Carnival to invest $150 million in Mexican port infrastructure

By Edward Owen, Bowling Green Cruise Examiner

One cruise line doesn't seemed overly concerned about the future of cruise travel in Mexico, despite reports of violence toward passengers the past few months, and repeated warnings from US officials about traveling there.

Carnival announced this week they'll invest more than $150 million to help expand port infrastructure in Mexico. Investments will take place on both the Pacific and Caribbean Coasts, and includes nine new projects. These include a cruise terminal in Cozumel and another in Baja California Sur state.

On hand for the ceremony in Cozumel were representatives of Carnival, and **Mexican President Felipe Calderon**, as well as Mexican tourism industry officials.

The company has already invested $100 million so far on the projects.

Carnival President and CEO Gerald Cahill said, "Mexico is an attractive destination for the development of tourism business".

Cancun tourism leaders called on Calderon to back a campaign they've developed to counter alerts constantly being issued by US authorities. The campaign, is called the **'Stop Warning, Our Tourists Are OK'** campaign.

Relations between the cruise industry and Mexico have been strained of late, with **Princess** and Holland-America removing some cruises from Pacific based destinations, and reports of robbery in some ports. Both of those cruise lines recently announced they are returning some of their cruise dates.

In addition, last week Texas authorities issued a warning for students to not go to Mexico this spring break due to the possibilities of violence. Cancun and the Riviera Maya welcome an average of 50,000 students from across the United States during spring break each year.

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