

## **Embassy of India, Bogotá**

### **Brief on India-Ecuador Bilateral Relations**

#### **Political Relations:**

India-Ecuador established diplomatic relations in 1969. The Embassy of India in Bogotá, Colombia is concurrently accredited to Ecuador. Ecuador opened its Embassy in Delhi in February 2005 and a Consulate General in Mumbai in 2013. India and Ecuador signed a MoU on Foreign Office Consultations in 2000. So far, four Foreign Office Consultations have been held (2005, 2008, 2011 and 2014). Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen (Retd.) VK Singh (MOSVKS) visited Ecuador for bilateral consultations from 25-27 May, 2015.

#### **Bilateral Visits:**

##### **From India:**

1. Smt. Shashi U. Tripathi, Secretary (West) visited Quito in June 2005 to undertake first round of Foreign office consultations.
2. Secretary (EAA) Shri Shashank attended the inauguration of ex-President Lucio Gutiérrez in Quito in January 2003.
3. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Anand Sharma, visited Ecuador in June 2007 and met President Rafael Correa and Foreign Minister, Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa.
4. Minister of State for External Affairs Shri. E Ahamed visited Ecuador in May 2011 for Foreign Office Consultations. During his visit he met Vice President Lenin Moreno.
5. Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Smt. D. Purandeswari visited Ecuador in April 2013.
6. Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen.( Retd.) V.K. Singh visited Ecuador on 26 May, 2015

##### **From Ecuador:**

1. The Minister of Energy and Mines of Ecuador, Mr. Eduardo Lopez, visited India in January 2005 and delivered the key-note speech at the PetroTech events organized by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
2. The Ecuadorian Foreign Minister, Mr. Francisco Carrion Mena, visited India on 17-19 July 2006.
3. The Vice Minister of Agriculture, Xavier Cevallos visited India in April 2008.
4. The Ecuadorian Vice Foreign Minister visited Delhi for Foreign Office Consultations in July 2008.
5. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Integration, Ecuador Ms. Maria Isabel Salvador Crespo visited India in November 2008.
6. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Integration, Ms. Maria Isabel Salvador Crespo visited India in September 2009 for the Doha Round meeting at the invitation of Minister of Commerce.

7. Vice minister of Foreign Trade and Integration, Mr. Francisco Rivadeneira visited India in April, 2012. He also visited India in 2014 to participate in CII India-LAC Conclave.
8. Vice Foreign Minister Leonardo Arizaga visited India for Foreign Office Consultations in 2014.

### **Agreements signed:**

#### **Economic & Commercial:**

- MoU between the two state-owned oil companies – ONGC Videsh Limited of India (OVL) and PetroEcuador in 2006.
- MoU between Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and Export and Investment Promotion Council of Ecuador (CORPEI) in 2006.
- MoU on Agriculture between India and Ecuador in 2008.
- MoU to set up a Centre for Excellence in Information Technology in 2009.
- Agreement on Defence Cooperation in 2011.
- MoU on Economic Cooperation in 2013.
- Protocol on Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) in October 2015 in New Delhi within the framework of the MoU on Economic Cooperation.

#### **Ministry of External Affairs:**

- MoU on Foreign Office Consultations in 2000.
- Agreement between Diplomatic Academies in 2006.
- Agreement for gainful occupation of the family members of the officials of the respective diplomatic missions of the two countries in 2006.
- Agreement on exemption of visas for diplomatic & official passport holders in 2007.

#### **Culture & Education:**

- Education Agreement in 2006.
- Cultural Agreement in 2006.
- Cultural Exchange Programme 2009-11.

### **Defence Cooperation:**

The Ecuadorian Vice Chief, General Rodrigo Bohorquez, attended Aero India in February 2007 and Brigadier General Raúl Banderas Dueñas attended the Defence Expo. in February 2010.

The Ecuador government has appointed a Defence Attaché in its Embassy in Delhi. Commodore Vinay Kumar Sawhney, Defence Attaché in Embassy of India Chile is concurrently accredited to Ecuador.

**Trade and Economic relations:** Bilateral trade with Ecuador has increased consistently over the past few years. India's total trade with Ecuador, which was worth US \$ 98.9 million in 2009, has reached US \$ 553.14 million in 2015. The data for the last three years is as below

In USD million	2014	2015	2016 (Jan-October)
Indian exports to Ecuador	342,39	415,45	209.9
Indian imports from Ecuador	317,74	137,69	100.4
Total Trade	660,13	553,14	310.3

**Main Export items from India:** Mineral fuels/oils, Wood and articles of wood, cocoa and cocoa preparations, aluminum and related articles, machinery and mechanical appliances, lead, copper, zinc and articles thereof and miscellaneous manufactured articles.

**Main import items to India:** Mineral fuels/oils, Iron and steel, pharmaceutical products, vehicles, organic chemicals, plastics and related articles, machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical machinery and equipment, rubber and articles, etc.

Export Promotion Councils have shown considerable interest in Ecuador market in the last few years. A 10-member PLEXCONCIL delegation visited Guayaquil in March 2012. CAPEXIL organized a Buyer-Seller Meet in Quito in August. CHEMEXIL organized a BSM in Quito in September 2012. A CII delegation accompanied MOS (C&I) to Ecuador in April, 2013. A 26-member delegation from PHARMEXCIL visited Quito for participating on a BSM in July, 2013. An 11-member delegation from PLEXCONCIL visited Guayaquil for participating at the fair IPLAS in November 2015. India tourism office in Paris participated in the FITE International Tourism Festival in Guayaquil in September 2016. India also participated in the International Artisan Fair in November 2016 in Cuenca.

**Economic and Technical Cooperation:**

In 2007-08, a special IT course was conducted exclusively for 56 Ecuadorian candidates. Ecuador was allotted 40 ITEC slots each during the last two years for training in India. This year Ecuador has been offered 30 slots. In addition, one ITEC slot has been offered for training at National Defence College.

A Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Center of Excellence in Information Technology (IAEN) was signed in August 2009 in Quito. The Centre was established at Northern Technical University (UTN) in Ibarra in 2015 and has been conducting useful IT courses ever since.

On the request of Ecuador, India has donated medicines, worth US \$ 1 million through two separate donations made in 2008 and 2010 respectively. After the

devastating earthquake on 16 April 2016, government of India made another donation of 15 tons of medicines.

### **Culture & Indian Community:**

Indian culture and philosophy are known in Ecuador. International Yoga Day was organized in Ecuador on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2016, in Quito, Guayaquil and Cuenca. In total, around 800 people participated in the celebrations. Indian community organized cultural festivals like Diwali in 2015. An Indian gastronomy festival was organized in Ecuador from 8-19 July 2015.

Indian community in Ecuador is very small. There are around 350 Indian nationals living in Ecuador most of who work in service sector or some small businesses.

### **Useful Resources:**

<http://www.embajadaindia.org>  
<http://www.embajadaindia.org/en/useful-links/in-ecuador>  
<https://www.facebook.com/EmbajadaIndiaBogota>  
<https://twitter.com/IndiaEmbBogota>

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