



## Mexican mayor to return to US to work as gardener 墨西哥市長卸任後赴美當園丁

A Mexican mayor who dreams of becoming a gardener in the US is confident that **the grass really is greener on the other side of the fence**. Carlos Guzman Camarena worked as a gardener in the US for 25 years and is once again getting ready to cross the border in search of a better paycheck, the *Reforma* newspaper reported.

Camarena has served two terms **representing** two different parties (2000-03 and from 2006) as mayor of Uriangato, a town of more than 50,000 people in the central Mexican state of Guanajuato.

His current mandate ends on October 10, and Guzman has no **doubts** as to his future.

"I am going back (to the US) and I am looking for work in a firm. They know I speak English, I have a driver's licence and a lot of experience," he was quoted as saying.

As a mayor, he earns US\$3,730 a month. Across the border, where he had risen to become a gardening su-

pervisor, he says he earned an **average** of US\$6,300 a month.

"There is no possible comparison. You earn more in the US," he said. "I want to earn a little more, because the salary you get as mayor cannot be compared with that of a gardening supervisor."

Some 11 million Mexicans live and work in the United States, with an estimated 7 million doing so illegally. The newspaper did not specify what Guzman Camarena's immigration **status** would be.

(STAFF WRITER WITH DPA)

—— 位夢想到美國當園丁的墨西哥市長相信外國的月亮一定比較圓。墨西哥《改革報》報導，曾在美國當了二十五年園丁的卡洛斯·蓋滋曼·卡馬瑞納，已經準備好為了更豐厚的薪餉再次赴美工作。

卡馬瑞納曾經代表兩個不同政黨出任兩屆尤里安加托市市長（二〇〇〇至二〇〇三年，及二〇〇六年起迄今），該市是墨西哥中部瓜納華托州的一個市鎮，人口超過五萬人。

卡馬瑞納現任任期至十月十日屆滿，而他對未來一點也不徬徨。

報導中提到他說：「我要回去（美國），找一個農場的工作。我會說英文，我有駕照，又經驗豐富。」

他擔任市長的月薪是三千七百三十美元。但他過去在美國曾被拔擢擔任園藝督導，他說當時一個月平均薪資是六千三百美元。

他說：「這完全沒得比。美國收入就是比較高。我想賺多一點錢，因為在墨西哥當市長的薪水完全比不上在美國當一個園藝督導。」

約有一千一百萬墨西哥人在美國生活及工作，其中約有七百萬人沒有身份。報導中並未詳述蓋滋曼·卡馬瑞納會以何身份移居。

(德通社/翻譯：袁星塵)

A gardener pushes a lawnmower through the park outside the Kurhaus (spa) of the German health resort of Baden-Baden on March 31, 2009.

PHOTO: REUTERS/WOLFGANG RATTAY

三月三十一日，一位園丁在德國康養勝地巴登巴登的「水療保養館」外除草。

照片：路透社/沃夫岡·拉泰

### TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **represent** /ˌreprɪˈzent/ v.

代表 (dai4 biao3)

例：Gary represents his town at tennis.  
(蓋瑞是他們鎮上的網球選手。)

2. **doubt** /daʊt/ v./n.

懷疑 (huai2 yi2)

例：Luke spends a lot of time studying, but I doubt he's smart enough to go to law school.  
(盧克花了很多時間讀書，不過我懷疑他夠聰明到考得上法學院。)

3. **average** /ˈævərɪdʒ/ adj./n.

平均值 (ping2 jun1 zhi2)

例：The average wage has increased 15 percent in the last ten years.  
(過去十年來，平均薪資成長了一成五。)

4. **status** /ˈstætəs/ n.

狀態 (zhuang4 tai4) · 身份 (shen1 fen4)

例：Inform the tax office if your marital status changes.  
(若婚姻狀態有變更，請知會國稅局。)

### IDIOM POINT 重要片語

**the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence**  
別人的總是比較好

If somebody says **the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence**, they mean that other people's situations often appear to be a lot better than they actually are. The expression is often shortened to "**the grass is always greener**."

Example: "Marie and Jack always seem happy together, but **the grass is always greener**, I guess."

若某人說「the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence」，他的意思就是說別人的狀況常看起來比實際情形好上許多。這個說法通常會簡化說成「the grass is always greener」。

例如：「瑪莉和傑克在一起看起來總是很開心，但我猜我只是看別人都覺得比較好罷了」。

### OUT LOUD 對話練習

Zoey: How's your new gardening job going?

Ozvaldo: I love it. I get to spend all day outdoors. Look at my suntan!

Zoey: It's great. How is the salary?

Ozvaldo: It's not that high, but the boss pays me **under the table** so I don't pay any taxes.

Zoey: That's illegal! You'll get in trouble if you get caught.

Ozvaldo: Yeah, I should probably do something about that.

柔伊：你的園藝新工作做得怎麼樣了？

奧茲瓦多：我愛極了！我可以整天都在戶外，看看我的膚色！

柔伊：很好看，那薪水好嗎？

奧茲瓦多：薪水沒有很高，但老闆是私下付錢給我，所以我不用繳稅。

柔伊：那是不合法的！你被抓到的話就慘了。

奧茲瓦多：沒錯，也許我該想個辦法。

**under the table** 秘密地

If something happens **under the table**, it is done in secret.

若某件事的發生是「under the table」，就表示這件事以秘密的方式進行。