Specialized center will study laws of Mexico

The University of Houston seeks to improve understanding of the laws of both countries independently
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MEXICO CITY, April 9. - The University of Houston announced this week the creation a new center of legal studies for Mexico and U.S., which will aim to improve understanding of the laws and legal institutions of both countries independently.

"There is great ignorance in the United States on the law and legal institutions of Mexico," said Stephen Zamora Excelsior, executive director of the center.

Zamora, who was awarded with the Order of the Aztec Eagle, granted to foreigners for outstanding services to the nation or humanity, said this kind of "Think Tank" (expert committee) is something that never existed, since it will focus on the study of Mexican law in the U.S.

The scholar considered that dialogue and legal research is needed in Mexico.

"It is not possible to reform a legal system of a country just by changing the law," he said.

"We must create, through institutions, continuing education and disposition of the professional," he added.

He said that to study a legal system in Mexico to assess its performance, it must be done with a realistic perspective and interest in current events.

In addition to research and analysis of the interaction between the legal systems of the U.S. and Mexico, the center will promote study abroad for law students, lawyers, judges and other professionals, including Canadian.

It will have several agencies, including governmental, which will provide funds for studies and specific research projects.

According to Zamora, the center already has LL.M. students, as in the U.S. the study of law is completed after obtaining a bachelor’s degree.

The members of the center will also collaborate on projects to promote cooperation.

Also, it will gather the point of view of different experts in Mexican law as those of affiliate scholars, the Mexico’s Supreme Court Justice, José Ramón Cossío Díaz and Miriam Grunstein, expert on international energy law.
The center already has cooperation agreements with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Petróleos Mexicanos, by which awards scholarships each year.