

Mexico in Brief

J.A. TREVIÑO ABOGADOS

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MONTERREY HOSTS FORUM 2007.

The 2007 *Universal Forum of Cultures* is scheduled to be held in Monterrey starting late September, as a successor to the *Universal Forum of Cultures* held in Barcelona in 2004. The international event was conceived to celebrate culture and to encourage a worldwide dialogue on a number of different topics. The event will take place at Monterrey's *Fundidora Park*, jointly with other cultural venues within the Monterrey metropolitan area. The *Forum* is expected to drive substantial tourism to the city and to place Monterrey as a capital city in the world.

BARRY CALLEBAUT AND LENOVO MOVE TO NUEVO LEON.

With an investment of approximately U.S.\$50 million, Swiss company *Barry Callebaut*, leader in the production and commercialization of cacao, will open a plant in Nuevo Leon to supply *Hershey's* upcoming plant in the State. On the other hand, *Lenovo*, the Chinese computer-manufacturing company, recently announced that it will invest U.S.\$20 million in the construction of a plant in Nuevo Leon, planning to manufacture 5 million computers per year. According to the State's Secretary of Economic Development, four additional companies have confirmed investments of approximately U.S.\$130 million within the State.

MICHELIN ANNOUNCES NEW MEGA PLANT IN MEXICO.

Michelin North America Inc. will build a new tire manufacturing plant in Guanajuato, Mexico. Construction is expected to start in late 2008 with production starting in 2010. According to *Michelin* executives, the facility represents an investment of up to U.S.\$740 million within 2007 and 2014. The construction of this new plant will generate around 300,000 job positions in the area.

SORIANA AND BANAMEX JOIN TO LAUNCH FINANCIAL SERVICES.

Mexican retailer giant *Soriana* and *Banamex*, the Mexican bank owned by *Citigroup*, have started their joint launching of new financial services. Ricardo Martin, *Soriana's* CEO, announced that they will be offering in-store banking services in 240 stores by October of this year. The retailer has disclosed that approximately 25 million clients visit the *Soriana's* stores each month and currently, many of them do not have a bank account.

TELEVISIA TO BUY BESTEL FOR U.S.\$325 MILLION.

Mexican telecommunications giant *Televisa* has continued its intended consolidation in the phone and internet services which it has in the past been offering mainly through its subsidiary *Cablevision*. In the past weeks, *Televisa* improved the offer submitted by Mexican cable company *Megacable* to acquire the control of *Bestel*, a competitor of *Cablevision*. In the recent days, *Televisa* announced that it has reached an agreement to acquire the assets of *Bestel* for approximately U.S.\$325 million.

GRUPO POSADAS TO INVEST U.S.\$357 MILLION IN MEXICO.

Grupo Posadas, one of the major Mexican hotel companies, announced that it will join a group of private investors to fund approximately U.S.\$357 million into its Mexican hotel and resort operations. *Grupo Posadas* owns *Fiesta Americana* and *Fiesta Inn* among other brands, and within the next three years plans to open 44 new hotels within the country. Company executives expressed that the hotels' construction will additionally create approximately 8,000 job positions. The group's expansion plan is in line with the continuously growing interest in major Mexican destinations such as the Mayan Riviera, Cancun, Puerto Vallarta and Los Cabos.

Business Summary for August 2007

Stock Exchange Index (BMV)

30,347.86

1.02% ▼

Exchange Rate (Fix)

MxP 11.0378- U.S.\$1

1.01% ▲

Inflation-July/Cummulative/12 Months

0.42% / 1.01% / 4.14%

TIIE 28 / 91

7.71% / 7.79%

0.13% ▲ / 0.13% ▲

CETE 28 / 91 / 364

7.20% / 7.38% / 7.63%

0.14% ▲ / 0.54% ▲ / 1.60% ▲

UDI

MxP 3.846990

0.45% ▲

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