

# COLOMBIA TODAY

A Weekly Update from the Embassy of Colombia

July 7, 2017

## President Santos Swears In New Colombian Ambassador to the United States Camilo Reyes



*President Santos and Ambassador Camilo Reyes on July 6, 2017.  
Photo taken by the Presidency.*

Yesterday, Colombian Ambassador to the United States Juan Manuel Santos held a swearing-in ceremony for new Ambassador to the United States Camilo Reyes, who will arrive in Washington next week. His ambassadorship will be made official when he presents his credentials to President Donald J. Trump in the coming weeks.

During the ceremony, President Santos said the following:

*“A diplomat, one of whom I think is a very important one - a career diplomat will occupy the most important embassy, the Embassy in Washington. ... He*

*has worked with many governments, always above any partisan struggle, always defending the interests of the country, always defending the country with great diplomacy and with great effectiveness. ... So it's good to have Camilo Reyes at the Washington Embassy at a very interesting and important moment in our relations with the United States.*

*“... [S]ince a long time ago, Colombia has maintained a bipartisan relationship with the United States, with both parties, and that has allowed us to have good relations with Republican administrations, Democratic administrations and has allowed us to maintain a relationship that in the United States is especially important in international relations, which is Congress.”*

In May 2017, President Juan Manuel Santos appointed Reyes to serve as Ambassador. Prior to being named to the post, Reyes was Executive Director of the Colombian American Chamber of Commerce – AmCham Colombia. Over his more than 35-year career, Reyes has held leadership positions in both the public and private sectors. A career diplomat and multilingual specialist in international negotiations, Reyes most recently served as Vice Minister of Foreign Relations from 2003 to 2008.

For his full bio, click [here](#).

## Colombia Hosts Pacific Alliance Summit in Cali



*Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, President Santos, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto and Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski in Cali on June 30, 2017. Photo taken by the Presidency.*

Last Thursday and Friday, in the Colombian city of Cali, President Santos hosted his counterparts from Chile, Mexico and Peru for the 12th Presidential Summit of the Pacific Alliance, during which Colombia assumed the pro tempore presidency of the Alliance, a shifting role among the four countries. The Pacific Alliance is an open and innovative platform for expanding economic integration across Latin America and for making the four countries and the region more competitive in global markets. In addition, the Alliance is advancing cooperation between the four countries in a number of areas, including social and economic development, health, innovation, academic exchanges, climate change and science and technology.

President Santos highlighted Alliance efforts to bolster the trade bloc's economic dynamism, stating:

*“We are going to register the creation of a common fund to finance infrastructure. We are going to open the Alliance to associate members so that we can establish different relations with interested observers to affiliate in some way with the four countries that have the most dynamic economies in Latin America.*

*“The economies of the four member nations, if counted as a single country, would form the eighth-biggest economy in the world and would contain 35 percent of the gross domestic product of Latin America.”*

Here are three key facts you may not know about the Pacific Alliance:

- Combined, the Alliance countries comprise an integrated market of 225 million consumers with a GDP of nearly \$2.2 trillion.
- According to international indexes like the World Bank’s “Doing Business” report, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru are the most competitive economies in the region.
- The four Pacific Alliance countries receive 41 percent of foreign direct investment in Latin America.

## What We’re Reading

Catch up on these recent stories about Colombia:

- *The New York Times*: “Colombia Comes to Colette” | July 5, 2017 ([Read](#))
- *Variety*: “Colombia’s 11:11 Films & TV Expands International Reach” | July 4, 2017 ([Read](#))
- *UN News Centre*: “Colombia: With Arms Laid Down, Focus Now on Reintegration, UN Envoy Tells Security Council” | June 30, 2017 ([Read](#))
- *Catholic News Service*: “Pope to Attend Prayer Meeting, Visit Children’s Home in Colombia” | June 29, 2017 ([Read](#))
- *NPR*: “Bike Race Symbolizes Colombia's Transition From War To Peace” | June 23, 2017 ([Read](#))

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