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CONAC 2016:

Steel Industry Conference and Exposition

14–17 March 2016 | CINTERMEX, Monterrey, N.L., Mexico



Eduardo Garza, chief executive officer, FRISA, delivering the opening presentation.

|| The AIST México Member Chapter held its seventh national steel industry conference and exposition (CONAC) on 14–17 March 2016 at the CINTERMEX Convention Center in Monterrey, N.L., Mexico. This event is the only of its kind in Latin America and continues to be a growing success.

CONAC 2016 attracted more than 1,600 participants, including producers and end users, and 69 exhibiting companies — mainly manufacturers and suppliers from the iron and steel sector. The participants enjoyed exploring the exposition and the opportunity

to learn about recent developments and innovations in manufacturing steel products.

On Tuesday, 15 March 2016, Eduardo Garza, chief executive officer of FRISA, delivered the opening presentation and shared concepts related to the steel market and FRISA. The presentation included an overview of the new steelmaking facility scheduled to open this month in Villa de García, N.L., Mexico. The meltshop will enable FRISA to locally process its own raw materials to produce special steel-quality rings.



CONAC 2016 kicked off with a steel ribbon-cutting ceremony (left to right): Félix Cárdenas, president, CONAC; George Koenig, Hatch, and 2015–2016 AIST president; Rafael Colás, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León and 2015–2016 AIST México Member Chapter president; and Ron Ashburn, executive director, AIST.



(Left to right) Myrna Molina, AIST México Member Chapter; Stacy Varnecky, AIST; Felipe Villarreal, Melter S.A. de C.V. and AIST/AIST México Member Chapter liaison; Eduardo Garza, FRISA; George Koenig, Hatch, and 2015–2016 AIST president; Rafael Colás, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León and 2015–2016 AIST México Member Chapter president; Juan Carlos Rodrigues Goncalves, Ternium Mexico S.A. de C.V. and AIST México Member Chapter vice president; Ron Ashburn, AIST; and Bill Albaugh, AIST.

The two-day technical conference included 75 presentations by notable specialists, covering the following topics:

- » **Steelmaking and primary processes.**
- » **Hot and cold steel rolling.**
- » **Steel processing and applications.**
- » **Maintenance and industrial safety.**

On Tuesday evening, the México Member Chapter hosted a dinner for guests in the emblematic Steel Museum “Horno 3” at Fundidora Park. During the dinner, Ronald E. Ashburn and Rafael Colás welcomed the recently elected México Member Chapter vice president (2016–2018), Carlos Garza, steel director, FRISA.

CONAC was complemented with the offering of short courses on Monday, 14 March 2016, focusing on slag and rolling process. The event also featured a display of posters with valuable technical information prepared by authors specifically for this event. The event concluded on Thursday, 17 March 2016 with a visit to Altos Hornos de Mexico, S.A.B. de C.V. (AHMSA) in Monclova, Coah., Mexico.

The AIST México Member Chapter greatly appreciates the support of manufacturers, users, suppliers, speakers, academics, members, employees, sponsors, special guests and visitors to the exposition. Without their support and presence, it would not have been possible to develop an event of this magnitude. The México Member Chapter would like to extend a special note of thanks to AHMSA for kindly opening its facility to CONAC visitors.

AIST is proud of its 22 Member Chapters. These chapters embody all that is good about the steel industry and AIST: they make a positive impact on the economy and to society, and work on a large scale to provide opportunities for people of all ages. The México Member Chapter continues to raise the benchmark each and every year and serves as a role model for AIST international chapters.

If you would like to learn more about the AIST México Member Chapter or stay updated on events being held in Mexico, please visit the chapter’s website at <http://aistmexico.org.mx>. ♦

