Mexico’s National Report 2012-2015

AGAVE MILL MEZCALERA. PHOTO: Marco A. Hernández

- Changing Public Policies with Regard to Industrial Heritage

México is a country that still lacking a legislation considering Industrial Heritage protection; most works aiming to valorize it as a historical-cultural heritage have been conducted at civil society level: retired workers, property owners, professionals and scholar groups.

Property speculation, lack of public policies, lack of awareness regarding industrial sites as a valuable heritage and their reuse, without destroying them, have contributed to losing several important examples. Recently, in the City of Puebla, one of the most important textile centers of the country during the 19th century, the factories known as El Mayorazgo and Molino de En Medio were just demolished. At the moment this report is being written, the flour mill Parayan is being destroyed in the city of Morelia, Michoacán; this building belonged to a flour mill complex that was constructed by the beginning of the 20th century in the industrial area of the city.

- Industrial Heritage Inventory Programs Progress.

In the north part of the country, the book Atlas del Patrimonio Cultural del Estado de Chihuahua (Cultural Heritage Atlas of the State of Chihuahua) was published by the border state of Chihuahua in 2012. It included an industrial heritage cataloguing and rescue project. All industrial buildings from the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century were registered. They are linked to the following activities: mining, railway infrastructure, warehouses, power generators, which were industries established in this state.

An almost complete industrial heritage registry for the state was achieved through this

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3 Coordinated by Karina Manríquez Moreno from the Institute of Culture of Chihuahua and Mauricio Rey Villarreal from the Higher Institute of Architecture and Design, S.C.
effort, conducting and industrial site database as well; in such a way that a second stage can be carried out to complete the catalog.

The project was conducted, from the trenches of education, in a short period of time. Results were aimed at site analysis and diagnosis; students generated proposals with very general intervention guidelines, but that can be achieved, thanks to the simplicity of these actions.

In the central part of the country, the Historical Archive and Museum of Mining, Civil Association (AHMM) started working on the book *Catálogo del Patrimonio Industrial Minero del antiguo distrito de Pachuca y Real del Monte (Mining Industrial Heritage of the old Pachuca and Real del Monte District)* this year. This book also includes the following municipalities: Mineral de La Reforma, Mineral de El Chico, Omitlán, Huasca and Epazoyucán⁴, all of them located in the state of Hidalgo.

The Autonomous University of Puebla has supported a research project that will allow to conduct, during the coming years the *Catálogo de Paisajes del Patrimonio Industrial de Puebla*⁵ *(Industrial Heritage Landscape Catalog of Puebla)*

The National Mexican Railway Museum, through the Department of Historic and Artistic Monuments, continues working on the *inventario y estudio del patrimonio edificado de los ferrocarriles mexicanos* (Mexican railway buildings inventory and study) especially concerning train stations⁶.

Apoyo al Desarrollo de Archivos y Bibliotecas de México, Asociación Civil (Archives and Libraries Development Support of Mexico, Civil Association) (ADABI) has continued providing consultancy and material and economical resources in order to conduct the *inventarios y catalogación de archivos industriales* (industrial archives inventory and cataloguing)⁷

TICCIH México organized a seminar to discuss diverse methodologies to catalog Mexican industrial heritage.

-**Main Projects for the Conversion or Rehabilitation of Industrial Heritage.**

In the state of Hidalgo, the AHMM continues working on the research, valorization, rescue, reuse and awareness of mining industrial heritage. In October, 2014 this institution started cleaning the Dolores Mine in Real del Monte and, after January 2015, it is developing the site rehabilitation project with a view to use it to open a *Site Museum and Crafts and Design School-Workshop*⁸.

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⁴ An interdisciplinary team coordinated by B. Oviedo Gámez has been created. Field work is conducted by Iván Hernández Ibar, with support of Darío Hernández; Archives, Aracely Monroy; historical research, B. Oviedo; and graphic registry, photographer and museographer Marco A. Hernández Badillo. All of them are members of TICCIH México.

⁵ Coordinated by Mariano Castellanos, member of TICCIH México.

⁶ The person in charge of the inventory is Lucina Rangel Vargas

⁷ ABADI is managed by Ma. Isabel Grañén Porrúa and Stella Ma. González Cicero

⁸ General coordinators are B. Oviedo Gámez and Marco A. Hernández Badillo, architect Luis Ibáñez collaborated doing the architectural survey and conservation status diagnosis.
Rescuing the archives located in this mine has been an important step. After treating them to ensure the conservation of the information contained, they were transported to the archives concentration of AHMM.

- **Industrial Heritage Training Programs (at university level as well as other levels).**

In 2013, TICCIH México organized the *III International Seminar and VII Latin American Symposium on Conservation of the Industrial Heritage*, in the city of San Luis Potosí, with the collaboration of the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí. Students received scholarships to attend the symposium and several master lecturers provided a class at archeology and engineering schools of the university. During the academic event 80 lectures and conferences were presented talking about industrial heritage in Argentina, Brazil, Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Spain, United States, France, Guatemala, Hungary, Japan, México, Portugal, El Salvador and Taiwan.


The book *Patrimonio Industrial y Desarrollo Regional. Rescate, valorizacion, reutilización y participación social (Industrial Heritage and Regional Development, Valorization, Reuse, and Social Participation)* coordinated by Belem Oviedo Gámez and Gracia Dorell Ferré is the result of this event.
In 2014, TICCIH México collaborated in the *Primera Jornada de Paisajes Patrimoniales: Investigación y Gestión en el siglo XXI (First Conference on Heritage Landscapes: Research and Management in the 21st Century)*, organized by the Cultural Heritage Landscape Research and Management of the Autonomous University of Puebla. 105 lecturers from México, Spain, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, and Argentina participated. In October of this year, the second conference will be held with the topic “Memory, Territory and Sustainability in Latin America”\(^9\).

As part of the young researches conference organized by the Gunma Prefecture, in Japan, Iván Hernández Ibar participated with a lecture about the 3D archeological registry in La Dificultad Mine in Real del Monte, state of Hidalgo.

In November 2014, TICCIH México, in coordination with the University of Guadalajara, organized the Research Seminar called: “Más allá del Tequila: otras expresiones del patrimonio industrial jalisciense” (*Beyond Tequila: Other Expressions of Industrial Heritage in Jalisco*) \(^10\) with the participation of members of both institutions. Topics focused on industrial heritage in western México and the Central High Plateau.

In addition to the efforts of TICCIH México members, the National School of Anthropology and History in the capital of the country, and the Architecture and Design School of Latin America and the Caribbean “Isthmus Norte” have organized conferences and lectures about industrial heritage\(^11\).

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\(^9\) Coordinated by M. Castellanos

\(^10\) Federico de la Torre, TICCIH México Secretary, was the general coordinator.

\(^11\) Alejandro Acosta Collazo and Javier Ortega Morell, have been among invited professors.
PHOTO: CARTEL Guadalajara University and TICCIH.

-Major Publications Since 2012-


MONROY, Aracely y OVIEDO Gámez B. (Coord.) *Colección de Catálogos Documentales del Archivo Histórico de la Compañía de Minas de Real del Monte y Pachuca:*
- Colección Diagnósticos Médicos, Sección Médico, Fondo Norteamericano. 252p.


