



Ambassador of Portugal learns about Tec's innovation projects

João Caetano Da Silva, Ambassador of [Portugal](#) to Mexico, learned about the innovation projects of [Tecnológico de Monterrey](#) during his visit to the Monterrey campus.

David Garza, rector and executive president of the Tec, accompanied the European diplomat to the [FEMSA Biotechnology Center](#), as well as to technological innovation spaces in the Rector's Building and the Library.

The ambassador's visit to the Tec, which took place on July 9, corresponds to the search for **opportunities** to create **joint projects** with the funding Portugal receives from the [European Union](#).

*"We have a privileged relationship with Brazil in this region, but we would like to **strengthen** and **increase** our bilateral relationship with **Mexico** at all levels.*

*"When you think about scientific, **academic** and **university-level cooperation** between Portugal and Mexico, you naturally think of **Tec de Monterrey**," he said.*

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Collaboration with an impact on society

Da Silva mentions that this **unique opportunity** could continue for **years** through projects in the **university, academic, and scientific** sectors.

*“With the approval of the **recovery and resilience plan in Europe**, which will greatly benefit countries such as Portugal, there is a **unique opportunity** to strengthen this cooperation over the next **7 years**.”*

*“This is the **message** that I have brought today: to **take advantage of these seven years** of opportunities and funding,” says the ambassador.*

On his visit, the diplomat was joined by **Carlos Salazar Lomelín**, president of the **Business Coordinating Council**; and **Odracir Barquera**, general director for planning at the same organization.

They were accompanied by **Hugo Garza**, vice president of **Strategic Projects**; **Mario Adrián Flores**, vice president of the **Monterrey Region campus**; and **Manuel Zertuche**, dean of the **School of Engineering and Sciences** at the Tec.



He also says that the **outcome** of this **collaboration** will have a **positive impact** on the lives of citizens.

*“It’s increasingly important in the 21st century to have complete results, not in terms of **diplomas**, nor in terms of **courses**, but in terms of improving **quality of life** for **developing societies**,”* he said.

During the ambassador’s visit to the state of Nuevo León, he also had a **meeting** with **Jaime Rodríguez**, the state **governor**.

The tour of the Monterrey campus

The **Rector’s Building**, which bears a work created by the muralist **José González Camarena**, was the starting point for the ambassador’s visit.

The **ground floor** of the **Rector’s Building** was the first stop, where some **Educational Technology projects** were presented.

Among these was the use of [Augmented Reality](#), [Artificial Intelligence](#) and even [holographic two-dimensional projection](#) to teach remote classes.

The visit also included the **FEMSA Biotechnology Center**, home to laboratories such as the [Tec BASE](#) genome sequencing lab, the only one of its kind in Latin America.



Last on the tour was the campus **library**, where **David Garza** and **Hugo Garza** presented some different **projects** undertaken by the **institution**

*“The Tec stands for **academic excellence** and forging strong relationships between **academia** and the world of **industry** and **business**.”*

*“Using that parameter, I confess that I have **seen greater advances** here than those I have seen in Portuguese universities,” said Garza.*

João Caetano Da Silva has been **Ambassador** of **Portugal** to **Mexico** on **2 occasions** and has twice been the recipient of the **Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle**: in 2011 and in 2020.

Mexico is **Portugal’s second largest trading partner** in Latin America, after Brazil. In 2018, bilateral trade amounted to **853.3 million US dollars**.

Portugal was **Mexico's 50th biggest commercial partner** and **15th** among European Union (EU) member states.

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