

LATIN AMERICA DOWNUNDER

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Pan Pacific Perth

MEDIA ALERT

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Harcourt takes Airport Economist to Latin America

Firing up the final session of presentations at Paydirt's Latin America Down Under Conference in Perth, author and economist Tim Harcourt gave some insight into his upcoming TV show which will take a look at how business really operates in different regions of the world.

Author of the book *The Airport Economist*, Mr Harcourt has adapted the idea of the novel into a TV show by the same name and will be travelling to various countries throughout Latin America to get a sense of how business is done in those regions.

"We've just started in Peru. We interviewed a number of local businesses and we also interviewed a number of important Australian mining companies doing great work in the country," he said.

After Peru, Mr Harcourt took the show to Chile and recorded an episode there, before making plans to head to Mexico to record what he calls "The Mexican Moment".

"In Latin lessons, we looked very carefully at the manufacturing and agricultural base of Mexico, the openness of the Mexican economy and the connections between Mexico and the rest of the world, so we're very excited about the episode we're going to do there."

Mr Harcourt said there were a number of reasons why Latin America will be important to Australia in the future.

"One reason is the importance of the mining sector and services to mining, rocks and crops, but whenever people think of the 'innovation nation Australia' everyone assumes that innovation is in the form of someone who is 25 years old in a black skivvy, drinking

a café late and running the staff out of Surry Hills in a warehouse,” he said.

“But I can tell you, if you look at the mining sector and the mining equipment, technology and services sector, that’s where innovation comes from; from miners, from farmers, from people providing all of the services behind the sector. So, I’d like to see the innovation debate as much about mining and farming as anything else.”

Mr Harcourt’s presentation was one of the final presentations this afternoon, prior to a concluding panel featuring Azure Minerals Managing Director Tony Rovira, Kura Minerals Exploration Manager Thomas Eggers, Crusader Resources Executive Director Paul Stephen and PCF Capital Group Director Graeme Testar.



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