

May 11th, 2009.

Mrs. Hulya Aslantas

President

Skål International

Edificio España

Avenida Palma de Mallorca 15 – 1º

29620 Torremolinos,

E S P A Ñ A .

Dear Mrs. Aslantas,

As has been well publicized by the Media, Mexico and various countries around the world have hit by the A H1 N1 influenza virus. Something that has created havoc in the tourism industry, **our industry!!!**

In this respect, I strongly want to emphasize that the proliferation of the virus in México is well in the process of being eradicated. The Government has implemented strict measures to keep it under control and, in fact, has started to lift up the restrictions that where imposed in the past few days.

As has been well recognized by the World Health Organization (“WHO”) and, just recently, by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States, Mexico took all the necessary steps to control de epidemic and, in some actions, even went beyond.

Now a days, Preparatory and College students are back in their campuses, Public and Private Offices are working normally, at airports and bus terminals strict security measures have been taken (including a signed questionnaire by passengers regarding symptoms associated with the virus), public and crowded events (including football games) have been reopened as well as restaurants, and Kinder Garden, Elementary and High School students are back in schools today.

At the same time, it is quite important to mention that no cases of the virus have been found in the largest tourism resort areas of Mexico, such as Cancun, the Riviera Maya, Puerto Vallarta, Huatulco and Los Cabos.

Hence, **it is in the Skål Spirit of goodwill and friendship**, I write to you to kindly urge you to let know all our fellow Skålleagues around the world that:

- (i) Influenza and other epidemic diseases can arise in any country, be it developed or under-developed. The critical issue is the way in which the governments react, both internally and internationally, recognizing the effects of the epidemic and working in conjunction with the WHO. Something that Mexico has well proved!!!!
- (ii) The epidemic in Mexico is near under control,
- (iii) The Mexican Government has been working very closely with the WHO, taking all the necessary steps to control and diminish the effects of the influenza virus as soon as possible, and
- (iv) We strongly need their support to overcome this unfortunate situation, as it has been added to the economic crisis that everybody has been facing since the end of last year. **We need to keep our people working.**

In this last respect, the support of our Skålleagues, within their own businesses and areas of influence, by not only preventing the cancellation of trips to Mexico, but by promoting tourism to our Country will be deeply appreciated.

Con un cordial saludo Skål,

Juan I. Steta
President
Skål International México City – 067

c.c.p.: Lic. Felipe Calderon Hinojosa / President / United Mexican States
Lic. Rodolfo Elizondo Torres / Tourism Secretary / Government of Mexico
Lic. Oscar Fitch / Director General / Mexican Tourism Board
Mr. Enrique Quezada / Finance Director / Skål International
Mr. Jim Power / General Secretary / Skål International
Sr. Jesús Valdez / National President / Skålmex