

## **“The Birth of Mexico’s Oil Industry” Photo Exhibit opens at Canning House**

*Exhibit shows 100 year-old links between the UK and Mexico in London*

London, England (April 12, 2010) – Sister Cities of Houston opened a historic photo exhibition with images that illustrate the initial production of the Mexican oil industry during the period from 1900 into 1938.

The show is presented in celebration of 100 years of the discovery of the “Potrero del Llano” oil field, one of the top producing in history. The Potrero del Llano # 4 oil well generated a flow of crude at the rate of 100,000 barrels per day for nine years, producing a total of well over 117 million barrels.

The images at the exhibition come from U.S., Mexican and British collections and are presented in the U.K. for the second time. The show will be on view at Canning House until May 20<sup>th</sup>, and is open to the public from Monday to Friday 2-5 PM.

The exhibit opened with a private view reception on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM hosted by Sister Cities of Houston and Canning House. In attendance were Prof. Paul Garner, Cowdray Professor of Spanish at the University of Leeds, Prof. George Philip from the London School of Economics.

Marco Bracamontes, curator of the exhibit, said “This collection celebrates all the brave individuals who pioneered in Mexico’s oil industry, which has been an important driver for the country’s economy. These images unveil an exciting, yet not well known story for most Mexicans and British alike.”

Tampico, located in Northeastern Mexico, was the centre of operations for many companies in the oil exploration and production industry a century ago. In 1921 Mexico was the second largest producer of crude oil worldwide, only behind the United States.

**Sister Cities of Houston** is a non-profit organization that promotes citizen diplomacy around the world. Sister Cities International was established by President Ike Eisenhower in order to improve communication, cultural and business relations between the people of the United States and the rest of the world.

**Canning House** is a unique centre dedicated to stimulating understanding and engagement between Britain and the Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian world, through our dynamic debates, events and education activities.

**Exhibition runs from 12 April until 20 May**

**Opening times: 2pm - 6pm**

**Venue:** Canning House Library  
(2 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PJ)

**Free Entrance**

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