

# IPN Ayer y Hoy

## RODOLFO HERNÁNDEZ CORZO

DIRECTOR OF THE IPN

(1953-1956)



Last December 17 marked the 30th anniversary of the death of engineer Rodolfo Hernández Corzo, who served as General Director of the Instituto Politécnico Nacional (IPN) from 1953 to 1956.

He was born on October 4, 1909 in Comitán, Chiapas. His parents were Antonio Hernández Cuadros and Bárbara Corzo. He began his academic preparation in his homeland, graduating in 1928 as a teacher at the Escuela Normal of Chiapas.

He finished his preparatory studies at the state university. In Mexico City, these were revalidated in 1931, in the branch of biological sciences, for which he had to take the required exams.<sup>1</sup>

After completing high school, he studied to become a bacteriological chemist and parasitologist at the Escuela de Bacteriología, which became the Escuela Nacional de Ciencias Biológicas (ENCB) of the IPN, where he graduated in 1940.

He studied abroad in Chicago, United States, where he did his postgraduate studies at Northwestern University, where he obtained a Master of Science degree in chemistry.

In 1952, he obtained a diploma in industrial research at Stanford Research Institute, Menlo Park, California, USA. Dr. Hernandez Corzo took advantage of his stay in the United States, as he also studied at the University of Palo Alto, California, in 1952, where he obtained a doctorate degree in Biochemistry and Microbiology.<sup>2</sup>

In 1937 he began his work at the Instituto Politécnico Nacional where he held various positions at the ENCB. In 1945 he was director of the ENCB.<sup>3</sup> which he held from March 1945 to February 1950.

In January 1953, Engineer Juan Manuel Ramírez Caraza, then General Director of the IPN, asked him to take charge of the Office of Cultural Exchange and Relations, under the Department of Social Action of the Polytechnic, where he remained until May of the same year.

From June 1, 1953, to August 16, 1956, he held the position of General Director of the IPN.<sup>4</sup>

In addition, he published six works, and several technical articles in Spanish and English in specialized magazines, and prepared several papers and lectures presented at congresses and conventions in Mexico and abroad. He coordinated the preparation of the "Catálogo de centros e institutos de investigación científica y desarrollo tecnológico en México, 1984" (Catalog of scientific research and technological development centers and institutes in Mexico, 1984). He died on December 17, 1992.

<sup>1</sup> Expediente de Rodolfo Hernández Corzo, Archivo Histórico Central del Instituto Politécnico Nacional (AHC-IPN)

<sup>2</sup> Ibidem

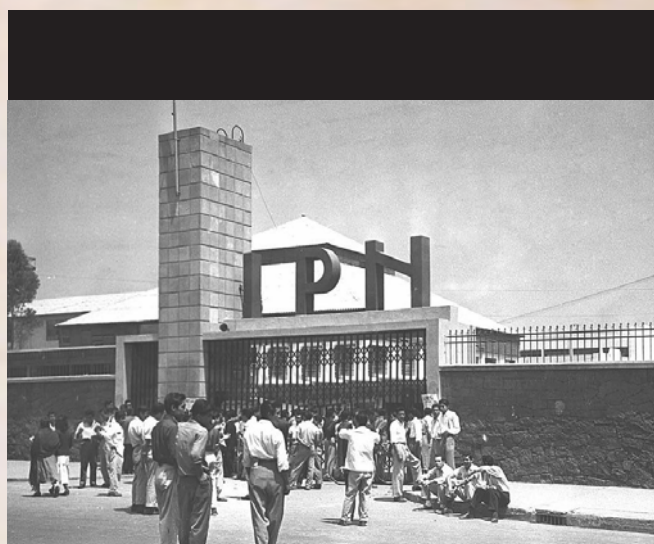
<sup>3</sup> Ibidem

<sup>4</sup> Ibidem

<sup>5</sup> Acción educativa del gobierno federal del 1° de diciembre de 1954 al 31 de agosto de 1955, México, 1955, p. 186

<sup>6</sup> Ibidem, p. 202

<sup>7</sup> Ibidem, p. 199



### Achievements during his tenure

- Creation of the departments of Cultural Relations and Dissemination, Publishing, and Medical Services<sup>5</sup>
- Construction of the building for the Escuela Superior de Comercio y Administración (ESCA) located on Plan de Agua Prieta Street in Santo Tomás<sup>6</sup>
- • Elaboration of a General Regulation for the distribution and execution of internships. Publication of the monthly IPN Newsletter.<sup>7</sup>