

Tec and IADB sign partnership to build human capital



The agreements signed between [Tec de Monterrey](#) and the [Inter-American Development Bank](#) (IADB) included promoting **human capital** and cross-cutting **environmental** actions, as well as **gender equality** and **diversity**.

Ernesto Stein, IADB representative in Mexico, and **David Garza Salazar**, rector and executive president of the Tec, signed a **memorandum of understanding** that laid the **foundations** for **projects** such as **innovation districts** and **digital ventures**.

Also included were initiatives for **educational innovation**, **water**, **regional integration**, **early childhood**, and **health**, to name but a few.

*"We've managed to identify several interests that **Tec de Monterrey and the Inter-American Development Bank** have in common, such as our commitment to socioeconomic development.*

*"We also share a **vision for improving quality of life** and, without a doubt, the topic of entrepreneurship. These are just a few examples of the shared areas that we'll be able to work on together," said David Garza.*



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He added that another priority area they will work on will be increasing the **efficiency** of all **efforts deployed** to **contribute** to developing the capacities of **human capital in Mexico**.

BIDAcademy and Tec Partnership

The objective of signing the memorandum of understanding is to **forge a collaborative partnership** between the **BIDAcademy** and the Tec.

“Several gaps widened during the pandemic, education being one of them, and this was a major step backwards in the sector.

“However, it also created great opportunities such as studying online, and we have seen that this is now also part of Tec de Monterrey’s DNA,” said Stein in this regard.

“We’ve identified several interests that the Tec and the IADB have in common, such as our commitment to socioeconomic development.” - David Garza

BIDAcademy is a digital learning platform which promotes sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean **by developing skills**.

This agreement **adds to other initiatives** and projects, all **linked** to the topics of **innovation and entrepreneurship, being worked on jointly** by both institutions.



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Mexican and Latin American challenges

As part of the **visit**, the IADB representative and the president of the Tec held a **discussion** in which they **described** the main economic and **social challenges** faced by **Mexico** and **Latin America**.

“Latin America is a region of the world where there is a high percentage of young people who neither study nor work, and the pandemic has increased this, which has become a challenge in terms of learning and human talent,” Garza explained.

Ernesto Stein added that the **pandemic has worsened quality of life** for the most vulnerable groups, directly impacting **regional growth**.

*“Latin America had **negative growth** of **minus 7.3%** in 2020 alone, while it was **minus 8.2%** in **Mexico** specifically.”*

“However, we can’t say that everything was bad because it opened the door to new development opportunities and improvements for import businesses and foreign investment, for example,” Stein

said.



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Regional economic development in Mexico

In the talk attended by students, **professors**, and part of the **Tec community**, Ernesto Stein also addressed the topic of **economic development in Mexico**, focusing on the **southern and southeastern areas** of the country.

“We’ve identified the most promising areas for economic development. If you look at geographical distribution, you can see that there is much more opportunity for exports in the north of the country than the southern states,” he explained.

He added that if they **are going to support Mexican development** as an international organization, they will not be able to leave behind **businesses** in the **furthest behind** areas.

“The pandemic created great opportunities such as studying online. This is now part of Tec de Monterrey’s DNA.” - Ernesto Stein.

“We must look beyond just the automotive or electronics sectors. We need to think about agribusiness, textiles, and the handicraft sector. This is where the southern states (of Mexico) have an advantage,” he stressed.

Also participating in the meeting held on March 2 were **Gerardo Cárdenas**, IADB Communications consultant, and **Juan Pablo Murra**, rector of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies at Tec de Monterrey.

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