3-10-1993

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Category/Department: General
Published: Wednesday, March 10, 1993

The government's small business lender Nacional Financiera (NAFINSA) and the state-run oil company PEMEX both announced they will participate in a US$50 million multinational investment fund designed to support companies in Mexico that manufacture products used in conjunction with environmental protection campaigns. The fund dubbed the North American Environment Fund (NAEF) has raised US$22 million of the US$50 million targeted. NAFINSA director Oscar Espinoza Villarreal told the government news agency Notimex that private companies and government agencies in the US, Europe, and Japan will provide 55% of the needed funds, with the Mexican contribution at 45%. According to Espinoza, NAFINSA will contribute US$3 million to the fund, to be used specifically for a pollution testing laboratory. PEMEX has also agreed to contribute US$3 million to support enterprises involved in production of pollution-control implements, gasoline additives, energy-saving devices and recycling. According to Espinoza, the fund has the strong backing of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and US President Bill Clinton. (Sources: Agence France-Presse, Notimex, 02/03/93)

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