

**Xinhua. 2001. "Chile Ranked Second Best Investment Environment". Xinhua, February 8**

SANTIAGO, February 7 (Xinhua) -- Chile is ranked the second- best country in the world to invest in and on a par with the United States, according to a study conducted by an international consulting company Price Waterhouse Coopers, the local newspaper El Diario said Wednesday.

The study, based on interviews with various people from businessmen to world investment analysts, ranked 35 nations according to the difficulties foreign multinationals face when investing in these countries.

Specific criteria included the degree of corruption, legislation regarding business contracts and private property, macroeconomic and fiscal procedures, accountancy standards and practices and business regulatory systems.

According to the report, Chile ranked second after Singapore, a rating that placed it above world market centers such as the United Kingdom and Hong Kong.

Some sector analysts, however, are skeptical of the results and doubt that Chile ranks higher than the United Kingdom and other European countries in terms of transparency and ease of foreign investment.

"It is unbelievable and pretentious to claim that Chile ranks second in the world," said Tomas Flores, director of the Economic Program of the Chilean Institute of Liberty and Development.

Flores does not doubt that Chile is a world competitor for foreign investment but states that the country "is by no means in the world's top ten." Enditem