



Seminar: Innovative Approaches to Turn Statistics into Knowledge

2 - 4 December 2013, Aguascalientes, Mexico

www.oecd.org/std/statknowledge.htm

Information note

Introduction

This seminar will bring together experts from the global statistical community to demonstrate how innovative visualisation and dissemination tools can transform data into knowledge and in doing so, reach out to many different stakeholders so they can better understand the world they live in and to enable them to make informed choices and decisions accordingly.

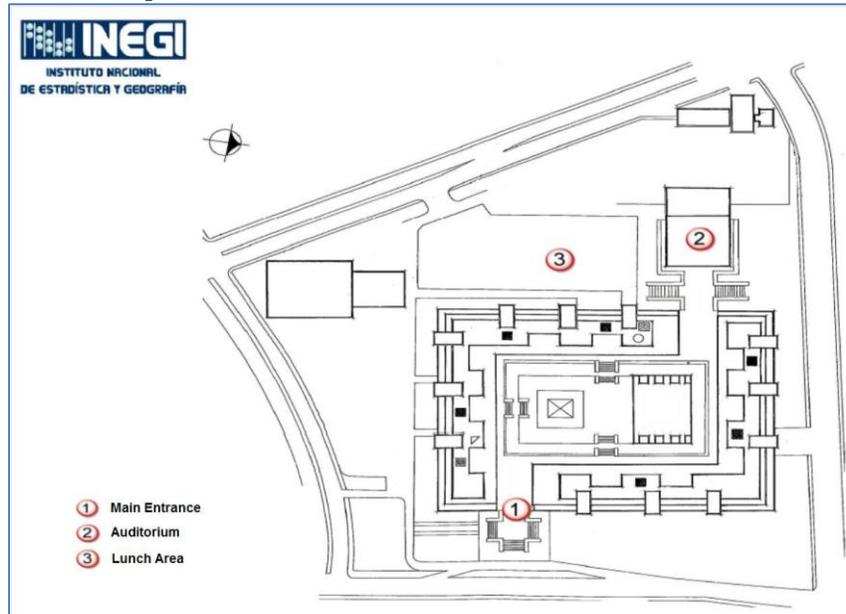
The seminar will also showcase tools to help statistical organisations meet the challenges faced by the mass of new data sources being made available ("big data") and tell richer, more compelling stories to statistical audiences and a wider public. In addition the event will present examples from the field of "data journalism" to demonstrate how complex, data-driven stories can be told using info-graphics.

Venue

The Seminar will be held at Auditorium, INEGI's Headquarters in Aguascalientes, Mexico, Av. Héroe de Nacozari Sur No. 2301, Fraccionamiento Jardines del Parque.



INEGI's Headquarters



Working Language

The Conference will be conducted in English with translation to Spanish.

Registration

All participants are kindly required to fill out in the Seminar web page www.oecd.org/std/statknowledge.htm and return the registration form to statsintoknowledge2013@oecd.org. There is not registration fee. At your arrival to the hotels venue or INEGI's Headquarters, we will give you the badge and documents for the meeting.

Accommodation

Block reservations have been made at preferential rates with the Marriot Hotel and Quinta Real Hotel for different rooms in its five-stars. The host will book your room according to your choice on the hotel reservation form. Participants who wish to stay at other hotels are responsible for their own hotel room reservations:



**Hotel Marriott
Aguascalientes**
www.espanol.marriott.com

Boulevard a Zacatecas s/n
Fracc. Trojes de Alonso
(449) 139 4060
01 800 900 8800



Hotel Quinta Real
www.quintareal.com

Av. Aguascalientes Sur No. 601
Fracc. Jardines de la Asunción
(449) 978 5818
01 800 500 4000

Transportation

The participants will be picked up on arrival at the International Airport of Aguascalientes City and transferred to the venue hotel.

Visas

According to the Mexican Government regulations, all citizens must show a valid passport to enter Mexican territory, by any means of transportation. Foreigners from some countries are required to apply for a visa to enter to Mexico. For detailed visa policies, please consult your Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Mexican Embassy or Consulate in your Country at the following link: <http://www.sre.gob.mx/index.php/representaciones/embajadas-de-mexico-en-el-exterior>

If you need a visa to enter to Mexico, the host will prepare and send the official letter to those who need it. Please write to pilar.garcia@inegi.org.mx

Other requirements

In addition to their personal items, all passengers entering Mexico may carry a maximum of \$300 dollars in merchandise; otherwise, they will have to pay a fee. All baggage is subject to review by the Mexican customs authorities.



Weather

It is moderate in winter, hot and dry in April and May, the rainy season begins in May and ends around October and is generally sunny mornings followed by cloudy and rainy afternoons. Mornings and evenings can be chilly, especially in the winter. The average temperature on December is Low 13°C, High 27°C.

Currency and Exchange

In Mexico, merchants and businesses are no longer allowed to change U.S. dollars for pesos, but they will tell you the location of the nearest currency exchange office. If you have U.S. dollars, there are some places where you can exchange them for Mexican pesos, for example:

- Currency exchange offices: You will usually find a currency exchange counter at international airports throughout Mexico; these can be identified by the "Exchange" sign. You will have to show your passport in order to be able to exchange money. The exchange rate is usual shown as "buy" or "purchase", which shows how many pesos you will receive for each dollar.
- Banks: Not all banks provide the service of exchanging pesos and dollars, and some require you to have an account with them. Ask someone at your hotel to tell you about the location of the nearest bank where tourists can exchange their currency. You will also need a valid passport to make the exchange.
- Automated Teller Machine: One of the most convenient ways to buy pesos is by using an ATM. You will often receive better exchange rates, even though you have to pay a service fee, as with most ATMs outside your bank network. Please do not accept any help from people who are not bank employees.
- Credit card: If you have a credit card, you will find that it provides one of the best exchange rates. Although you will not receive pesos directly, your monthly balance usually shows the exchange rate you received on purchases made with the credit card.

General Information

Aguascalientes is known for its brave bullfighters, gentle climate, and relaxed provincial character. Capital of the state bearing the same name, the attractive colonial city of Aguascalientes is today a burgeoning commercial and industrial center. Aguascalientes is Mexico's second smallest state, yet it enjoys high commercial status, producing a large proportion of Mexico's high-tech manufacturing output. However, you'll find that Aguascalientes' rapid growth



and urbanization has done nothing to diminish the city's colonial charm. Chichimec Indian territory, Aguascalientes was later blossomed as a strategic link between Mexico City and the mines of Zacatecas, while prosperous agriculture and ranching helped feed Spain's emerging New World cities.

If it's your first time in Aguascalientes, the following are a must: a visit to the city's thermal mineral springs, some cultural sightseeing in the historic center, and the city's annual fair – the Feria de San Marcos. Dating back to 1604, this fair is held each April-May and is one of the most representatives of Mexico.

Recent restoration efforts have revitalized the city's many colonial-era structures, so whatever you do in Aguascalientes, don't miss a visit to its stunning historic center. Wide pedestrian arcades span much of the central area, so you can enjoy a truly relaxed afternoon's sightseeing. Aguascalientes dates back to 1575, when it became a Spanish outpost in hostile acting over a million foreign and Mexican visitors. If you're en route between Guadalajara and Zacatecas, you won't be disappointed with a stop-off in Aguascalientes. The city boasts an impressive range of hotels –from the boutique to the modern all-inclusive– so if you're visiting on business or just taking in the city's glorious surroundings, you can do so in comfort and style.

Attractions you won't want to miss while in Aguascalientes include the Plaza De La Patria at the heart of the old city center: extensively remodelled in 1985, this broad, handsome square is dominated by a tall Ionic column built in 1808 by famous architect Manuel Tolsa. On the south side of the square you'll find the Palacio de Gobierno (Government Palace), a former mansion with a stunning dark red volcanic stone façade. Walking along its arched interior hallways, take in the colorful murals painted by Chilean artist Oswaldo Barra Cunningham, a disciple of Diego Rivera. To the west you'll find the magnificent Catedral Basílica (Basilica Cathedral), completed in 1738, and noted for its fanned vaults, gilded Neoclassical altar and priceless paintings by colonial-era artist Miguel Cabrera. Just next to the cathedral, you'll encounter the Teatro Morelos (Morelos Theatre), built in 1885 and a showpiece for Victorian architectural style. To the north lies the elegant Palacio Legislativo, formerly a hotel and now the imposing site of the state's Congress.

Emergency telephones (dialled in Aguascalientes)

Emergencies	066
Red Cross	065
Fire-fighter	(449) 970-00-65, 970-00-75 y 970-39-39
Locatel	(449) 910-20-20
Tourist Office	(449) 915-95-04 y 916-00-51



Calls from Mexico

Cell phones: if your mobile phone has international roaming you can use it in Mexico.

Long distance calls from the hotel and cabins or telephone: Try to avoid them, as they are very expensive. Most public telephones in Mexico require prepaid cards known as "Ladatel" which come either in 30, 50 and 100 pesos and are used mainly for local calls. In shops or newsstand can purchase prepaid cards long distance rates.

To international calls from Mexico you must dial: 00 + country code + state code + local number

Electricity

The electricity used in Mexico is 110-120 voltage. We recommend bringing pin adapter with voltage transformer for connecting devices

Health

We recommend do not drink tap water, it is best to drink bottled water at all times.

As Mexico City is located at 2.239 meters above sea level (7,343 ft.), some visitors sometimes experience discomfort, including shortness of breath, fatigue, headache, insomnia or nausea during the first hours or the first day. To acclimate quickly, it is suggested to drink plenty of fluids, avoid alcohol and strenuous exercise

Tipping

Tipping is expected in Mexico in some services, such as restaurants and hotels. A 10% to 15% tip on the customer's bill will be appropriate in restaurants. In most hotels around 3 to 5 US Dlls will be acceptable for bellboys.

Contact details

For further information please contact kate.raggett@oecd.org or pilar.garcia@inegi.org.mx.

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