



Friday, February 24, 2006.

Milagro Project Launched

The **Milagro** Project began its activities to measure pollutant emissions from the Mexico City Metropolitan Area and its effects at regional and global levels. The presentation of the project was performed by the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, José Luis Luege Tamargo.

He indicated that the information obtained from the study will help develop the mechanisms needed to reach sustainable development like in the case of the Ecological Land Ordinance. The goal is to apply them not only to the cited region, but also to the rest of the country so that they may serve as examples for other megacities in the world.

Also, he added that this information will help design decentralization strategies favoring regional development with urban, suburban, intercity or railway transportation systems in order to stop the uncontrolled population growth that generates so many problems in megacities such as is the case in the country's capital.

José Luis Luege Tamargo stated that the **Milagro** Project represents a joint effort at an international level unique in history since it is the first time an endeavor of this nature and magnitude is undertaken using advanced technological and scientific resources. "I would like to stress the importance of the participation of close to 430 scientists from different institutions worldwide and congratulate the 80 top level scientists, Mexican men and women who are taking part in this environmental effort".

The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources considered that this mechanism will bring important benefits to the country because it will result in concrete public policies that will favor real sustainable development.

To this end the project aims to generate reliable information to better understand the generation processes of pollutants in the region, their dispersal, transport and transformation in the atmosphere, as well as the exposure patterns on the population and effects on human health. The project is composed of three components: the Mirage campaign aims to characterize the chemical and physical transformations as well as the fate of pollutants exported from urban

areas and evaluate their present and future effects on the air quality at a regional and global scale, the ecosystems and the climate.

The Max-Mex campaign analyzes the formation and changes in the composition of aerosols; and the MCMA-2006 studies the atmospheric pollutants in the Mexico City Metropolitan Area, as well as determines their atmospheric transport patterns and their photochemical reactivity.

Dr. Luisa Molina explained that the measurements will be conducted from the 1st to the 30th of March and would require the use of an assortment of instruments installed at fixed ground sites and on six airplanes that will conduct a series of flight paths over the region as well as nine satellites.

The three monitoring stations are located at the Petroleum Mexican Institute (IMP) in Mexico City; at the Technological University of Tecámac, State of Mexico; and at La Bisnaga ranch, north of Tizayuca, Hidalgo.

The scientist from the Molina Center indicated that some of the sites will also employ sondes and balloons with special equipment in order to measure meteorological parameters, ozone and volatile organic compounds.

Source: Notimex