The Institute of Mexicans abroad: An effort to empower the Diaspora

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IME

1. Descentralized agency of the Foreign Ministry established in 2002

2. Operates through the Mexican Consular Network

3. Consultative Council- Assembly of 128 independent community leaders

4. Two agendas: service and information agenda
Ten basic lessons

1. Empowerment effort
2. Immigrant integration: good for everyone
3. Long term strategy
4. Quiet work of institutionalizing Mexico’s relation with the diaspora.
5. Democratic change, growing middle class & growing political influence

6. The consultative council: a network building machine

7. Public policy in another country: depends on strong local, pragmatic partners

8. Key: Consular network
9. Conflictive relationship

10. Influence is a two-way street