

COLOMBIA: IN FOCUS

A WEEKLY UPDATE FROM THE EMBASSY OF COLOMBIA

December 7, 2012

Colombian President Santos and U.S. Vice President Biden Hold Bilateral Meeting in Mexico City



President Santos and Vice President Biden in Mexico City. Photo Credit: Presidencia de la República

On Saturday, December 1, in Mexico City, on the sidelines of the inauguration of Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos and U.S. Vice President Joe Biden met to discuss U.S.-Colombia bilateral relations.

Following the meeting, President Santos said: ***“We talked about all points on the [bilateral] agenda. ... [including] the coordination that we have with the United States in various fields, such as security in the region, ... economic issues, the issue of free trade and how it has evolved so positively.”***

According to the U.S. International Trade Commission, between May – when the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was implemented – and September, U.S. exports to Colombia increased by 19 percent, including significant increases in exports of oil and derivatives, aircraft and parts, electric machinery, soybean products, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and beef. Colombian exports to the U.S. have also shown a positive performance, with a 13 percent increase in the same period compared to 2011.

What's News

Florida Governor Scott Leads Trade Mission to Colombia

This week Florida Governor Rick Scott [led](#) a two-day trade mission to Bogotá, Colombia, with more than 190 participants, including the representatives of 116 Florida companies and members of the state's academic community. During the trip, the delegation held over 250 meetings, including a meeting between Governor Scott and President Santos, aimed at further developing the Florida-Colombia economic relationship.

Governor Scott [hailed](#) the trip as a success: ***“We had a great trip to Colombia. I really enjoyed meeting President Santos. They're generating a lot of jobs. And so now all the relationships that got built, we have to make sure everybody follows up on those relationships. Because it's a country where they like foreign investment and they like their companies to come here and so it should be a big opportunity for all our companies.”*** Click [here](#) for more information on the trade mission.

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