

Houston Energy Consultant George Baker to Address Mexican Academy of Engineering

As the presidency of Andrés Manuel López Obrador comes to a close, it is an opportune moment to review the long arc of the history of energy in Mexico

HOUSTON, TX, UNITED STATES, May 14, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- George Baker, the long-time publisher of Mexico Energy Intelligence, an industry newsletter, will address the [Mexican Academy of Engineering](#) on the

inflection points in Mexico's energy history. The Academy was created in 2002 with the fusion of two professional associations. Its offices are in the storied Palace of Mining, which was constructed at the end of the Colonial Period in the neoclassical style of architecture.



The image is a promotional graphic for a presentation. It features a green background with a portrait of George Baker on the right. Text on the left includes: 'Academia de Ingeniería México' with a 50th anniversary logo, 'Martes de la Academia de Ingeniería', 'La Academia de Ingeniería México invita', and the title '“Puntos de Inflexión en la Historia Energética Mexicana”'. Below the title, it says '14 de Mayo, 2024 18:00 Horas' and 'Más información en www.ai.org.mx'. A 'Transmisión en Vivo' button is present. At the bottom left is a QR code and Zoom details: 'zoom ID: 896 2408 8938 Clave: 893636'. At the bottom right are social media icons and the text 'Síguenos en nuestras redes sociales'. A name tag for George Baker identifies him as an invited expert.

Announcement of presentation by George Baker

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The public's understanding of Mexico's energy history and outlook is in need of a reset”

George Baker

In his presentation, the Duke Ph.D. in history will emphasize the outsize role of engineers in energy production and infrastructure.

“The greatest engineers in Mexican history were agronomists,” he insists. He observes that it was the energy made possible by the genetic modification of

ancient grasses that allowed for the flourishing of the civilizations of the Classic Period. “The majestic pyramids and temples of the Mayan, Zapotec, Olmec, and Teotihuacan civilizations were made possible by the energy of the hybridized corn, beans and other crops,” he observes. In place of “Pre-Hispanic” as the name of the period, he proposes “Maize America.”

The arrival of the Europeans in the 16th century dynamized the energy landscape. Spaniards brought not only new crops but, as important, technologies, tools, and domesticated animals. The wheel revolutionized transportation as did the arch for the construction of aqueducts and churches. The energy of horses and mules did work previously carried out by humans. Goats, sheep, and pigs were new sources of protein.

The 40-year period of industrialization that began around 1880 introduced energy from petroleum and thermo- and hydroelectricity. By 1920, Mexico was the largest exporter of crude oil after the United States.

A prolonged period of declining expectations in energy supply began in 1917 as successive administrations moved away from market solutions. Constitutional article 27, which was promulgated in that year, disrupted the business model of British and American oilmen. The oil expropriation of 1938 was an act of decoupling Mexico from global hiring and managerial and technological innovation.

Regarding the current period, Dr. Baker offers the label “Energy Irredentism.”

The label alludes to the depiction by Mexico’s President Andrés Manuel López Obrador of the oil leases, contracts and asset sales that had been carried out by his predecessors as tantamount to the alienation of Mexico’s patrimony. “In seeking the recovery of some of that patrimony, in

2022 the president "appropriated the operatorship and half of the commercial rights to a near-giant oil reservoir, named Zama, which had been discovered in 2017 by a consortium led by Houston’s Talos Energy. On April 18th of this year, he [expropriated the hydrogen plant](#) that had been sold in 2017 to Air Liquide, the global French industrial gas company.”

“The public's understanding of Mexico’s energy history and outlook is in need of a reset,” the consultant insists. “The increased availability of energy in the forms of animal and plant protein, British Thermal Units (BTUs), and kilowatt-hours will improve social welfare with outcomes measurable in productivity, education, and public health. What is called ‘energy policy’ attends to only a fraction of society’s needs for energy.” Public policies in the past and future are about the intertwined relationship among these sources of energy.

INFLECTION POINTS IN MEXICO'S ENERGY HISTORY							
Period	Engineering Discipline	Energy Source					
		Carbon	Crops	Animal	Other	Nature	
9,000 Yr	Plant hybridization	Agromony	FIREWOOD TAR PITS	BEANS, CORN TOMATOES SQUASH, AVOCADO COCOA, PEPPERS	DEER RABBITS DOGS, INSECTS TURKEYS	BIOMASS	TAR PITS DEFORESTATION
13-15% C. CE	Hydro-ponic Economy	Agromony	FIREWOOD TAR PITS	HYDROPONI C CROPS IN VALLEY OF MEXICO		BIOMASS	INLAND WATERWAYS DEFORESTATION
16-19% C. CE	Conquest/Colonization	Civil / water	FIREWOOD TAR PITS	WHEAT BARLEY, SUGAR BANANA EXPORT CROPS	HORSES, CATTLE, Mules, HOGS, GOATS SHEEP	GUNPOWDER DYNAMITE WIND, BIOMASS	WATER WORKS SHIP BUILDING SILVER MINING DEFORESTATION
1884-1937	Industrialization	Industrial, Electrical, petroleum	FOSSIL FUELS ELECTRICITY COAL	EXPORT CROPS		FOREIGN INVESTMENT BIOMASS	RAILWAYS, HACIENDAS, COAL MINING
1938-1982	Global Decoupling		DECREASING SUPPLY UNTIL (late '70s)	DE- CREASING CROP PRODUCT- IVITY		CAPITAL FLIGHT BIOMASS	BREAK-UP OF LARGE-SCALE FARMING LANDS
1982-2018	Global Engagement		FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN FOSSIL FUELS & Power	GMO AND GLYPHOSAT E ALLOWED		NUCLEAR RENEWABLES NATURAL GAS BIOMASS	AIR QUALITY ISSUES GAS FLARING
2018-	Neo-Statism		Slight increase in oil & gas supply	GMO CORN BANNED FOR TORTILLAS		RENEWABLES RESTRICTED BIOMASS	PRIVATE INVESTORS DISPLACED AIR QUALITY COMPROMISED

Chart: Mexico Energy Intelligence™ (Rev. 1.7)
Aug 4, 2023; Mar 4, 2024

Inflection points in Mexico's energy history



Logo of Baker & Associates, Energy Consultants

He concludes that engineers, supported by economists, political scientists, and historians, will need to step forward to advise the next government about how to reset the national energy narrative in ways that allow for a sustainable re-engagement with global markets and the rebuilding of trust with investors.

His presentation is based on a 2023 study ([MEI Report 967](#)) entitled "Due Diligence Re Mexico's Energy Record."

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