.6%), machinery and equipment (44.4%), assorted manufactured goods (29%), paper and printed materials (16.2%) and processed foods (15.8%).



## Trade achievements

Chile achieved impressive trade successes during 2006. The first piece of good news arrived in March, when Chile and India signed a Partial Scope Agreement covering over 250 products. In June, Chile and Panama signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which is currently awaiting legislative ratification. In August, Peru and Chile pledged to expand their commercial relations by signing an FTA, which will broaden the two countries' current Economic Complementation Agreement.

Without a doubt, the year's most significant trade achievement came on October 1, when the country's FTA with China – the Asian giant's first with a Latin American nation – entered into force. November saw the debut of the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership (P4), which links New Zealand, Singapore, Brunei and Chile.

During the past year, negotiations were also concluded for an FTA with Japan, which is expected to be signed in March 2007, and trade talks were initiated with Vietnam, Malaysia and Australia.



The icing on the cake was the signing of an FTA with Colombia on November 27.



Chile and Thailand have signed an accord to avoid double taxation and prevent tax evasion. The measure seeks to stimulate imports and exports of capital and services between the two nations, with a view toward negotiating a Free Trade Agreement.

Chile stands in 71st place out of 178 countries on the first "world map of happiness," prepared by the University of Leicester. On the regional level, it ranks eighth – behind Argentina and ahead of Brazil.

According to the Human Development Index (HDI) prepared annually by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Chile ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in a field of 177 countries. This places it among the so-called "high development" nations with respect to indicators such as literacy rate, national income and life expectancy.

## OVERHEARD

"I can see that Latin America is undergoing a great transformation, in which Chile, with its unique history and political experience with democracy, is playing a leading role. I believe that the Chilean government's actions are being observed with interest and attention."

Fausto Bertinotti, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies. Santiago, January 31, 2007

"Which country has been able to implement an effective economic model while improving social conditions? Chile. The reduction in poverty there has been substantial; the improvements in education are well-known."

Fernando Henrique Cardoso, former President of Brazil (1995-2002). December 25, 2006

"Chile is the best-positioned country of Latin America, and it has set the standard to which many countries in the region aspire. When we look at the fiscal and monetary policies practiced here in Chile, we can see the progress in terms of credit classification, which has now improved to A, providing an excellent example for other Latin American countries."

Kathleen Corbet, President of Standard & Poor's. Santiago, December 12, 2006.

"Chile has offered a great example to the region by seeking to integrate its economy with others around the world. This is an example because when we look at the potential market for Chilean products, we are talking about thousands of millions of citizens. For Colombia, it is essential to follow this path."

Alvaro Uribe, President of Colombia Santiago, November 27, 2006

## No more domestic violence

There is one statistic Chile is not proud of: more than 50% of Chilean women have been the victims of domestic violence. In response, the government is taking vigorous steps to combat the problem.

The National Women's Service (Sernam) has launched a national campaign aimed at encouraging those who act as aggressors – as well as society in general – to put themselves in the place of the victims. "This is a national issue which must be resolved, not only for the sake of the victimized women, but also for the families who stand behind them," explained Minister Laura Albornoz.



A further initiative is the creation of 16 shelters throughout the country, aimed at women who are experiencing severe abuse and believe their lives are in danger.

Emphasis is also being placed on increasing women's employment opportunities, since economic inequality is one of the factors that promote domestic violence. "In Chile, only 37.5% of women have paying jobs; this means that 62.5% of Chilean women must ask someone else for money in order to buy food. This is a fundamental factor, because if a woman does not have her own resources, she cannot break the cycle of violence," stressed Minister Albornoz. Through programs with titles such as Good Labor Practices and Female Heads of Household, the government aims to increase women's participation in the labor market. Thanks to an increase in Sernam's 2007 budget, the program will be able to reach more women.

## Keyboarding in Mapudungún

Instead of "Start," it says "Tuwül." The recycling bin is "Ütxüftuwuke," and to turn off the computer, you click on "Chogümün ekipu." This is Windows' version in Mapudungún, the language of the Mapuche people. After researching 200,000 words, Microsoft incorporated them into a

software system called Mapuzugun. An add-on program for Windows XP, it translates instructions and icons into Mapudungún.

The software is not Microsoft's first effort of this kind; the company has already created programs in languages such as Quechua, Cantonese and Catalan. The beauty of the initiative – in this case – is that it will contribute to preserving this



## Chileans abroad

President Michelle Bachelet was honored with the Defense of Democracy and Liberty Award presented by Spain's Ramón Rubial Foundation, for "her defense of freedom and democracy."

Solange Bernstein, Chilean Superintendent of Pension Fund Administrators, was elected in Istanbul to the office of vice president of the International Organization of Pension Supervisors (IOPS), a body created under the auspices of the OECD.

Attorney and diplomat Edmundo Vargas was elected for a five-year term as a member of the International Law Commission.

Hill Hernández, a native of Chiloé, was elected "Miss Earth" in a competition held in the Philippines in late November 2006. As titleholder, Miss Hernández – 23 years old and 1.81 meters tall – will serve as a Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF and the United Nations, among other duties.



## AGENDA

- ★ **January 8-11:** Visit of India's Minister of Defense, Rao Inderjit Singh. Santiago and Chilean Antarctic Territory.
- ★ **January 15:** President Michelle Bachelet's attendance to the presidential inaugural ceremonies in Ecuador. Quito.
- ★ **January 18-19:** Summit of Mercosur Heads of State. Brazil.
- ★ **January 22-24:** Visit of Princess Anne of Great Britain. Punta Arenas, Santiago and Valparaíso.
- ★ **January 29-31:** Visit of the President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Fausto Bertinotti. Santiago.

indigenous language and spreading the culture of the Mapuche people through modern technology. Minister of Education Yasna Provoste praised the initiative for giving people "greater and better access to quality education, independent of their origin or place of birth."

In the most recent national census (2002), 600,000 people identified themselves as Mapuche, representing 4% of Chileans.

## Record catches

With the fishing season at its height, the salmon and trout of southern Chile have been providing big surprises to sport fishing fans. In recent days, some enormous specimens have been brought to shore. Jorge Morales, a fifteen-year-old Chilean, pulled in a spectacular 15-kilo salmon from the tranquil waters of Ralún. Morales thus surpassed Spanish tourist Félix Muelas, who had hooked a 12-kilo rainbow trout a few days earlier on Lake Calafquén.



According to a registry maintained by the region's fishing and hunting clubs, certain areas have a history of producing trophy specimens. They include

Lakes Tagua Tagua and Llanquihue, and the Petrohué, Futaleufú and Yelcho rivers.

With more than 4,000 kilometers of coastline and countless rivers and lakes, as well as ponds, streams and reservoirs Chile offers nearly every imaginable setting and species to sport fishing enthusiasts. The most prized varieties of fish include mackerel, carp, tench and various species of salmon and trout.



A fishing permit is required to practice the sport in Chile. There are two types of sport fishing licenses: those for Chilean citizens and resident foreigners, and those for foreign visitors. Licenses can be obtained from the National Fishing Service (Sernapesca), which maintains offices throughout Chile. Foreign visitors need only show their passports and pay approximately 15 dollars. Sernapesca's web page details the exact dates of the fishing season, authorized areas, the limits placed on various species and current fishing conditions.

[http://www2.sernapesca.cl/paginas/ambito\\_accion/pesca\\_deportiva/interes.php?c=001007001002004](http://www2.sernapesca.cl/paginas/ambito_accion/pesca_deportiva/interes.php?c=001007001002004)

# PEOPLE OF CHILE

## Gabriela Mistral

The magic of Lucila Godoy Alcayaga, known to the world as Gabriela Mistral, still continues. January 10, 2007, marked the 50th anniversary of her death, and Chile paid homage to her memory with a wide range of events, including poetry readings in her own voice, created from original sound recordings.



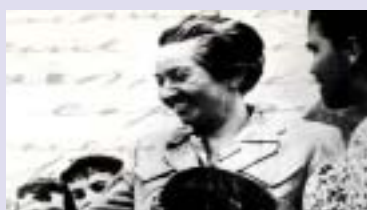
This modest woman – a schoolteacher from a small village in northern Chile’s Elqui river valley – was born into a literary atmosphere. Her father, a professor with advanced education in Latin, Greek and philosophy, also wrote poetry. The relationship between Lucila and the world of letters lasted a lifetime, eventually bringing her the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1945.

Gabriela Mistral was the first Latin American woman to win such a prominent award. Yet the path to the Nobel was not an easy one. Her long journey – which ended with recognition as one of the most important figures in Chilean and world literature – began when she started teaching in a rural school and publishing her work in local newspapers

Her first award came in 1914, for *Sonetos de la muerte* [Sonnets of Death].

From that time on, she used the pseudonym of Gabriela Mistral, inspired by her admiration for the writers Gabriel D’Annunzio and Federico Mistral.

In addition to her literary work, Gabriela never gave up teaching. Her efforts were not only aimed at children: one of the causes she supported most strongly was women’s access to education. She also played a significant role in the educational reform carried out in Mexico.



From that country, she began an indefatigable journey that took her across Latin America, Europe and the United States. As her work became better known, it attracted increasing public admiration and recognition. *Desolación*, her first book of poems, was followed by *Ternura*, *Tala* and *Lagar*. In 1945, while in Petrópolis, Brazil, Gabriela received the news that she had been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, based on “the merits of a lifetime of teaching and literary work.” While presenting the award, Swedish Academy secretary Hjalmar Gullberg called her “the great singer of sorrow and of motherhood.”

In 1951, Gabriela Mistral received Chile’s National Prize for Literature. Six years later, she died in New York, leaving behind a body of work filled with power and sensitivity.

She also left a legacy of immense value: her manuscripts, letters exchanged with intellectuals of the time, trunks of



memorabilia and photographs, which remain in the custody of the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. They were administered by her executor, friend and confidante, Doris Dana. Since Dana’s death, in November 2006, measures have been taken to clarify the future of this valuable inheritance. Chile’s Minister of Culture, Paulina Urrutia, will travel on February 7 to meet with Doris Dana’s niece, Doris Atkinson, to whom Dana bequeathed the rights and determinations regarding the Chilean poet’s work.

The Minister plans to invite Atkinson to travel to Mistral’s native land, so she could “get to know firsthand the Mistralian spirit expressed in its citizens and its initiatives”. Doris Atkinson will have until May to make her decision.

*“Lord, you who taught, forgive me that I teach; forgive me that I bear the name of teacher; the name you bore on earth. Grant me such devoted love for my school that not even beauty’s flame will detract from my faithful tenderness. (...) Let me be more maternal than a mother; able to love and defend with all of a mother’s fervor the child that is not flesh of my flesh.”*

**Gabriela Mistral**



**EDITOR IN CHIEF:** Juan Carvajal, Director Communication Secretariat / **EDITOR:** María Paz del Río, Chief, International Analysis and Press Department / **TEXT:** Aileen Cárcamo, María Paz del Río, Christian García, International Analysis and Press Department / **PHOTOGRAPHS:** Presidencia de la República  
**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)