



Dolia Estevez Contributor

I cover Mexico's billionaires, politics and U.S.-Mexico relations

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LISTS 9/08/2014 @ 5:05PM | 15,239 views

Is Mexican Billionaire Carlos Slim The New Role Model For Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg?

Invited by Mexican tycoon [Carlos Slim Helú](#) to speak to thousands of young Mexicans in Mexico City, Facebook Chief Executive [Mark Zuckerberg](#) said that his company is prepared to spend billions of dollars to reach its goal of bringing the Internet to everyone on the planet.

“What we really care about is connecting everyone in the world, even if it means that Facebook has to spend billions of dollars over the next decade making this happen,” Zuckerberg said, according to reports in the Mexican press and [Reuters](#). “I believe that over the long term it’s going to be a good thing for us and for the world,” he added.

The Facebook co-founder was one of a handful of world-reknoned figures invited by Carlos Slim’s Telmex Foundation to participate in Foro México Siglo XXI (Mexican Forum for the Twenty-first Century), a yearly gathering of around 10,000 Telmex scholarship recipients. Owned by the world’s richest man, Telmex is the biggest Internet and mobile service provider in Mexico.



(Photo credit: Telmex Foundation)



Wearing jeans and a T-Shirt, Zuckerberg noted that half of Mexico's 120 million people have no access to the Internet and announced that Facebook is working with Mexico through Facebook's Internet.org project to bring web access to the 60 million unconnected Mexicans. Internet.org was launched last year by Facebook, the world's largest social networking company, to connect billions of people to the Internet in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

"I believe that ... when everyone is on the Internet all of our businesses and economies will be better," Zuckerberg said, according to Reuters. Many Mexican businesses can become "global through the 409 million Facebook pages, connecting with customers, something which in turn can help Mexico's economic growth," said Zuckerberg, who with a net worth currently estimated by Forbes at \$34.3 billion, ranks # 13 richest in the world.

When asked who he admires the most, he answered that as a child he wanted to be like Microsoft founder [Bill Gates](#), but now that he is 30 years old, he is considering changing his role model. "I think that perhaps now my role model should be Carlos Slim," Zuckerberg said, according to the Mexican press.

Zuckerberg reiterated his support for immigration reform, which he said is needed so that many young people who lack immigration papers can attend college in the U.S. He is a strong critic of the current U.S. immigration system and often frames comprehensive reform as a major civil rights issue.



(Photo credit: Telmex Foundation)

Zuckerberg's star power played well in Mexico. This was his first visit to Mexico as the CEO of Facebook. Not only did he attract broad media attention, but he also was received by President Enrique Peña Nieto at Los Pinos, Mexico's presidential residence. "The president and I agree that we need to accelerate Internet growth in Mexico. I'm excited to see what we can accomplish together," said Zuckerberg after the meeting, which included a walk through the gardens of the presidential residence. Peña Nieto has a Twitter account but not a Facebook account.

This year's Foro México Siglo XXI event, which was inaugurated by Slim, also featured former Secretary of State and presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton, Spanish actor Antonio Banderas, soccer star Ronaldinho and writer Lizzie Velasquez.

Clinton, who was added to the program at the last minute, also made headlines, but for a different reason. When she was asked if she was planning to run for President, [she said](#) that she will likely make a decision around the beginning of 2015. The former First Lady said her background gives her a "unique vantage point" to bring to the White House should she run in 2016. Clinton also met with Peña Nieto.

The Clintons are known to be close friends with Slim, whom they call Carlos. Slim has made significant donations to the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation. In 2012, when Clinton was Secretary of State, she invited Slim to the State Department to discuss his work on broadband and digital development. Also in 2012, the former President awarded Slim the Clinton Global Citizen Awards for his leadership in philanthropy during the [Clinton Global Initiative's](#) annual conference in New York.

With a net worth that Forbes estimates at \$86.2 billion, Slim is currently the [world's richest person](#).

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LISTS 8/26/2014 @ 1:59PM | 5,562 views

Mexico's Elite Paid Hefty Price To Hear Bill Clinton

At least 10 top Mexican business groups and corporations, both public and private, paid millions of dollars for Bill Clinton to speak at their events between 2002 and 2012, according to a review of the family's federal financial disclosures [published](#) by *The Washington Post* in June.

Over more than a decade, Clinton delivered 14 speeches to 11 different Mexican sponsors. He was paid \$3.2 million. One of his first paid appearances in Mexico was in October 2003 when the 42nd President was invited by Mexico's Central Bank. His price: \$150,000.

As the flak his reputation had taken around the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal wound down, the demand for the charismatic former President in the global high-end speech circuit doubled — and so did his fees. In April 2012, while his wife Hillary Clinton was still in charge of the Obama Administration's diplomacy, Clinton gave the keynote speech at Mexico's National Association of Bankers' annual convention in Acapulco. His fee: \$340,000.

An advertisement for MarkLogic. At the top, it says "MarkLogic" with a red square logo. Below that, the text reads "DISCOVER THE 'HIDDEN' FACTS IN YOUR DATA!". The central focus is a book cover for "Semantics FOR DUMMIES" by Allen Taylor, a Wiley Brand. The cover is yellow and black, featuring a cartoon character with glasses. Below the book cover, there is a red button that says "FREE DOWNLOAD". The background of the ad is white with faint grey lines and circles.



(Photo credit: Carlos Slim Foundation)



Yet his most lucrative trip to Mexico was in November of 2008, soon after the Democrats recovered the White House. On that date, the Post's review shows, Clinton addressed separately three groups: Casa de Bolsa Value Group, Mexican Friends of Zaka and Mexico's National Tourism Business Council. His total pay: \$600,000.

Two years later, in October 2010, Clinton was invited by Mexico Business Summit, an influential businessmen's club led by a well-connected PRI politician, to deliver the keynote speech "Embracing Our Common Humanity," at their annual convention in Toluca, the capital of the state of Mexico. The Post's records show that Clinton actually gave two presentations the same day to the same group for which he charged a total of \$400,000.

The three-day event was attended by some of Mexico's most powerful politicians, businessmen and authors, including then President Felipe Calderón and the then Governor of the state of Mexico Enrique Peña Nieto (host of the event), as well as billionaires Carlos Slim Helú and Alberto Bailleres. Slim was also a speaker.

With few exceptions, Clinton's speeches are closed to the news media. Yet according to press reports, in Toluca, the 42nd President addressed global warming, world financial instability and Mexico's war on drugs.

Clinton often uses his trips to connect to Mexico's elite. In 2008 he dined with Slim in Mexico City. According to press reports, they talked about fighting poverty in the world in general and in Mexico in particular. The Carlos Slim Foundation and The Clinton Foundation have [launched a number of joint philanthropic projects](#) both in Mexico and Latin America.

Together they have put together a number of funds that range from \$20 to \$50 million to assist small- and medium-sized enterprises in Haiti, Mexico, Colombia and Peru. The Carlos Slim Foundation web site [opens up](#) its home page with a quote by Clinton calling Slim “one of the world’s most important philanthropists.”

Clinton’s frequent trips to Mexico since he left the Oval Office come as a sharp contrast to the scant two times he visited the country when he was in office. In May of 1997, at the start of his second term, Clinton paid a two-day State visit to Mexico, a country Washington likes to say they have a special relationship with. Two years later, in February 1999, he traveled to Mérida for a meeting with his Mexican counterpart.

Clinton’s speeches in Mexico are just a handful of the 542 speeches he has delivered around the world since 2001 and for which he has been paid \$104.9 million, [according to *The Washington Post*](#). The majority of his speaking income—\$56.3 million—came from foreign sponsors.

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LISTS 7/15/2014 @ 4:35PM | 185,847 views

Mexico's Carlos Slim Reclaims World's Richest Man Title From Bill Gates

[Carlos Slim Helú](#) is once again the world's richest person, thanks in large part to a sharp increase in telecom giant América Móvil's share price both in U.S. and Mexican markets. Slim bumped Microsoft (NYSE:MSFT) cofounder [Bill Gates](#) from his perch as the world's richest, a post Gates has held since May 2013.

The move happened on Tuesday when the value of Slim's phone company América Móvil's (NYSE:AMX), his largest holding, rose 1% or \$805.6 million, pushing his net worth to Forbes estimate of \$79.6 billion, against Gates's estimated \$79.1 billion net worth.

América Móvil's stock has been rising since the company announced plans last week to divest some assets to comply with Mexico's new antitrust telecom regulations. América Móvil's shares were sharply higher last Wednesday, 24 hours after the news of the breakup. The company's shares, which have languished the past year as a result of regulatory pressures in Mexico, jumped 10% on the NYSE the day following the breakup announcement.

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Between July 1 and July 11, Slim's wealth jumped from \$74.5 billion to \$79.6, a gain of \$5.1 billion in 12 business days, an indication that investors are applauding Slim's unexpected decision to reduce his phone market share below 50% as a new antitrust telecom law mandate comes into play. Investors seem to believe the outcome may actually be better for Slim's business interests.

Currently, Slim's América Móvil controls 70% of the mobile phone market in Mexico, and 80% of landlines.

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto signed the bill into law on Monday in an event attended by Mexico's top telecom executives, including Carlos Slim Domitt, Slims Helús oldest son and heir apparent.

Slim fell from the top of the Forbes World's Billionaire list in May 2013 largely due to a sharp drop in América Móvil's stock, fueled by fears that Mexico's new antitrust regulations would crumble his telecom empire.

Yet it appears as though the threat has reenergized him. Slim is planning to further expand his presence in Europe and Latin America. In a filing with the Mexican Stock Exchange on Monday, América Móvil said it will acquire an additional 23.47 % stake in Telekom Austria in a buyout offer, lifting the telecom giant's interest in the company to 50.8%.

For the 2014 World's Billionaires List, Gates took the top spot with a net worth of \$76 billion, while Slim came in at second richest with a net worth estimated at \$72 billion.

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