



INNOVATIONS FOR
SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

Mexico's Moment: The 2012 Presidential Transition

Following the 2012 election, Mexican President Felipe Calderón ceded power to Enrique Peña Nieto, who led an opposing political party. Calderón and Peña Nieto cooperated to prepare for an effective handover. The actions of both sides helped pave the way for the Pact for Mexico, a landmark political deal announced early in Peña Nieto's presidency. This [case study](#) is part of a series on managing effective transitions in new democracies.

Read more about the [2012 transition](#) and [Calderón's Office of the Presidency](#)



Palacio Nacional at Zocalo in Mexico City. Photo by Bill Perry.

Forests, Farms, and the Future of Mexico's Lacandon Jungle

In 2007, after years of deforestation in Mexico's Marqués de Comillas municipality, former environment minister Julia Carabias took action to bring a halt to the widespread clear-cutting of the area's tropical forests. Her team at Natura Mexicana, a nongovernmental organization, helped enroll farmers in a national program that compensated them for preserving their trees. Natura Mexicana also sought to provide poor farmers with economic alternatives to converting the forests to agricultural use. The organization's work in environmental education, land planning, and ecotourism development helped change farmers' attitudes about the importance of protecting the rain forest.

Read more about forest preservation in [Mexico](#), [Costa Rica](#) and [Brazil](#).

Government Innovations in Mexico

Mexico City hosts the [Open Government Partnership Global Summit](#) in October. Read the following ISS case studies to learn more about several innovations in government in Mexico.

- [Fostering an Innovation Economy: Launching a Technology Park Mexico, 2004-2010](#)
- [Reclaiming the City: Policy Reform in Mexico City, 2002-2008 \(Spanish Translation\)](#)
- [Restoring Credibility to Mexico's Electoral Process, 2006-2012 \(Spanish Translation\)](#)
- [Retooling a Workforce to Match Industry Needs: Mexico Revamps Skills-Based Vocational Training, 2008-2018 \(Spanish Translation\)](#)

ISS Featured Interview

[José Luis Mendez](#), a political scientist who was a speechwriter and head of civil service under Mexican President Vicente Fox, discusses the presidential transition between Felipe Calderón and Enrique Peña Nieto. He also describes how the Office of the Presidency has changed under recent Mexican presidents, gaining power under some and becoming less significant under others.

About Innovations for Successful Societies

[Innovations for Successful Societies](#) (ISS) helps public servants, policy makers, and scholars share institution-building strategies that work in especially challenging contexts. ISS has published nearly [150 case studies](#) and more

than [380 interviews](#), all of which are available free online. These materials describe reform efforts in more than 60 countries, attracting more than 40,000 visits to the program's website from people in 195 countries last year. ISS is a joint program of Princeton University's [Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs](#) and [Bobst Center for Peace and Justice](#).

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