

Banorte named Bank of the year by The Financial Times Group's The Banker

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Mexico City, September 6, 2005. Today through its specialized magazine The Banker, the Financial Times Group, headquartered in London, England, awarded BANORTE the title of Bank of the Year in Mexico.

Banco Mercantil del Norte competed with all of the other banks currently operating in Mexico in order to obtain the sought-after recognition, and was awarded the title for varying performance-related factors such as increased earnings and its loan portfolio, reduced past due loan portfolio and a substantially increased efficiency ratio, all of which speak to significant financial strength.

On a global level, The Banker's editors assess over 500 banks in at least 130 countries the world over. The coveted "The Banker's country awards" takes comprehensive performance of participating financial institutions into consideration, such as their most recent profits, as well as the extent of their technological usage, degree of innovation, development strategies that have impacted their market standings and their long-term development.

Upon receiving the award, Luis Peña Kegel, Director General of Grupo Financiero Banorte, stated the following: "Awards such as this are a great incentive for our bank to continue to work not just to benefit out shareholders, investors and co-workers, but more importantly to benefit our customers, the people who have deposited the trust of their savings in Banorte, the bank whose actions have proven time and again that it believes in Mexicans."