



**Governor Guillermo Padrés Elías
Welcoming Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer
Monday, October 26, 2009**

Thank you for joining me in welcoming our special guest on his first official visit as governor to the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan Area.

Today we are hosting this luncheon in honor of Governor Guillermo Padrés Elías of Sonora, Mexico.

This year's gubernatorial election in the state of Sonora was truly an unprecedented one – as the victor won the majority vote for the PAN Party -- after the PRI Party held the governorship for the last 80 years.

Governor Padrés began his political career as a Deputy for the State Legislature in 1997.

In 2000, he became a Congressman for the Chamber of Deputies, followed by a seat in the Senate in 2006 before becoming Governor last month.

He joins us here, today, with his lovely wife, Iveth Dagnino.

I had the privilege of attending Governor Padrés' Inauguration in September -- where I was honored to meet with top level Mexican federal Cabinet officials, and newly appointed local Cabinet members.

Governor Padrés and I immediately forged a strong relationship and a desire to work closely together for the benefit of our residents.

Today's luncheon is a great opportunity to continue solidifying the relationship established over 50 years ago between the Arizona-Mexico Commission and its counterpart the Comision Sonora Arizona.

**As leaders of these two organizations,
Governor Padrés and I have the ability to
take them to a new level of opportunity.**

**Please join me in giving a very warm
welcome to Governor Padrés, as he comes
forward to say a few words about his vision
for making his state a new Sonora.**