



President Piñera and Minister Moreno attend Pacific Alliance working meeting



Monday, January 28, 2013

The President of Chile, Sebastián Piñera, held a working meeting with the rest of the Heads of State of the member countries of the Pacific Alliance, President Enrique Peña Nieto, President Juan Manuel Santos and President Ollanta Humala.

The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister Alfredo Moreno along with the Head of the General Directorate for International Economic Relations (Direcon), Álvaro Jana.

The Chilean Head of State stated that "The Joint Cooperation Fund of the Pacific Alliance is already in full swing, as is the scholarship system to facilitate student exchange among our countries. In addition, today we also agreed to accept two nations as observer members in the Pacific Alliance; Japan and Guatemala."

The meeting also resulted in a tariff agreement between member countries, applicable prior to March 31 this year that sets at least 90 percent of products traded between the four countries exempt of all kinds of tariff. The remaining 10 percent are scheduled to lose their tariff with an overall goal of establishing 100 percent free trade.

They also set goals for the first half of 2013, amongst which are the establishment of a mechanism for market access for trade; the establishment of sanitary and phytosanitary measures; the elimination of technical barriers to trade; increasing trade facilitation and customs cooperation; and reaching agreements to encourage the exchange of financial, transport, telecommunication and professional services.

Finally, the presidents decided that the next meeting of the Pacific Alliance will be held on May 24, in Cali, Colombia. At that time, President Juan Manuel Santos will take over the presidency of the international organization.

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