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Our Social Policy

Abengoa committed to growing alongside the communities in which it operates

Abengoa has embraced a commitment to growing alongside the communities in which it operates, fostering the creation of ties that reinforce the company's long-term relationship with society, while abiding by and promoting human rights in its sphere of influence.

Company development cannot be approached from the standpoint of economic growth alone, but rather must integrate the perspectives of its members, endeavoring to guarantee them the potential to pursue a rewarding life. Abengoa believes that the success of its social action lies in its dialogue with company stakeholders: taking their expectations into account when drawing up strategy and executing activity through a process of fluid communication among equals in order to establish a close relationship based on trust and collaboration between the company and society, thereby enabling us to progress together towards a sustainable future for all.

Abengoa upholds a genuine commitment to society in the communities in which the company operates, a commitment that materializes in clear and transparent communication between the company and society, striving for shared growth and promoting actions that lead to progress.

With the fundamental aim of helping to meet general needs through a multidisciplinary approach, the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, established in 1982, is the instrument through which the company interacts with society beyond its business activity.

Abengoa pursues mutual progress for the company and the community by developing and promoting initiatives that contribute towards balanced growth and to reinforcing the ties that bring the company and society together. Under this premise, the Focus-Abengoa Foundation channels its general efforts towards serving the community into five major areas: aid and assistance, culture, education, research, and employee social action.

Main Projects (M€)	2008	2009
Aid and Assistance	1.45	1.44
Culture	4.74	3.67
Education and Research	2.12	0.82
Employee Social Action	2.16	2.37
Total	10.47	8.30

Social action initiatives performed by Abengoa and its business groups over 2009.

More information in Appendix B

Aid and Assistance

Abengoa is unflinchingly committed to society, particularly in the communities in which the company operates, and therefore has pledged to grow alongside and through them, to create ties that strengthen the company's long-term relationship with society, while fostering respect for human and environmental rights in the company's sphere of influence.

Abengoa's commitment to society, sustainable development and the environment underlies all of its activities and is manifested in a quite unique way through the Focus-Abengoa Foundation.

The foundation shapes its social initiatives with participation from the members of the communities in which it conducts its activities, following a process of analysis and assessment governed by the internal norms defined for the realm of social action. There is intensive involvement in underprivileged areas with high poverty rates, in an attempt to respond to the different needs that arise in these communities. To this end, the situation is appraised beforehand in order to render the initiative more effective and subsequently carry out assessments to determine the effectiveness of the measures proposed.

Among the many aid and welfare programs carried out by Abengoa, project highlights include the following:

Argentina



In Argentina, the Focus-Abengoa Foundation has been working with the Hermanas de la Cruz (Sisters of the Cross Congregation) for 42 years, and since 2005 Foundation involvement has been conducted through the Un Derecho de Todos (A Right for Everyone) Educational and Body Exercises program (EBE), involving direct and ongoing programs that target the most vulnerable social groups, meaning those living in conditions of poverty, inequality or discrimination. Particular emphasis is placed on the following people:

- The disabled.
- Children and teenagers in situations of social risk.
- Young and adult women who have yet to complete their primary or secondary studies.

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation carries out its activities at three different centers, located in Quimilí and Monte Quemado, in the province of Santiago del Estero, and in Alderetes, in the province of Tucumán. The core objective of the EBE program is to improve quality of life for the people living in the communities where Abengoa operates by pursuing integration, participation and social equality for those who are most vulnerable.

To this end, the Focus-Abengoa Foundation works towards:

- Laying the foundations for dietary and nutritional education.
- Improving quality of life for large indigent families, paying special attention to children and the disabled.
- Devising mechanisms for improving local surroundings and basic services.
- Implementing social and educational practices.
- Building universally accessible places.

- Encouraging children's sports for pedagogical purposes and as a means of achieving integration.
- Enabling neighborhood meeting points for dealing with local issues (neighborhood association, basic services, and environmental protection).
- Setting up technical training sites for young men and women from disadvantaged social backgrounds and creating sheltered work for the disabled.

Peru



In Peru, the Focus-Abengoa Foundation has been working in collaboration with the Hermanas Josefinas de la Caridad (Josephine Sisters of Charity Congregation) since 2006 in the city of Comas, where the foundation supports the Madre Caterina home for the elderly, and also in the city of Chiclayo, where social action focuses on the Santa Ana day care facility. In 2009, implementation of the Educational and Body Exercises (EBE) program got underway through the deployment of task forces in each of the cities where the Josephine Sisters conduct their work. The foundation is also active in Manchay, where collaboration has been initiated with the parish of this settlement. Social action is focused on implementing practice sessions, seminars and events involving education, aid and assistance, and occupational training.

The ultimate aim of Abengoa's project in Peru is to enhance quality of life for:

- Children with unfulfilled basic needs.
- The disabled.
- Senior citizens.

In order to achieve the general goal of the EBE program in Peru, the Foundation is working on the following:

- Laying the foundations for dietary and nutritional education.
- Improving quality of life for people in situations of vulnerability, especially geared towards children, the disabled, and senior citizens.
- Fostering human capital by developing skills and abilities for securing a better future.
- Including other national programs and projects in online work.
- Creating universally accessible places.
- Implementing social and educational practices intended for these places.
- Enabling places for institutional and neighborhood gatherings to address local problems (school for parents, neighborhood association, basic services, and environmental protection).
- Building institutional and community awareness of the vulnerability of the rights of groups at social risk.

Chile



In Chile, since 2007 the Focus-Abengoa Foundation has been working together with the "Un Techo para Chile" (A Roof for Chile) organization, born in 1997 as a project for building emergency homes for families living in extreme poverty in southern Chile.

The aim of this organization is to provide decent housing for people living in Chilean camps in severe poverty, in addition to providing these people with ways to overcome this situation, through education, granting micro-loans, building libraries and

community organization.

Abengoa works with this organization in order to improve the quality of life of people living in extreme poverty in encampments.

To achieve this, the Foundation, acting through Abengoa Chile, provides volunteers for building emergency shelters in communities where the company operates. Since the beginning of its involvement with A Roof for Chile initiative, Abengoa has built seventeen homes, five of which were constructed in 2009.

Brazil

Over the years, the Foundation has undertaken specific social initiatives in Brazilian communities where Abengoa operates in order to respond to the needs of the population.



In 2009, Abengoa Brazil set up a specific Corporate Social Responsibility department which, among other things, will formalize and structure the initiatives carried out to benefit these communities, establishing ongoing programs and systems for evaluating the impact of the actions implemented.

Abengoa Brazil is presently developing the ARCA project, which will aim to:

- Assist people in need.
- Respect the environment in order to create a sustainable world.
- Cooperate towards enhancing child development.
- Support Brazil's cultural and sports programs.

In addition, in 2009 the Foundation undertook the following actions, among others, through Abengoa Brazil: "Café de manhã solidario" campaign to collect food, hygiene products and medicine for victims of the heavy rains that fell in the state of Maranhão at the beginning of the year; sponsorship of the "Escola Sociais Novos Talentos do Surf" project; and support of the Associação Protetora de Animais Silvestres de Assis (APASS), by building three hatcheries for treating injured and mistreated birds, which will also serve to provide information and heighten awareness on environmental protection.

Mexico

Through Abengoa Mexico, the Focus-Abengoa Foundation is working in conjunction with the Infantil Guadalupano, A.C. children's care home, an organization that takes in children, especially those at social risk, to reintegrate them into society through global education and social assistance.



Over the course of 2009, Abengoa México staged the VIII Annual Conference for Reforestation, which involved the plantation of 2,000 trees in the Desierto de los Leones National Park, thanks to the impartial participation of over 200 people, employees and family members and 65 children from the Guadalupano children's home. Abengoa also rolls out a host of different initiatives in the communities surrounding its waste treatment plant in the Mexican municipality of Zimapán. This is channeled through the ACZ Apoyo Comunitario Zimapán Foundation (ACZ), an organization

created specifically for this purpose.

The main social problems in Zimapán are migration, both to cities and to nearby countries, such as the United States; lack of employment and opportunities within the region; illiteracy; widespread difficulty in obtaining technical and professional training; all coupled with a shortage of funding, which is dragging back productive activities, as reflected by the practically non-existent transformation of products. Over 2009, the company staged numerous training workshops and implemented projects focusing on production, such as the construction of greenhouses and land conditioning for cattle raising.

Spain

In Spain, the Focus-Abengoa Foundation focuses its efforts primarily on care for the elderly.



Senior citizens represent a fundamental pillar of our society; hence, the need to provide them with proper care. To this end, Abengoa, through the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, worked together with the Society of Jesus on the construction in 1991 of the San Rafael Home for the Elderly, a building that currently accommodates 60 senior citizens in the city of Dos Hermanas outside Seville.

Each year, Abengoa works with the La Milagrosa Residence, a home for the elderly in San Roque, Cádiz, helping to maintain, improve and modernize the center's facilities. In addition, the Focus-Abengoa Foundation and the La Milagrosa foundation, in San Roque (Cádiz) signed an agreement to promote welfare activities for senior citizens, professional training for young adults and the unemployed and social cooperation with the most underprivileged groups of society.

Both the San Rafael charitable foundation and the La Milagrosa foundation are served by the congregation of the Josephine Sisters of Charity, the religious institution associated with Abengoa in Peru.

Case Study Sierra de Capivara Park, Brazil

In 2009, Abengoa Brazil supported the initiative to help conserve the Sierra de Capivara National Park, included on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Located in the state of Piauí, the park encompasses sites of both archeological and paleontological interest. Its 214 square kilometers boast one of the world's finest examples of cave painting, as well as one of the oldest pottery collections in America.



In this region, where the city of São João de Piauí is located, there is a segment of the ATE II power transmission line, one of Abengoa's substations and part of the National Park. The conservation project for this environment represented a tremendous opportunity for Abengoa Brazil to serve the local community and the environment at the same time, by creating work and by conserving one of the country's richest ecosystems.



For park maintenance, FUMDHAM (Fundação Museu do Homem Americano), a non-profit scientific and philanthropic entity associated with IBAMA (Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais), developed the Serra de Capivara National Park Management Plan, requiring support from companies such as Abengoa in order to put the plan into practice.

The primary objective of this project was to restore ecological balance through initiatives involving conservation, maintenance, surveillance and disclosure of the archeological sites located in the area.

The project is divided into two main points:

- Recovery of areas affected by erosion.
- Social action geared towards community orientation and integration.

The general objectives are as follows:

- Preserving the park's natural heritage and culture.
- Recovery of areas affected by rain and erosion.
- Protecting natural and cultural wealth.
- Maintaining infrastructure.
- Analysis and conservation of the collections obtained through research work.
- Regional economic development through the creation of direct and indirect employment.
- Promoting tourism.
- Maintaining and boosting the proportion of female staff working in the park.

Sierra de Capivera National Park conservation would not have been possible without simultaneous efforts to integrate the local population. The main beneficiaries of this activity are the members of the São Joan de Piauí community.

The following highlights are noteworthy among the results obtained:

- Creation of more than 163 permanent jobs.
- Creation of more than 100 temporary positions for carrying out specific park activities.
- Reforestation of areas affected by the heavy rains.
- Creation of environmental and heritage awareness departments.
- Staging of handicraft fairs.
- Artistic and cultural representation of local groups.
- Activation of the regional economy and socio-cultural development.

2009 Milestones

- Development of Protected Workshops for the disabled as suppliers to Teyma Abengoa (Argentina).
- Implementation of the "Voluntades... se buscan" (Looking for volunteers) program. Sponsored by Teyma Abengoa (Argentina) employees for children with problems regarding the continuation of their education.
- Regional expansion of the EBE program to include Peru: at the Madre Caterina senior citizens' home in Comas, the Santa Ana daycare center in Chiclayo and the special education Virgen del Rosario school in Manchay for people with disabilities and at social risk.
- Implementation of the "Familia y Calidad de Vida" (Family and Quality of Life) project in Monte Quemado. Construction of homes and social and academic monitoring.
- Expansion of the Educational and Body Exercise program to include the city of Tintina (Argentina).
- Teyma Abengoa (Argentina), for the second consecutive year, received the "Solidarity Entrepreneur" award from the Foro EcuMénico Social forum.
- Development of the ARCA project in Brazil.
- Sierra de Capibara National Park Conservation (Brazil).
- VIII Annual Conference on Reforestation, with 2,000 trees planted in the Desierto de los Leones National Park in Mexico.
- "Café de manhã solidario" campaign for victims of the heavy rains in the state of Maranhão (Brazil).

Training, Research and Dissemination of Knowledge

Fully aware of the importance of educating today's generations for future society, the foundation creates and promotes a variety of programs to promote quality training and education for everyone.

Training Program for the Disabled

For the third consecutive year, Abengoa, in conjunction with the Employment Council of the Andalusian Regional Government and the Safa Foundation, implemented the training program for the disabled.

This administrative secretarial course, funded almost entirely by the European Social Fund, includes a commitment to hire at least 60% of those who complete the program successfully, and these individuals will receive temporary contracts of at least six months upon completing the course. The program comprises 310 class hours and 24 paid internship days.

In addition, agreements have been established with the main organizations and bodies catering to the disabled in order to stimulate job creation and enable the disabled to access and integrate themselves into the labor market. The main lines of action include, among others, recruiting candidates for the different courses, announcing training opportunities, sponsoring promotional activities targeting the disabled, and intermediation in helping to fill vacancies.

Furthermore, over the course of 2009, Focus-Abengoa worked with the Human Resource Research and Development Group of the University of Seville in drawing up the Inserta Project, the aim of which is to enhance opportunities for work placement and integration of the disabled through specific recommendations and best practices of employer organizations.

The Focus-Abengoa Scholarship Program

In 2009, a total of 575 scholarship recipients took part in the Focus-Abengoa Scholarship Program, funded through the educational cooperation agreements that the foundation has undertaken with a variety of national and international academic institutions. In 2009, nineteen institutions were added to last year's figure of 97, for a total of 134 agreements. Sixty percent of the scholarship holders successfully completed their internships and have joined Abengoa's team of employees in 2009.

The foundation added the "U.S. Scholarship program" in 2009. This program gave five students the chance to supplement their training through work internships carried out at some of our companies located in the U.S. and Canada.

The cost of the 2009 Abengoa scholarship program totaled 1.023 M€.

The foundation creates and promotes a variety of programs to promote quality training and education for everyone

Vuela Program for Children of Abengoa employees

The Vuela Program began in 2008 with the aim of giving the children of company employees the chance to gain first-hand knowledge of the company where their parents work, while affording them initial work experience and the opportunity to get to know a different country and culture.

In 2009, fifteen Vuela program grants were awarded in the winter and summer groups.

Sixth edition of the School of the Baroque

Last November, the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, in collaboration with the Menéndez Pelayo International University (UIMP), inaugurated the sixth edition of the School of the Baroque, which, under the heading "Communication and the Baroque", was held at the Hospital de los Venerables, in Seville, the home of the foundation's headquarters, under the direction of Roger Chartier, director of studies at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris.

The theme of this edition of the School of the Baroque centered on both the 'servile' aspect of Baroque journalism as well as its condition as a potential stage for critical public debate; in both its first sensationalist manifestations as well as others closer to today's concept of 'serious' journalism.

Forum on Energy and Climate Change

Abengoa strives to contribute, through the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, to the debate on changing the energy model. And it seeks to do so through a multidisciplinary approach focusing on both technological and economic conditioning factors involving the utilization of clean energy sources, as well as institutional and political mechanisms that encourage or compel users and producers to make decisions compatible with a sustainable energy model.

The aim of this forum is to promote, through public debate, a genuinely open platform for research, presentation and contrasting of ideas and results through whatever actions are deemed relevant at a given time according to the nature of the issues to be analyzed. The goal is for the debate to be far-reaching and flexible enough to include and contrast as many other initiatives as considered suitable in relation to renewable energies and aspects involving climate change.

Under the umbrella of the Focus-Abengoa Forum on Energy and Climate Change, autonomous initiatives are organized and promoted, as well as all kinds of collaborative efforts involving other institutions, be they business-related, such as the Foundation for Studies in Applied Economics; academic, such as the Menéndez Pelayo International University; research institutes and centers; or, in general, any other public or private participating body with which joint action is carried out in the field of energy and the environment.

The Forum has its own website at www.energiaycambioclimatico.com, where debates are organized around the relationship between society, energy and climate change.

The following is a selection of the most significant Forum initiatives in 2009:

Focus-Abengoa-Fedea Research Program

The aim of the Fedea-Abengoa Energy and Climate Change Research Program, created through joint efforts by the Foundation for Studies in Applied Economics (Fedea) and the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, is to develop an interdisciplinary working team to stimulate debate and research on efficiency in the use of renewable energy sources, innovation in renewable energy sources, and the effects of these processes on the environment and the economy. Research of this kind seeks to enable further understanding of the technological and economic aspects underlying the changes in the energy model needed to face the challenge of climate change, as well as the institutional and political mechanisms that may lead to decisions in terms of production and consumption that are compatible with a sustainable energy model. Other noteworthy objectives of this program include generating ideas and disseminating results, in both the national and international academic realm, as well as among experts and negotiators in the area of economic policy.

In addition, academic gatherings and conferences related to environmental and energy matters are organized through this research project, and a platform has been created to facilitate electronic access to energy, environmental, and economic information.

2009 World Conference on Biofuels

In May, the Focus-Abengoa Foundation and F.O. Licht staged "World Biofuels 2009", the eighth edition of the World Conference on Biofuels, in Seville, bringing together representatives of biofuel producers and associations, oil operators, car manufacturers, and representatives from various European governments, raw material producers and consultants.



Case Study

School of Energy and Climate Change

In March, under the title "Energy supply security. A preventive energy policy", the School of Energy and Climate Change was held in Seville, within the framework of the Forum on Energy and Climate Change and organized by the Foundation and the Menéndez Pelayo International University (UIMP).

International experts from the energy sector, together with UIMP students, conducted in-depth analyses of the global energy supply. Noteworthy among the speakers were Rolf Linkohr, director of the Energy Strategy Center and honorary chairman of the European Energy Foundation; Michael Düren, physicist and founding member of the Desertec Foundation, which promotes the use of alternative energies; Ludger Mohrbach, researcher at the Reactor Technology Institute; Emilio Ontiveros, professor of Business Administration at the Autonomous University of Madrid; Juan Carlos Jiménez, assistant director of information studies, documentation and management at Spain's National Energy Commission; José Domínguez Abascal, Abengoa's chief technical officer, and Gustavo Marrero of the University of La Laguna.



Energy dependence has proven to be a key component of international policy today, a dependence that all countries seek to reduce as much as possible. Since taking office, U.S. president Barack Obama has also stressed the importance of lowering energy dependence, considering it to be a risk. However, dependence almost automatically turns into interdependence, which takes on a more positive meaning.

Interdependence may be understood as an attribute of stability among nations, for in the present situation of globalization, for example, in Europe, countries both supply and demand energy and many other goods and services. Thus, interdependence in terms of countries beyond European Union borders takes on greater importance: energy-supplying countries also depend in other areas on the countries demanding energy. In this way

energy dependence may become a stabilizing force: part of the art of politics is to transform dependence into stability, which must be taken into account in new European foreign policy. As diplomacy forges more stable relationships with neighboring countries and suppliers of oil and gas, heightened security in the energy supply will be the result.

Today's problems involving energy-ranging from implications for climate change to uncertainty with respect to the energy supply- have led to growing social awareness of the urgent need to develop a new energy blueprint in which clean energies and fuels are given priority, or the need to articulate preventive energy policies to champion security of the energy supply.

School participants had the chance to visit the solar complex built by Abengoa in Sanlúcar la Mayor (Seville), a global point of reference in solar power.

Photo taken by **Juan Aldamiz-Echevarría**
from Abengoa



2009 Milestones:

- Focus-Abengoa scholarship program.
- 2nd edition of the Vuela Program for employees' children.
- 5th edition of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation School of Energy and Climate Change.
- 6th edition of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation School of the Baroque, with this year's theme being "Communication and the Baroque".
- "World Biofuels 2009", the World Conference on Biofuels.
- Javier Benjumea Puigcerver Research Prize awarded to Federico París Carballo, professor of Mechanics of Continuous Media and Structure Theory at the Advanced Technical School of Industrial Engineering of the University of Seville.
- Prize for the best doctoral dissertation on a Sevillian topic awarded to Antonio Fernández Navarro for his thesis entitled "Reality and Fabulation of Seville through the texts of 19th century French travelers: Laborde, Mérimée, Gautier and Davillier".

- 1.023 M€ invested in the Abengoa scholarship program.
- Inserta project design, aimed at integrating the disabled into the labor force.

Preservation, Dissemination and Advancement of Art and Culture

One of the main objectives of the Foundation is to promote culture in its many artistic and scientific manifestations

One of the main objectives of the Foundation is to promote culture in its many artistic and scientific manifestations, addressing primarily need to preserve, disseminate and advance the historical and cultural heritage of Seville -the city where Abengoa's headquarters and the Focus-Abengoa Foundation are located- while also enhancing international exposure of the city.

Hospital de los Venerables

The Hospital de los Venerables, the Foundation headquarters, is located in the heart of the emblematic neighborhood of Santa Cruz in Seville, and today represents one of the most fascinating fully preserved examples of Baroque architecture in Seville from the second half of the 17th century.

In 1987, the Archbishopric of Seville, the Hermandad de los Venerables brotherhood and the Focus-Abengoa Foundation signed an agreement to make the building the foundation's headquarters.

The agreement requires the Focus-Abengoa Foundation to restore and maintain the historic building, and the Foundation, fully aware of the value and significance of the building, has always made great efforts to respect its exterior and interior design and layout. The aim of recovering this building was to give back to Spanish society a work of art that serves as a platform for pursuing valuable cultural and educational endeavors.

The Focus-Abengoa collection. Painting and graphic works

This collection is composed of 191 works that are the product of the Foundation initiatives, among which are the painting prize, monographic exhibitions promoted by prominent representatives of the current artistic scene, several proprietary acquisitions and donations.

Antonio López,
"Membrillero", 1990,
oil on canvas



This grouping of works of art features a wide variety of styles, schools and circles, ranging from rigorous objectivity more or less tinged with lyricism, to dramatic or abstract expressionism and maximal geometric abstraction. In short, all of the painting styles of the second half of the 20th century are represented in varying degrees of ambition and success.

Each year the depth of this collection is enhanced by the prizewinning works from the different editions of the painting prize, and through the acquisition of works selected through the award.

In September 2009, most of the painting and contemporary graphic arts collection was transferred to the Palmas Altas Campus, Abengoa's new headquarters.

The Diego Velázquez Research Center

The Diego Velázquez Research Center was created as the result of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation's acquisition of his "Santa Rufina" for the city of Seville, and responds to the need for a place of research, dissemination and reflection around the beginnings and consequences of the Sevillian painter's works. Until now, representation of his painting and legacy were wanting, and, in order to palliate this lack, the Focus-Abengoa Foundation and the City of Seville decided to join forces on the path towards a common objective, in which the greatest benefits are to be reaped from the very city where the artist began his training.

Permanent Collection

Since the 2008 unveiling of the Velázquez Center Permanent Collection, the Foundation has continued its unrelenting efforts to research, raise awareness of and reflect on the works of the Sevillian painter. Within the framework of activities, noteworthy are the seminars held on the works that make up this permanent collection. On this particular occasion, the May 2009 symposium centered on "Vista de Sevilla" (A View of Seville), an anonymous 17th century work. The focus was the importance of the painting from the historical, urban, artistic, aesthetic, social, literary and anthropological perspective.

The exhibition is composed of sixteen masterpieces, all of which were chosen with a clear didactic and scientific purpose from different institutions, including the Prado Museum, the Archbishopric of Seville, the Museum of Fine Arts of Asturias, the Selgas Fagalde Foundation, the City Council of Seville, and private collections and others belonging to the Focus-Abengoa Foundation.

In 2009, the Focus-Abengoa Foundation added two further masterpieces from the same period as the Sevillian painter to the "Velázquez Center" Permanent Collection: "Inmaculada Concepción", attributed by some to Alonso Cano and by others to Diego Velázquez, and Murillo's "Santa Catalina".

Educational Program

University of Seville students and Art History degree holders collaborate by conducting guided tours for elementary and secondary schools, senior citizens' centers, etc.

These tours are part of the Focus-Abengoa policy of promoting culture within the area of Seville, providing a unique opportunity for training and work experience.

For the school-aged audience, specific teaching materials have been developed, adapting them to the different learning stages. The activities in question bring participants closer to the history of art, while raising their understanding. They can be downloaded from the Foundation website.



Closing Ceremony of the Temporary Exhibition "Recovering Classical Antiquity in Andalusia"

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation and its commitment to culture and artistic heritage led to the Recovering Roman Bética project aimed at research and dissemination of Andalusian archeological heritage through different yet complementary perspectives: the publication of the Roman Bética Art trilogy; the archeological research project on Roman sites found in Sanlúcar la Mayor, where Abengoa erected its solar complex; and the Recovering Classical Antiquity in Andalusia exhibition which came to a close on February 28, 2009. The collection was commissioned by Fernando Amores Carredano and José Beltrán Fortes, professors of Archeology at the University of Seville; historian and artist Juan F. Lacomba; and Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez, honorary director of the Prado Museum and member of Spain's Royal Academy of History.

More than 25,000 people visited the exhibit, enjoying the opportunity to contemplate masterpieces of Andalusian Roman sculpture, examples of which include the Venus Italica (2nd century AD) and the Ephebe of Antequera (1st century AD), as well as the relief of the Battle of Actium.

Sevillian Topics Library

Following restoration of the Foundation's current headquarters, the bibliographical heritage amassed by the Foundation since it created the Library on Seville in 1981 was transferred to what was the former refectory and chapter house of the Hospital de los Venerables. Here over six thousand volumes dating from the 16th century to today are housed, all of which share a common element: they either deal with the history of Seville and its medieval kingdom or are works by Sevillian authors. Every year, the library is enriched through new acquisitions of documents and books. The library, which is open to researchers and scholars, extended access to its volumes by launching its Biblio 3000 Internet application, which enables the conveyance and dissemination of this rich cultural heritage.

Room of Engravings

The Foundation, which, since its creation in 1982, has boasted a large number of prints and etchings, decided that this delicate heritage of graphic art required facilities that would ensure both their preservation and their utility for scientific research. Therefore, aware of the significance of the engravings, the Foundation sought the collaboration in 1996 of the Director of National Engravings at the time, Juan Carrete Parrondo, who, together with Jesusa Vega and Gloria Solache, carried out the scientific task of preserving, mounting and cataloguing the close to three hundred engravings gathered together by Focus-Abengoa.

Case Study
"Inmaculada Concepción", Alonso Cano-Diego Velázquez,
h. 1618-1620

On February 11 in Seville, the Focus-Abengoa Foundation unveiled the work entitled "Inmaculada Concepción", attributed to Alonso Cano by Professor Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez, and to Diego de Velázquez by professor Jonathan Brown, but which will be added to the "Diego Velázquez Research Center".



The first news of the “Inmaculada Concepción”, before it turned up in the London art market on July 6, 1994, had come four years earlier, on June 22, 1990 to be precise, when it appeared in the hands of the Ader Picard Tajan auction house at an auction held at the George V Hotel in Paris.

From the moment the work appeared, the press reported a series of statements from a variety of experts agreeing or disagreeing with the accreditation to Velázquez or Alonso Cano. The most authoritative of them to refute attribution of the work to Velázquez was Professor Alfonso E. Pérez Sanchez, who acknowledged the significance of the work, but who was convinced that it should be attributed to the artist Alonso Cano, one of Velázquez’s fellow students.

In statements to the “El País” newspaper on June 9, 1994, he claimed, “Velázquez and Cano were disciples of Pacheco at the same time in Seville and this work no doubt comes from this school at such a time. The two young painters shared everything, even the same pots of paint and brushes. However, I am convinced that this “Inmaculada Concepción” was painted by Cano because it closely resembles the figure, composition and use of color of the other representations of the Immaculate Conception painted by Cano over the course of his lifetime, including his sculptures on the same theme, more so than those done by Velázquez”. These statements were elaborated upon years later by the author in the scientific article: *Novedades Velazqueñas*, in the Spanish Art Archive, 288, pp. 386-390, fig. 13, in which he explained his reasons for attributing the work to Alonso Cano.

Professor Jonathan Brown, on the other hand, was inclined to believe that the original artist was a young Velázquez, painted in Seville during his formative years between 1616 and 1618. According to Brown: “This is a genuine work of Velázquez, and I do not see Alonso Cano”, in statements he made to El País on June 9, 1994. Professor Brown has never published any scientific conclusions to this effect. In turn, Pérez Sánchez himself has always acknowledged the significance of the painting, regardless of who it is attributed to, stating: “This is a painting that could interest the Prado because it represents the workings between two eras and two key artists in Spanish painting”.

Given the importance and quality of the work, as well as the arguments of several art historians, “Inmaculada Concepción” undoubtedly falls within the aims and purposes of the Diego Velázquez Research Center. Among these reasons are the following:

- It is a unique example within the context of Sevillian painting at the time.
- It was painted in Seville between 1618 and 1620, within the scope of Francisco Pacheco, and at the heart of the debate surrounding “Inmaculada Concepción”, taking into account the outstanding example by Velázquez at the National Gallery in London.
- Its unquestionable connection with Velázquez in the use of pigments and technique.
- The lack of representative works of Alonso Cano from that time.
- As a testament to the interaction between painting and sculpture, by corroborating the influence of sculpture at that time by Juan Martínez Montañés and Alonso Cano, on the painting.

In 1997, Pérez Sánchez argued his case that it was a key work in the training of Cano and Velázquez with Pacheco in Seville regarding the treatment of figures – staunchly vertical in Velázquez’s case, and noticeably spindle-shaped by Cano – through the use

of clothing and the arrangement of the hands that is prevalent throughout his career and which, curiously, draws parallels with Francisco de Herrera "the elder", who used similar figures in one of his Immaculate Conceptions.

As far as the provenance of the work is concerned, it is likely that it comes from the collection of the Dean of the Cathedral of Seville, López Cepero (1778-1858), whose collection inventory cites two works by Velázquez : "Imposición de la casulla a san Ildefonso", and number 172 is the La Concepción, not the one at London's National Gallery, which came from the Carmen Calzado, for it had already been sold years earlier in 1809-1810 together with "San Juan en Patmos" to Bartholomew Frere, plenipotentiary minister of England.

It is quite feasible that the inventory of Dean López Cepero refers to the painting acquired now, rescued for the city in which it was painted. In support of this theory, we know that at a later date these two works, which will now be reunited at the Velázquez Center, were once again paired up in the descriptions and valuations of the Dean's paintings in the following way: "118. A painting two rods high and one and a half rods wide, original from the life of Velázquez, a bit deteriorated, representing Our Lady with a choir or virgins presenting the chasuble to St. Ildefonso... 19,000 reales" and number 119, "a Conception of the same size, with little difference and by the same artist, in good condition... 10,000 reales".

This is the root of the importance and significance of its incorporation into the Velázquez Center: its unquestionable Sevillian origin and the lack of points of reference from this fundamental period in the history of European painting.

Benito Navarrete, scientific advisor to the Diego Velázquez Research Center.

2009 Milestones

- Acquisition of the Alonso Cano – Diego Velázquez "Inmaculada Concepción".
- Acquisition of Murillo's "Santa Catalina".
- Symposium held on "Vista de Sevilla", a 17th century anonymous work
- Educational program.
- 1st Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez International Research Prize: "Velázquez and his century", awarded to Marta Cacho Casal.
- Andalusian Roman Art.
- Closing ceremony of the temporary "Recovering Classical Antiquity in Andalusia" exhibition.
- "From Earth to the Sun" archeological-technological project development.
- 2009 Focus-Abengoa Painting Prize awarded to Emilio González Sainz for his work entitled "Paisaje de costa con un vagabundo".
- 2009 New Organist Promotional Concert Series.
- 2009 Master Concert Series.
- 2009 Saint Ferdinand Feast Day Concert Mass and Master Concert.