

HIGH-LEVEL INNOVATION FORUM FOR MEXICAN POLICYMAKERS

Since 2013, the Mexico Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Fundación IDEA, the Mexican Chamber of Federal Deputies and the Mexican Chamber of Senators have worked together to create spaces where a restricted and select group of Mexican federal senators and deputies can debate with legislators from other countries and experts on ideas, legislative initiatives and public policy recommendations that trigger innovation in the country.

The High-Level Innovation Forums for Mexican Policymakers are closed-door events that bring together Mexican legislators from all political parties working on issues related to innovation. These events include panels and discussion tables with businessmen, entrepreneurs, legislators, politicians and other national and foreign experts on the subject, where trends and barriers to innovation in Mexico are discussed. It also addresses possible legislative initiatives



that will enhance the regulatory and normative environment for innovation in the country; and it offers legislators the opportunity to get to know business and academic innovation centers.

The Forum is held annually, on selected dates that are compatible with the Mexican legislative calendar. The venue is chosen to favor the presence of experts in the specific topics to be discussed in the Forum. Up to date, there have been six editions, where U.S. venues have been privileged, taking into consideration the country's historical reputation in terms of its capacity to promote innovation, as well as its geographical proximity.

EDITION	DATE AND VENUE	DESCRIPTION
1ST EDITION	2013. Washington, D.C.	It focused on the promotion of innovation in a transversal manner, including all sectors of the economy.
2ND EDITION	2014. Washington, D.C.	It focused on the health sector and the existing opportunities for innovation in the medical field.
3RD EDITION	2015. Silicon Valley, California	Its main theme was the IT and Internet sector, including visits to the Google company campus, as well as the SRI International Innovation Centre.

EDITION	DATE AND VENUE	DESCRIPTION
4 RD EDITION	2016. Boston, Massachusetts	Legislators saw firsthand the virtues of building integrated innovation ecosystems. They learned about the regulatory challenges posed by the use of Big Data, biotechnology and innovation in the media.
5 TH EDITION	2018. Washington D.C.	The challenges of data cybersecurity for innovation were discussed, as well as the possible impact of a new NAFTA on the North American innovation ecosystem.
6 TH EDITION	January 2019. Washington D.C.	Some recurrent themes included the detonation of innovation in Mexico’s current context, based on principles of austerity and the transformation of institutions, as well as the working environment and the skills that Mexicans require to adapt to it.

Each edition consists of two days of interaction, which include several discussion tables with experts from academia, business and politics, as well as at least one dinner for networking and a visit to companies and/or high-impact innovation centers. In order to build an atmosphere that favors the spontaneous debate of ideas, participation is limited to around twenty legislators per edition. In addition, all sessions are private and without the participation of the press.

7TH EDITION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL INNOVATION FORUM FOR POLICYMAKERS

The next edition will be held in **San Francisco, California, in Spring 2020**. Like each edition, the Forum is addressed to Mexican legislators working on innovation, who will have the opportunity to participate in a closed-door dialogue with entrepreneurs, businessmen, public officials and specialists on the issue operating in different parts of the world.

Participants will continue the discussions that have taken place in previous editions and focus specifically on issues related to health and technology. Due to the capacity of legislators to have consecutive re-election, the Forum will focus on consolidating a group of Mexican legislators who are experts in innovation by strengthening their capacity to trigger social and economic development in Mexico from their long-term legislative work.