

MINING

Major Agreements

MOU on Cooperation in Surveying, Mapping, Remote Sensing and Geographic Information
Agreement on Industrial and Energy Cooperation
MOU on Cooperation in Mining Policy
MOU on Cooperation between Geological Surveys

Major Interlocutors

Canada:

Dept. of Industry
NRCan

Mexico:

SECOFI
Consejo de Recursos Minerales (CRM)

Extent and Mechanisms of Cooperation

The International Division of the Mining Sector of Industry Canada deals with trade policy, market access and international institutional and bilateral relations. Over 95 Canadian mining companies are currently active in Mexico - some are already producing while others have very promising prospects. Because of the importance of mining to both countries, Ministers signed an MOU in 1993 to establish a Working Group on Mining. The Working Group serves as an instrument for the exchange of information on matters of common interest with regard to the development and implementation of mining policies. Annual meetings of the Working Group are held at the level of officials; the next Group Meeting has not yet been scheduled, on account of ongoing reorganisation in Mexico and the relocation of mining in a new ministry (SECOFI).

NRCan's Canadian Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology has as its mandate to improve, encourage and transfer leading-edge knowledge in the Mineral and Energy Technology Sector (METS). There is no formal relationship between CANMET and Mexican counterparts but contact has occurred with Mexican officials on a project level basis. There have been preliminary discussions on establishing a scientific exchange with Mexico. CANMET has also identified a number of promising areas for cooperation and/or sales to Mexico: Certified Reference Materials; Transportation Technology; Renewable Energy; Energy Efficient Technologies; Co-Generation of Heat and Power.

The Business and International Office of the Coordination and Planning Division of the Geological Survey of Canada is responsible for coordination and international liaison. GSC's relations with Mexico can be considered under two headings. At the working level, individual scientists may develop joint projects with Mexican scientists - e.g. recent work on Chicxulub meteorite crater. At the formal level, activities are dominated by the development of an MOU between the GSC and the Consejo de Recursos Minerales (CRM). The MOU is expected to lead to exchanges concerned with developing a geological survey infrastructure in Mexico.