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The Queen Mary University of London awards an honorary doctorate degree to the head of IPN

- **Education must be considered a basic right of the people, never a luxury good, says Arturo Reyes Sandoval**
- **It is a recognition of the scientific contributions and vaccine development that supported the fight against COVID-19: Colin Bailey**

The Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) awarded the degree of Doctor of Science honoris causa to the General Director of the Instituto Politécnico Nacional (IPN), Arturo Reyes Sandoval, for his contributions to science and the development of vaccines against the SARS-Cov-2 virus, which causes COVID-19.

During his message, Reyes Sandoval affirmed that education must be considered a basic right of the people and not a luxury good, which is why he emphasized that QMUL and IPN share the objective of improving the lives of the less privileged through education.

He acknowledged that the working classes, particularly women, face extreme barriers to accessing education. He emphasized that the commemoration of International Women's Day should remind us that it is not only about making high-quality science accessible but also about taking important steps to empower people, especially women.

The head of the IPN informed that the institution serves more than 216,000 students, many of them belonging to vulnerable groups, who are also supported with scholarships to ensure their permanence and educational transition.

"In its 87 years, the Politécnico has been a great engine of economic change for the people and for my country. There are still many areas of opportunity in our institution; that is why, in Mexico and in the IPN, we must look to the example of The Queen Mary University of London and learn from its history."



He explained that his motivation has been to alleviate human pain through the development of vaccines, the study of the genetic composition of viruses, and novel clinical trials that attracted the attention of foreign researchers.

He commented that he was invited to continue his work at other prestigious institutions, such as Oxford University, where he focused on developing vaccines against diseases such as zika and chikungunya, and whose studies served as the basis for achieving a vaccine against COVID-19.

He recalled that, after achieving the approach for Mexico to have the vaccine against COVID-19, developed by AstraZéneca, the President of Mexico, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, invited him to assume the General Direction of the Politécnico.

In outlining the decision of the QMUL Council and Senate to award the honorary degree, the president and director of that British institution, Colin Bailey, said that it was a "recognition of his distinguished and varied scientific career and his contribution to the development of vaccines in the fight against COVID-19".

QMUL is one of the UK's leading academic and research institutions. Its origins date back to 1785, and at least nine Nobel Prize winners in different disciplines have been awarded honorary doctorates.

The General Director of the IPN and the Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, Mario Molina Pasquel, are the only two Mexicans to have received an honorary doctorate from a British university.

In June 2022, the IPN and QMUL signed a general cooperation agreement to organize exchanges of students, researchers, and professors; to develop research projects and exchange information, documentation, and educational and scientific publications, as well as to organize conferences, symposiums, and seminars

In addition, the bases were established to set up training programs through the School of International Research and English courses for students of the three educational levels.

The ceremony was made at the headquarters of the British institution with the presence of academics, professors, and scientists from QMUL and other universities, such as Oxford, where Reyes Sandoval did much of his scientific work.

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