



Gobierno del Estado
Libre y Soberano de
Quintana Roo

October 30, 2003

Department of State EB/CBA – Room 23
C/o Nancy Smith-Nissley
(re: Partnership for Prosperity Award)
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC. 20520
VIA FAX: 202-647-3953

Dear Ms. Smith-Nissley:

On behalf of Licenciado Joaquin Hendricks, Governor of the State of Quintana Roo (Mexico) and President of the Gulf of Mexico States Accord, it is my privilege to provide you with the Accord's nomination for the 2003 "Good Partner Award" under the US-Mexico Partnership for Prosperity initiative – *the first binational research project on the "red tide" phenomenon in the Gulf of Mexico*. This project was initiated by the Accord Working Group on Health, Environment & Ecology and is being implemented in collaboration with US and Mexican state and Federal authorities and research institutions.

The Gulf of Mexico States Accord is an international cooperative agreement, initiated in 1995 by the Governors of the eleven Mexican and US Gulf of Mexico basin border states. Those states are: Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas on the US side; Campeche, Quintana Roo, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Veracruz, and Yucatan on the Mexican side. The Accord brings state-level leadership in a well-defined sub-region of North America to define mutual interests, shape consensus and build political will to create new homeland security, transportation, environmental, economic development, educational, agricultural and commercial programs in the border states of the Gulf of Mexico basin. *The Gulf of Mexico States Partnership, Inc.* is established as the non-profit business association counterpart of the Accord. Working together under the Gulf of Mexico States Accord, these border states of the Gulf of Mexico basin have made significant strides toward achieving their goals of maximizing trade, tourism and infrastructure opportunities under the NAFTA.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this project nomination. Should you need any further information, please contact me at 727-709-3354.

Sincerely yours,

Gary L. Springer
Secretary-General

Gulf of Mexico States Accord General Secretariat
Century Bank of Florida Building
716 W. Fletcher Ave.
Tampa, FL 33612
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Nomination for the “Partnership for Prosperity” 2003 Good Partner Award

Nominating Party: Gulf of Mexico States Accord (GOMSA)

Nominee for Award: GOMSA Working Group on Health, Ecology & Environment

Award Criteria: US-Mexico Bilateral Environmental Research Program

Nominated Project: Gulf of Mexico States Accord “Binational Gulf of Mexico Research Program on “Red Tide” Phenomenon”

Background: On June 10-11, 2003, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Gulf of Mexico Program Office, in cooperation with the Co-Chairs of the Gulf of Mexico States Accord’s (GoMSA) Health, Ecology and the Environment Subcommittee, hosted the 1st Binational Collaboration Workshop on Red Tide Programs in New Orleans, Louisiana. The workshop was attended by a total of 65 technical and managerial experts from the state & Federal agencies and research institutions from both countries.

The workshop resulted in development of the foundational components of a Binational Plan for the Attention of Harmful Algal Blooms in the Gulf of Mexico. Additionally, the workshop resulted in a unanimous agreement and commitment to jointly pursue the implementation of 4 specific elements of the plan which will unify and enhance the red tide technical program management capacity of the 11 binational states bordering the Gulf of Mexico. These 4 elements involve:

- (1) Integrating and standardizing sampling methods and protocols;
- (2) Establishing a first-level coastal observing system infrastructure;
- (3) Extending NOAA’s near real time remote sensing capacity for detecting and analyzing the movement of red tide blooms to Mexico; and,
- (4) Establishing the basic information technology capacity to integrate these observational tools into the 11 States red tide event response programs.

The Gulf of Mexico States Accord fully endorsed the results and the plan of action which resulted from the conference.

Outcomes:

- Scientists will for the first time be able to create a more systematic study of the red tide phenomenon across the entire Gulf.
- This was the first joint Mexico-US scientific and research seminar on "hazardous algal blooms", the scientific description of "red tide" and other similar phenomena that create significant effects on public health, tourism, economic and fisheries throughout the Gulf of Mexico.
- Within 15 months, observation equipment will be placed on the Mexican side of the Gulf for the first time.
- Federal and state officials committed substantial planning, training and scientific resources as a consequence of this meeting, with additional commitments to seek funding for the program from both Federal governments.
- Placement of this observation equipment will also facilitate new navigation and other scientific equipment to be placed in the Gulf.

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1. Name, title, address and telephone number of person nominating:

Lic. Joaquin Hendricks Diaz
Governor of the State of Quintana Roo
And President, Gulf of Mexico States Accord
C/o Gary L. Springer, Secretary-General
Gulf of Mexico States Accord (www.gomsa.org)
General Secretariat
716 West Fletcher Avenue (Century Bank of Florida Building)
Tampa, Florida 33612
TEL: 727-709-3354

2. Company name, CEO/President, address, telephone and website of the enterprise or institution being nominated

Gulf of Mexico States Accord Working Group on Health, Ecology & Environment (www.gomsa.org)
Working Group Co-Chairs:

<p>Dr. Jorge Nicolas Chantiri Director de Regulacion de Salud de Veracruz Servicios de Salud Soconusco 31, Col Aguacatal Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico Telephone: 011-52-2288-40-75-23</p>	<p>Dr. Frank Muller-Karger Professor, Remote Sensing College of Marine Sciences, University of South Florida USF College of Marine Sciences, 140 7th Avenue South St. Petersburg, FL 33701 Telephone: 727-553-1186</p>
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Project Co-Leaders:

<p>Dr. Bryon O. Griffith Acting Director Gulf of Mexico Program Office Mail Code: EPA/GMPO Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000 Telephone: 228-688-1172</p>	<p>Lic. Juan Manuel Irigoyen Lopez General Coordinator Consejo de Desarrollo del Papaloapan Palacio de Gobierno, I. Zaragoza s/n Xalapa, Veracruz 91000 Telephone: 011-52-228/8417418</p>
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3. Headquarters of the Institution

The Accord is headquartered at its General Secretariat, located in the Tampa, Florida in the United States. Its address is:

Gulf of Mexico States Accord General Secretariat
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