

India – Honduras Relations

Indian Embassy in Guatemala is concurrently accredited to Honduras. India has an Honorary Consul General in Tegucigalpa, capital of Honduras. Honduras has requested for permission for opening its Embassy in New Delhi; India has duly accorded the permission. Honduras is now in the process of opening its Embassy in New Delhi. The first Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India and Honduras took place on April 27, 2015 in Honduras. The Indian delegation was led by Shri. Ramachandran Swaminathan, Secretary (AMS & CPV) and the Honduran delegation was led by Amb. Roberto Ochoa Madrid, Vice Foreign Minister of Honduras.

Visits

There have been some visits between the two countries. Honduran Defence Minister Aristides Mejia Carranza visited India in April 2008 and met officials of Exim Bank and companies supplying equipment under the LOC. Vice Foreign Minister Eduardo Enrique Garcia Reina visited India in June 2008 to attend the second India-SICA Foreign Ministers' meeting. The Honduran Agriculture Minister Jacobo Regalado visited India in January 2013 and met Shri Tariq Anwar, MoS (Agriculture), Shri Pinak Chakravarty, Secretary (ER), MEA, Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) and visited IARI, Pusa. Vice Defence Minister Carlos Roberto Funes visited India in February 2013 to attend the AERO India 2013 held in Bangalore. Mr. Alten Rivera Montes, Minister of Economic Development, visited India to attend the VIth India-LAC Investment Conclave in October, 2014.

Bilateral Agreements

Agreement for extending a Line of Credit worth US\$ 30 million between the Government of Honduras and the EXIM Bank of India was signed in August 2006. An MOU for setting up an IT Center in Tegucigalpa was signed on January 2008. An agreement on waiver of visas for diplomatic and official passports and an MoU on Foreign Office Consultations were signed during the second India-SICA Foreign Ministers' meeting in Delhi in June 2008. Both agreements of IT Centre by NIIT and visa relaxation have been successfully implemented.

Trade and Economic:

Indo-Honduras Trade (in million US \$)

Year (April - March)	Imports from Honduras	Exports to Honduras	Total trade	% Growth
2009-2010	25.34	45.53	70.87	
2010-2011	1.43	63.07	64.50	-8.99
2011-2012	7.77	91.66	99.43	54.15
2012-2013	17.82	109.99	127.82	28.55
2013-2014	22.59	107.90	130.49	2.09
2014-2015	25.31	187.56	212.87	63.14

(Source: Department of Commerce-India)

Main export items of India include tanning & dyeing extracts, rubber products, iron & steel, pharmaceuticals, cotton, etc., whereas, India's main import items include iron & steel, aluminium articles, etc. An Indo-Canadian joint venture silk yarn knitting factory is functioning in the industrial city of San Pedro Sula since 2006.

India donated medicines and medical supplies worth Rs.3.38 lakhs to Honduras in 1998. In the wake of a serious drought in Central America in 2005, GOI donated medicines worth US \$10,000 to Honduras in October 2005. GOI also donated 26 Bajaj three-wheelers in November 2005. Two prominent tour operators from Honduras participated in the Tourism Workshop for LAC region organized at New Delhi in April 2006. Two delegates from Honduras participated in the Pharma-LAC Conference in Hyderabad in June 2007.

As part of India's offer to set up IT Training Centres in SICA countries, a centre has been set up at and handed over to the Honduran National Autonomous University in Tegucigalpa and trainers from NIIT were engaged in imparting training to students (2008-2011). Honduran Government selected Indian companies for supplying transport, communication and medical equipment under a US\$ 30 million LOC. Most of the equipment has already been shipped.

In March 2012, a 3 member Bharat Electronics Ltd., Bangalore team led by a General Manager, visited Honduras to successfully renew issues arising from maintenance and repairs of equipments supplied earlier under LOC by BEL to Honduras.

Five delegates from Honduran companies were selected by Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) to participate at INDIASOFT 2013 held in March 2013 at Kolkata under Hosted Buyers Programme of Department of Commerce.

Ten Indian companies from Plastics Export Promotion Council (Plexconcil) held a fruitful BSM in Tegucigalpa in March 2013 organised by Indian Embassy in collaboration with Honduras Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The BSM was well attended and was organised with active participation of Honduras Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In 2014, India approved a US \$ 26.5 million Line of Credit for Jamastran River Valley Irrigation Project.

Cultural

The first ever dance performance by an Indian troupe took place in September 2004 when Bharatanatyam dance troupe led by Dr. Ananda Shankar Jayant performed in Honduras. To commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Nobel-laureate Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, an eight-member dance troupe led by Dr. Sonal Mansingh performed "NAYIKAA" in September 2011.

Another 15-member Odissi dance group led by Ms. Sutapa Talukdar performed 'Shyama' in October 2011 at the most prestigious National Theatre. Both these visits were sponsored by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

India Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)

Government of India offered 20 ITEC slots to Honduras for 2014-15

Indian Community

There is hardly any Indian community; the number of Indians is about a dozen including a few Mother Teresa missionary nuns.

Useful Resources:

Embassy of India in Guatemala website:

<http://www.indemguatemala.org>

Embassy of India, Guatemala Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/EmbajadaIndiaGuatemala>

Embassy of India, Guatemala Twitter page:

<https://twitter.com/IndianEmbassyGT>

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