The academic world must raise its voice: Sarukhán

Winner of the Tyler Environment Prize on Climate Change

The Maya Journey
Photo: News FCCyT

Mexico City
Wednesday, February 22, 2017

The position of president of the United States, Donald Trump, climate change implies that the other nations of the world must continue working and promoting the issue, he said Dr. José Sarukhán Kermez.

"What Donald Trump has said is a very string of nonsense, there are some measures being taken that will be very decisive," said the winner of the Tyler Environmental Prize. We have to do things well and continue to push the issue, he said.

"It's amazing that a person who has such a responsibility say that amount of incongruities as he has been saying," he lamented.

The award's executive committee reported that the Mexican ecologist will be honored for his scientific contributions in the fields of biodiversity and institutional strengthening.

The National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), which it owns, is considered the largest database of nationally accessible national biodiversity in the world, with more than 11.2 million specimens. It encompasses 10 federal secretariats and acquires knowledge and shape conservation policies and the sustainable use of Mexico's natural wealth, so that even the advisory council of the former president of the United States, Barack Obama, recommended that it be used as a model for that nation, adds the organization of the award.

"Few scientists could convince the president to find the budget for an agency for the conservation of knowledge at the federal level, but Sarukhan succeeded, and because of that, Mexico's ecosystems now have institutional oversight that actively protects their biodiversity." Said Julia Marton -Lefèvre, president of the Tyler Prize Executive Committee.

The ecologist said that people should be aware of the implications of research in the areas around them and their own health.

"I think the academic world has a contract with society to raise the voice if the information is not being properly used, perhaps because of political or economic reasons. I know that everyone is willing to do that kind of work,