



PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday, August 18th, 2009

Central Bank of Chile presented its new Family of Banknotes

With the presence of the President of the Republic, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, and the highest authorities of the country, the Central Bank of Chile presented today the new image and characteristics of the 5.000 pesos banknote, the first one of the new Family of Banknotes that will gradually replace the present series, currently in circulation as of approximately 30 years.

This new Family of Banknotes, more secure, modern and integrative, is the result of a long term technical and artistic work, developed with the most advanced technology available, to give citizens the means to strengthen the confidence and security that have always existed regarding Chilean banknotes.

The beginning of this renewal process is a matter of pride for the Central Bank of Chile and comes in the framework of the commemoration of the Bicentenary of the National Independence.

The Governor of the Central Bank of Chile, José De Gregorio, made the official presentation on behalf of the Institution's Board, in a speech during the ceremony carried out in the institutional building.

In order to the mandate established in its Basic Constitutional Act, to look after the stability of the currency and normal functioning of both internal and external payments as well as the exclusive legal authority of banknotes emission, the Central Bank of Chile has developed this new Family to adapt to new international scenarios and to the tendencies of the most important central banks in the world, anticipating to further technologic changes that, in the near future, could turn insecure the actual bills.

From today and during the next two years, the Central Bank of Chile will announce in due time, the start up of the circulation of each one of these banknotes, that will go hand in hand with spreading campaigns tending to accomplish that each one of the country's inhabitants be aware of its design and characteristics.

Due to the high importance this issue has for the citizenship, and by security reasons, this information will be kept in strict reserve until the Central Bank decides the moment to announce the denomination of the next banknote, as well as its design and characteristics.

Each banknote will gradually enter the market, so it will coexist with its old version until its total replacement. Thus the old version will keep its complete legitimacy, with identical value.

The new banknotes will maintain the same five existent denominations, but in some cases the material they are made of will change. Three of these banknotes will be

elaborated in polymer or plastic paper, while the other two will remain being manufactured in paper.

Even though all the denominations will maintain the same characters of the current banknotes in circulation, through sophisticated printing processes their designs will be modified, containing representations of natural landscapes, as well as symbols of our national identity, and more advanced security elements and features that will facilitate their identification to the general public, but specially for people with vision difficulties, senior citizens and blind people.

One of the characteristics to facilitate the recognition for non sighted or partially sighted people will be that between consecutive denominations there will be a difference in length of seven millimeters. But all banknotes will maintain the same height.

The selection of landscapes and portraits of the new family is the fruit of a great effort on the part of a committee of experts presided by Mr. Milan Ivelic, Director of the National Museum of Fine Arts, and made up of important personalities in the fields of culture, architecture, and numismatics.

Both for the design, as for the production of this new Family of Banknotes, a tender was carried out with national and international companies, whose selection was decided on the basis of analyses of the experts committee in charge of this process, a technical committee formed by Central Bank of Chile specialists and foreign advisors of central banks with which Chile has technical cooperation agreements, and supported by studies on public perception to which all proposals were submitted.

The design of the new Family of Banknotes was awarded to the Swedish company Crane AB, while the production of the new Family of Banknotes was awarded to the companies Note Printing Ltd (Australia) and Crane AB (Sweden).

New 5.000 pesos banknote

The new 5.000 pesos banknote will come into circulation next September 24 through commercial banks and, gradually, through Automatic Teller Machines and retail establishments. The new design will coexist with the present banknote until, in a natural way and according to normal processes this last one is completely replaced. The Central Bank estimates this process could last approximately one year.

From the technological stand point, the improvement of the new 5.000 pesos banknote is not only due to its material conformation, made of polymer which will allow a longer duration of between three and four times than the current banknote, but to improvements in its existing characteristics and new cutting-edge security elements, to facilitate recognition to both persons and banknote using equipment.

The obverse of this banknote maintains the portrait of Gabriela Mistral, based on an anonymous photograph obtained from the archives of Universidad de Chile, but incorporating images of the heart of the Copihue, the national flower, and the Antú, Mapuche symbol that represents the sun and fertility.

The reverse will have an image of the National Park La Campana, located in the Cordillera de la Costa in the Valparaíso Region that contains one of the few native forests of Chilean Palm Tree. It also has the image of a Tucúquere, bird of prey that

inhabits in forests, bushes and mountain ranges, from Tarapacá to Tierra del Fuego.

In the obverse of the new 5.000 banknote there will be a sophisticated impression and a pronounced relief, as well as security characteristics like a transparent window with a portrait and a number. An image of the incomplete number in both sides--that when watched at back light form the complete number--and the Antú in gold and pink, that changes colors when moved.

The landscapes that will be displayed in the rest of the banknotes will be made public by the Central Bank at the very moment these banknotes enter into circulation.

The characteristics of this new 5.000 banknote, as well as the information of the new Family are available in the Web site www.nuevosbilletes.cl, especially designed for this matter.

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