

CONAC

8th Steel Industry Congress and Exhibition

Organized by the AIST Mexico Member Chapter

The 8th Steel Industry Congress and Exhibition (CONAC) is the most anticipated biennial steel event in Mexico. This year, the event was held 4–7 March 2018 at the Cintermex Convention Center in Monterrey, N.L.

CONAC 2018 welcomed 79 international exhibiting companies and more than 1,600 attendees who shared industry experiences, new developments and products with like-minded peers.

At the start of the conference, more than 100 registrants representing various steel mills, students and faculty attended opening short courses titled:

1. “Rolling Passes Design,” by Mark Schweitzer and Jala Biglow.
2. “Clean Steel Manufacturing Technologies,” by Jose Barreto and Saul Garcia.

Later that evening, the inaugural ceremony was held at the Magno Room, where both Juan Carlos Rodrigues, AIST Mexico Member Chapter chair, and Rogelio Garza, Mexico’s Undersecretary of Industry and Commerce, delivered speeches related to the steel industry.

Instead of the traditional ceremonial ribbon-cutting, the Exhibition was officially opened with a steel wire-cutting by Felix Cardenas, CONAC president, and Ron Ashburn, AIST executive director, followed by a welcoming cocktail reception for attendees.

The official CONAC opening ceremony began the following morning with keynote speaker





César Jiménez, chief executive officer, Ternium Mexico. Jimenez analyzed steel economics and shared Ternium's steel manufacturing vision.

CONAC hosted 77 technical presentations in the areas of steelmaking, rolling, steel process and use,

and maintenance and safety. Conference attendees were given the opportunity to share their individual companies' success stories, news and related themes with the presenters and fellow registrants.

Attendees have come to expect a unique experience during the Official Dinner at Horno 3 Steel Museum, which was once an abandoned blast furnace facility from the

1960s. In an effort to share Mexican traditions with non-nationals, the AIST Mexico Member Chapter organized the performance of La Guelaguetza, a dancing ceremony from the Oaxaca region in southern Mexico.

Special recognitions and awards were distributed during the official dinner to those that have shown outstanding dedication to the Mexico Member Chapter; in particular the Outstanding Service Award, which was presented to Ignacio Alvarez at AISTech 2017. Dr. Alvarez was honored posthumously at this official dinner, but his wife and children were grateful to accept the award on his behalf.

At the close of CONAC 2018, Frisa hosted a plant tour of its steelmaking facility.

CONAC has become a major event in Mexico's steel environment, and is now recognized internationally. Its success has been achieved because of the unwavering support of manufacturers, processors, suppliers, consumers, academics and AIST.

The AIST Mexico Member Chapter offers their gratitude to the members, collaborators, employees and supporters who participated in CONAC 2018.

Visit AISTMexico.org.mx to learn more about the Mexico Member Chapter and their upcoming events. ♦

