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Texas Center Quarterly Report

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The ‘Interoceanic’ Highway: A Bridge to the Trade Between the North and South American Continent

Laredo is the commercial capital of the City of Laredo and Texas as Air/M International University (TAMIU) Trade Mission to part of the country. The border and trade relationship between Mexico and the United States, as well as the development of the Interoceanic Highway, is significant for both commercial and touristic purposes by the end of 2010.

Furthermore, Laredo’s private sector—with its members, and TAMU-TCBEED representatives were personally invited by the CETICOS-ILO’s executive team to partake in the celebration of this new milestone. Mexico’s President, Felipe Calderón, and Perú’s President, Ollanta Humala were on hand to congratulate Laredo. The ceremony was created as a perfect opportunity for the City of Laredo to build a networking channel amongst the largest private corporations and public agencies from Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, and Mexico.

How can Laredo reap benefits from this Interoceanic Highway? The answer is simple, look to the success of the Laredo corridor—consisting of the Port of Laredo, and Mexican ports of Lazaro Cardenas and Manzanillo (located in the Pacific Ocean)—will be able to capture a significant amount of imports coming from Peru, Brazil, Bolivia, and Mercosur.

For example, just in 2009 Brazil exported to Miami over US$1 billion of goods, which Laredo will be able to capture, a percentage of that share with the assistance of the Interoceanic Highway. The possibilities of redirecting imports from the Port of Miami by re-establishing the trade relationship between Mexico and Peru would be a significant trade opportunity for Laredo.

Laredo’s experience with trade relations with other South American countries has been a significant factor in its development and growth. Through its trade relationships with countries such as Brazil and Peru, Laredo has been able to strengthen its economic standing and position itself as a major hub for trade and commerce.

Therefore, as the globalization process continues taking place daily, the potential of connecting the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans through the Inter-Oceanic Highway represents a historic commitment by both nations to improve the regional economy.

So what does it mean for Laredo? What does it mean for Texas? What does it mean for the United States? In fact, it means great and immediate opportunities to export American technology and goods in the form of any commodity to a consumer market potential of around 280 million consumers located in Peru, Brazil, and Argentina.

—Herbert A. Molina, Director, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Then and Now: A Glimpse at the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development’s Tech History

The Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development (TCBEED) was created in 1990 by Texas Governor Bill Clements to promote border economic and enterprise development through the establishment of a center for border economic and enterprise development at Pan American University (University of Texas-Pan American), Laredo State University (Texas A&M International University), and the University of Texas at El Paso.

The TCBEED was able to capitalize on the features of the system, and spent almost a year transferring and auditing over 18 years of data from legacy programs. Once the major transfer of data was accomplished, development of searchable web-based data sets became the major push of the staff. “Automating” the system was the next step in the evolution of the TCBEED’s data, its utilization and its accessibility—both internally and externally. As with everything, many factors can come into play and change the course of development. The TCBEED will continue to develop what it has, but will look into the development of other services, data, etc.

With the start of a new decade, we have dusted off the wish list. We have begun to generate the priority list of software, having begun the next step in the evolution of the TCBEED’s data, its utilization and its accessibility—both internally and externally. As with everything, many factors can come into play and change the course of development. The TCBEED will continue to develop what it has, but will look into the development of other services, data, etc.

Looking back all those years, I can say they were challenging ones. Accomplishing what the Center’s staff did with limited resources. Being part of those 20 years has been enlightening and educational, and I look forward to another pair of decades. As with everything, many factors can come into play and change the course of development. The TCBEED will continue to develop what it has, but will look into the development of other services, data, etc.
The `Interoceanic Highway': A Bridge to Trade Between the North and South American Continents

The Laredo Chamber of Commerce announced that Mr. Ed Ramirez is the new Chairman of the Board for the Laredo Chamber of Commerce for the 2010-2011 year. Mr. Ramirez was born and raised in Laredo, Texas, and is a third generation Laredo businessman. He obtained his Bachelor’s in Business Administration from the University of Texas at El Paso. He also obtained his M.B.A., College Station in 1983.

Mr. Ramirez has devoted himself to public service since 1973. He served on the board of directors for the Laredo Chamber of Commerce from 1978-1986 serving on the board for over 20 years. Since 1984, he has served as President of the Webb County Heritage Foundation.

As Chairman of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Ramirez will focus on rehabilitating Laredo’s image so that people will know that it is a safe and peaceful city.

The Laredo Chamber of Commerce is the leading business organization for the Laredo, Texas, area. Their mission is to promote, support, and enhance the economic growth of the City of Laredo, and to provide opportunities to all members through its dedicated Board of Directors, community officials, and TAMEE volunteers.

Furthermore, Laredo’s private sector continues to grow. We are now through various family partnerships, he eventually started leasing out residential and commercial properties. Now through various family partnerships, he is dedicated to focus on rehabilitating Laredo’s image and Sofia (11) and (12).

As Chairman of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Ramirez has been a dedicated leader to TAMEE and TAMEE has been a driving force for the development of the Laredo area.

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After his educational achievement, he moved to San Antonio to work for TAMEE from 1983 until 1985 to serve as a member of the P. Mar- wick (KPMG) professional team, working as an auditor. In 1989, he moved to Laredo as a restaurant consultant and moved back to Laredo to pursue real estate investment opportunities. During the coming years, he started developing residential subdivisions and owner financing and eventually started leasing out residential and commercial properties. Now through various family partnerships, he has taken keen interest in ranches and minerals, as well as, real estate rentals and notes.

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