

IPN: 89 Years as the Leading Institution for Technological Education in Mexico

On January 1st, our alma mater celebrated another year since its founding.

CLAUDIA VILLALOBOS

The motto “La Técnica al Servicio de la Patria” encapsulates the philosophy that has distinguished the Instituto Politécnico Nacional (IPN) for 89 years. Conceived by its founders, the institution was established to consolidate Mexico's economic, scientific, technological, cultural, and political independence through education, with the ultimate goal of driving the nation's social progress.

The IPN's position as Mexico's technological arm has not been incidental. In addition to the visionary collaboration of its founders, the institution owes its success to the tireless efforts of its administrators, faculty, students, and alumni, who continually strive for excellence.

Thanks to notable figures like Juan de Dios Bátiz Paredes, Wilfrido Massieu Pérez, and Luis Enrique Erro Soler, the vision of then-President Lázaro Cárdenas del Río became a reality on January 1, 1936. The institution was established to train the technicians and professionals needed to build a nation grounded in technology and industrial development.

The IPN was uniquely founded without an Organic Law or a formal director-general. Juan de Dios Bátiz, serving as Director of the Department of Industrial and Commercial Technical Education at the time, assumed leadership. It wasn't until February 20, 1937, in a ceremony at the Palacio de Bellas Artes, that the IPN was officially inaugurated, with Roberto


Medellín Ostos appointed its first general director.

Nearly nine decades later, the institution, originally designed to prepare technical professionals for Mexico's industrialization, has evolved into a key driver of the nation's modernization. Its contributions to scientific and technological innovation now extend far beyond national borders.

From its initial 23 schools (15 secondary, three vocational, and five professional), the IPN now operates in 75% of Mexico's territory, with 93 academic units across 24 states. Its educational offerings encompass 293 programs, including 57 at the upper secondary level, 82 undergraduate, and



Today, 666 IPN faculty members belong to the National System of Researchers (SNII) under the Consejo Nacional de Humanidades, Ciencias y Tecnologías (Conahcyt), with 30 recognized National Emeritus Researchers. These individuals, along with countless others, have elevated the IPN's prestige, positioning it as an institution of excellence both in Mexico and globally.

The IPN has consistently demonstrated that scientific and technological education is fundamental to Mexico's development. Its commitment to serving the children of workers remains steadfast, honoring the institution's founding mission. On this anniversary, the IPN reaffirms its dedication to keeping its motto alive: "La Técnica al Servicio de la Patria." 



154 postgraduate programs.

Over the past 89 years, the IPN has produced talented men and women equipped with cutting-edge knowledge in education, science, and technology. This expertise underpins the institution's national and international recognition. Its impact can be seen in the construction of highways, dams, petroleum and electric industry facilities, healthcare services, telecommunications, and nearly every industry in Mexico. Politécnico graduates are consistently recognized in both the public and private sectors.

As the IPN approaches its 90th anniversary, its commitment to excellence, educational relevance, modernization, scientific research, and technological innovation remains unwavering. The institution continues to create new academic units and programs to address regional, national, and global demands, ensuring it produces the technical and professional workforce required by a rapidly changing world.

Beyond education, the IPN's research efforts have played a critical role in national development. Collaborations with international institutions have extended its contributions across borders.

