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Ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdés
Director, The Chile Project
Wednesday, May 6, 2009
Hilton Memphis
939 Ridge Lake Boulevard, 38120
Reception 6pm Dinner Seating 7pm

The Economic Club of Memphis and Memphis in May invite you to a dinner featuring Chilean Ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdés on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at the Hilton Memphis. The reception will begin at 6 pm and dinner seating will be at 7 pm.

Ambassador Valdés has enjoyed a long and distinguished political, diplomatic, and academic career. He is currently Director of the Chile Project, an organization dedicated to the promotion of Chile world-wide, by appointment of the President, Michelle Bachelet, a position he has held since 2007.

In 2008, Ambassador Valdés represented President Bachelet as a special envoy to the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) in response to the Bolivian conflict.

He has served as the Ambassador from Chile to Argentina, Iran, and Spain. From 2000 until 2003, he was Chile's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York and has done extensive work on behalf of Latin America for and within the United Nations.

In 1996, he was lead negotiator of the Free Trade Agreement between Chile and Canada. Prior to 1996, he represented Chile in economic relations with Canada, the European Union, Mexico, Peru, and Columbia in an effort to open external trade with the world market. He has held numerous other diplomatic positions representing his country and Latin America.

While in exile in Mexico during Chile's dictatorship, he became Director of the Latin American Institute of Transnational Studies (ILET), as well as Professor of International Relationships in the Center of Investigations of the Economic Development (CIDE).

After his return to Chile from exile and during the military regime, Ambassador Valdés actively participated in the political struggle in his country. He was a member of the board of directors and a frequent columnist for two magazines (APSI and Analysis) which promoted human rights and spoke out against the dictatorial régime.

Ambassador Valdés holds a PhD in Political Science from Princeton University. He is the author of numerous publications in the fields of political science and international relations including "*Pinochet's Economists: the Chicago School in Chile.*" He has been a visiting researcher at the Institute for Policy Studies, Washington, DC; the Princeton University Program in Latin American Studies; and at the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame in the United States.

Please join us to hear this dynamic speaker and his presentation in association with Memphis in May honoring the host country of Chile. RSVP by phone at (901) 678-2443, by fax at (901) 678-0876, or by e-mail to secretary@econclubmemphis.org. Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 29, 2009.