



CANCELLERÍA



Embajada de Colombia en Australia

PALABRAS DE LA EMBAJADORA CLEMENCIA FORERO UCRÓS

Recepción con motivo de la
Posesión del Cónsul Honorario de Colombia en Brisbane
Sr. Timothy McLennan
Febrero 6, 2017

Mr Richard Neumann and Friends from DFAT,
Ambassadors Armando Alvarez, Daniel Carvallo and Miguel Palomino,
Mrs. Penelope Wensley former Governor of Queensland,
Distinguished Professor Elizabeth Mayer from ANU,
Colleagues from the Embassy,

I wish to thank you for attending this invitation. We are here to celebrate the appointment of Tim McLennan as Honorary Consul of Colombia in Brisbane. The Government of Colombia is extremely pleased to have such a distinguished personality promoting Colombia in Queensland.

Tim has an impressive CV and is highly recognized as a strategic leader in many areas of international collaboration. Former member of COALAR, Vice Chairman of ALABC, Former CEO of the International Energy Centre at the University of Queensland and currently CEO of the QUT Bluebox at the Queensland University of Technology.

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I met Tim when I first visited Queensland in 2013, when I started my tenure in Australia. As Vice Chairman of ALABC, Tim organized a seminar on Trade and investment with Colombia.

Queensland was my first visit, and the reason for this was that the relationship between Colombia and Queensland had started to flourish very significantly since Andrew Fraser as Treasurer and Peter Beattie, as Special Envoy, visited Colombia in 2010 in order to strengthen and widen the existing links in areas such as Commerce, Investment, Education and research.

In 2013, Austrade and the, then, Consul General Crispin Conroy organized a Mission on Good Practices related to Sustainable Mining, and our first contact with the Sustainable Minerals Institute from the University of Queensland started. This Mission proved to be very fruitful and a meaningful collaboration has been reached through the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed between the University of Queensland and Universidad de Los Andes in May 2016 and that has recently received support from COALAR.

Several projects have been undertaken and we hope to involve more government agencies and companies so that in the future this initiative can become a Centre of Excellence in sustainable mining that can play an strategic role in the development of a more modern, safer and environmentally sustainable mining sector in Colombia.

Education is a very strong pillar of the relationship with Colombia. Colombia currently has an estimate of 4,461 students in Queensland and a MoU between our Research Institute Colciencias and Universities Australia for Co-funding of Doctorates. Two Universities from Queensland have joined: Griffith University and James Cook University.

This first semester of 2017 we hope to conclude and sign a Memorandum with the State of Queensland that will include new areas of collaboration. And I mention, particularly, the inclusion of the area of innovation where our new Honorary Consul Tim McLennan will be an invaluable support.

Colombia has expanded its Honorary Consulates in Australia, by recently opening one in Perth where John Goodlad, President of the Australian Institute of International Affairs in Western Australia, is helping us to promote Colombia in that important State. Geoffrey Widmer, who is here with us tonight, has been a formidable Consul in Melbourne.

From now on, Tim McLennan will give a renewed impulse to our relationship with Queensland. He is by far the best candidate we could select. Congratulations Tim, extended to your dear wife Brönte. You can count on the team of the Embassy of Colombia to assist you and we certainly look forward to work with you in the creation of new links and a very dynamic collaboration between Queensland and Colombia.

I now wish to offer a toast to your success in your new task.