

# REFORMA – City & Urban Life Section

## *Milagro* goes to the Popo and PEMEX

### **Volcanic and refinery emissions monitored to measure their impact on the Mexico City Metropolitan Area.**

Reforma (January 23, 2006).-

Scientists from the **MILAGRO** campaign, which aims to study atmospheric pollution in the Mexico City Metropolitan Area, will also analyze volcanic fumes and gases from the Popocatépetl and the refinery emissions from the state of Hidalgo.

The volcano and the PEMEX installation, 80 kilometers apart, influence the pollutant levels produced in the Mexico City Metropolitan Area.

Yesterday, Reforma published the details of the **MILAGRO** campaign that will conduct a large-scale study of the pollution in Mexico City and its impacts on other regions of the country and the world. Even NASA airplanes will be used for the purpose of this campaign.

“The objective is to understand how the emissions from both sites add to the pollutants from the city and later influence other regions”, explained the lead coordinator of the campaign, Luisa Molina.

At each location ground-based equipment will be installed to monitor and analyze the composition of the chemicals emitted to the atmosphere.

“With the records obtained from the aircrafts, satellites, fixed ground stations, radiosondes, and balloons, the compounds produced by the volcano will be detected in other regions of the city, the country or beyond”, indicated the research scientist from the Massachusetts Technological Institute.

In this way, people from other regions will find out if the fumes emanating from the Popocatépetl are affecting the air quality that they breathe or how the pollution from the Tula refinery influences the climate change of the planet.

### **Mega-study**

An in-depth analysis on pollution will be carried out in March.

- The campaign is called **MILAGRO**.
- 350 scientists and the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Mario Molina, are participating.
- They will use 6 airplanes, 3 of them from NASA.