

# What do we expect from our Diaspora networks?

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# Questions to Panelists

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- What are the objectives and the origin of your network?
- 'Glass half-full': What are the results achieved today (give a couple of examples) and how do you measure them? This is the central question of your talk
- 'Glass half-empty': What are the weaknesses, problems, and why do they persist? Be frank.
- What are the dreams (strategic objectives) and immediate next steps?

# Pragmatic Diaspora Initiatives

- Chile: strong domestic institutions, weak private sector innovation
- Argentina: brilliant individuals, domestic institutions as a handicap
- Mexico: Red de Talentos as a vehicle for meaningful collaboration within the public sector

# ChileGlobal: from capable public sector to a new private sector

- ChileGlobal  
www.ChileGlobal.org: first discussions, October 2005;  
established June 2005 (meeting in San Francisco)
- Fundacion Chile as an institutional home
- Issues:
  - ‘everyone loves it’: risk slipping into the usual mode of conferences, events, databases with little tangible contributions;
  - Fundacion Chile as too restrictive, needs its own institution or autonomy within Fundacion Chile
  - Need to develop a couple of ‘strategic pilots’ (e.g. facilitation of early stage venture capital)

# Argentina: from private champions to capable public sector

- An imperative of a long view: in the medium-term, a difficult trajectory
- A search network of committed exceptions: in the public sector, domestic private sector and Diaspora
- Multiple institutional home: Ministry of Labor, Centro Argentino, no single institutional anchor
- A strategic pilot: early stage venture capital and the focus on the deal flow
- Vibrant brain circulation networks already exist (more so than in Chile)

# Mexico: humble in the short-run, ambitious in the long-run

- Mexico: Red de Talentos para Innovacion (<http://www.reddetalentos.com>)
- Humble: bottom-up localized problem-solving networks organised around local chapters (Houston, San Jose)
- Ambitious: do not shy away from big issues (image of Mexico as a high-tech destination)
- But focusing on demonstration cases and success stories
- Two types of institutional homes:  
TechBa in San Jose  
CONACYT, IME and Ministry of Economy
- Will it survive the transition of the administration? Probably, but how?

# Conclusions

1. Diasporas can be very useful for home countries but to develop their potential, concerted effort is required. This concerted effort takes time.
2. In the short term, individual champions and tangible success stories (demonstration effects) are the key
3. In the longer-term, institutions of the home countries are the key (Diasporas are not a panacea)
4. Focus on pragmatism: **relying on individual champions to develop institutions**