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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 114

IMF mission praises the country's growth

The delegation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) visiting the country, concluded yesterday the consultations corresponding to Article IV of the founding treaty of that international organization, which orders to supervise the fulfillment of the general obligations of the member countries.

This seeks to comply with the text that orders the IMF “to supervise the international monetary system in order to ensure its proper functioning”.

The members of the mission, led by Aliona Cebotari, were received by President Danilo Medina at the Presidential Palace (Palacio Nacional), accompanied by the Governor of the Central Bank, Héctor Valdez Albizu; the Minister of Finance, Donald Guerrero, and other officials.

Cebotari praised the institutional advances achieved by the country in recent years.

Conclusions

Aliona Cebotari, who made her last visit to the country as Head of the Mission, highlighted the solid macroeconomic foundations of the Dominican Republic, with growth above its potential, low inflation, and its international reserves.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 115

Chinese Ambassador highlights the increase of tourists visiting the Dominican Republic

The Minister of, Francisco Javier García received a visit of the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China iTourismn the Dominican Republic, Zhang Run, in which they discussed issues related to trade exchange and the flow of tourists between both nations.

The visit of the Asian diplomat to Minister Garcia took place on Wednesday morning, in the Ministry of Tourism (MITUR), and lasted for more than an hour.

Upon ending the meeting, Run said that as part of the relations, work is being carried out in the subject of tourism on specific projects with familiarization groups, tour operators, and Chinese media, as well as on facilitating the processing of visas in order to promote a greater flow of visitors between both countries.

The diplomat said that he took the opportunity to extend an invitation to the Minister of Tourism to visit that nation accompanied by local businessmen to explore the opportunities offered by the Chinese tourism market.

He expressed that, as a result of these efforts and the productive relations between both nations, there has been an increase in the flow of visitors from both Dominicans to China, by 41%, and from Chinese citizens to Quisqueya, by 33%, which is a clear sign of these endeavors.

For his part, the Minister of Tourism thanked the diplomat for his visit and indicated that during the meeting they analyzed various aspects related to the tourism industry.

“Ambassador Zhang Run's visit was truly fruitful. We exchanged impressions on various topics and expressed our interest in getting his fellow countrymen to visit our country”, said Garcia.

The official stated that for years the Ministry of Tourism has been taking measures to attract Chinese tourists, in consequence, since the moment when the relations officially began MITUR offices were established in the Asian giant.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 116

CNZFE highlights it is a good time to create new free zone industrial parks in Dominican Republic

Security difficulties in some cities of Central America and the trade war between the United States and China place the Dominican Republic as the first option for the establishment of new free zone industrial parks. This was stated by the Executive Director of the National Council of Free Zones (CNZFE), Luisa Fernández, in an interview published in the Bulletin of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and SMEs (MICM).

Fernandez described the current situation as “historical” and added that the inventory reduction of large commercial chains has also favored the companies established in the country.

“All the Dominican private industrial parks are occupied, and the public ones, managed by Pro Industria, only have eight or nine industrial warehouses available”, said the official, referring to the two awards she received in 2018 for the achievements made during her fourteen years managing the institution.

She highlighted the good moment that free zones are going through in the country and explained that they registered a relative growth of 17.3 percent, going from 584 companies in 2012 to 685 in 2018.

Fernandez also spoke about the improvements in the quality of employment and asserted that in the local parks there are no maquilas anymore; “A company that makes pants, makes fabric, designs, sews, and ships, that's not a maquila”.

She also referred to the incentives that free zone companies offer for on-time delivery, for producing pieces without defects, as well as for transportation and free food according to work shifts, “which is more than a minimum wage”.

Regarding exports of services, the executive announced that this year the Central Bank will include in the balance of trade what the Dominican services industry produces, which represents an additional 5,674 million pesos.

With regard to academic training, she listed the actions that the CNZFE is carrying out with the Ministry of Education, as it is the case with the visits of high school students to free zone parks to motivate them to study careers such as industrial engineering, chemical engineering, finance, logistics, and value chain.

The call centers alone, 27 in total, “have employed some 27 thousand people; It is a thriving area of services and, for this reason, we must improve the level of English taught in schools so that we do not lose that industry”, she said.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 117

The Central Bank affirms that economic growth favors a sustained increase in job creation

The Central Bank (BC) reported Wednesday that the growth of the Dominican economy, by the order of 6.0% in recent years, has favored the sustained increase in job creation or “new net employment” in the country.

The issuing body asserts that this economic growth also favored an improvement in all indicators of labor underutilization that are recommended by the International Labor Organization (ILO).

They added that this reflects the positive link between the dynamism of the economy and employment in the Dominican Republic.

The BC published a document with the theme: Dominican Labor Market: advances in job creation and reduction of unemployment, by the Department of National Accounts and Economic Statistics.

This document comes about in response to an analysis on the subject carried out by the economist Pavel Isa Contreras, published in a newspaper of national circulation, with the title “The figures of employment”.

In his analysis, Isa Contreras questions “to what degree, if so, President (Danilo Medina) and the Government are right when it comes to feeling satisfied with the results” of the labor market.

The financial institution pointed out the indicators that show that the official rate of unemployed people actively seeking work (open unemployed) went from 8.8% in July-September 2014 to 5.8% in the last quarter of 2018.

Likewise, the indicator that takes into account both the open unemployed (actively seeking work) and the discouraged unemployed workers (who are included in the so-called potential workforce), went from 17.9% in July-September 2014 to 11.0% in October-December 2018, which meant a historical low.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 118

Dominican Republic joins the Swedish-Central American Chamber of Commerce

Dominican Republic has become part of the Swedish-Central American Chamber of Commerce (SWECA), starting in March, after receiving the invitation of the directors of the Chamber and the member countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA).

In a symbolic ceremony held at the premises of AG Advokat, SWECA President P-G Jönsson welcomed Dominican Ambassador Laura Faxas, who after having thanked the organization for the invitation, gave a presentation on the role of the Dominican Republic on the international stage, highlighting its importance as a business destination and investment in areas of great interest such as tourism, free zones, the film industry, among others.

Faxas also highlighted the advances that are currently being made in terms of trade and investment, as a result of the visit of a Swedish business delegation to the Dominican Republic in October 2018, and the subsequent meetings held by a group of Dominican businessmen in their visit to Sweden in November 2018.

These meetings were held in coordination with the European Union, the Euro-chamber, the Export and Investment Center of the Dominican Republic (CEI-RD), the Directorate General for Multilateral Cooperation (DIGECOOM) and the Dominican Ministry of Foreign Relations. Both missions were oriented towards the establishment of a general framework to favor trade development, investment, and cooperation between Sweden and this Caribbean country.

At the end of the activity, a dynamic round of discussion was held between important representatives of the Swedish business community, from Business Sweden, as well as the ambassadors of Central America.

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NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 119

Chinese delegation reviews agreements signed with the Dominican Republic

Yesterday, the People's Republic of China and the Dominican Republic reviewed the first eleven months of their diplomatic relations in a meeting that lasted more than three hours, in which the key issue was how to encourage Dominican exports to the Chinese market.

After meeting with President Danilo Medina at the Presidential Palace, Vice Premier Hu Chunhua and a delegation of senior Chinese officials discussed different issues with seven Dominican ministers, and at the end of the encounter the Minister of Foreign Affairs Miguel Vargas stated that progress was made in nine out of the 18 agreements signed by the two governments last November.

The export of Dominican products to China was one of the issues addressed by President Medina and Dominican officials with Hu Chunhua and the delegation of officials that visited the country, as well as the follow-up of the 18 agreements signed by both governments.

“It was a meeting that was scheduled with the Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China and, in that sense, we addressed issues that are on our bilateral agenda like cooperation, investment, and trade, especially in relation to the export our products to the People's Republic of China. I think it is an important scenario for the country, for our products, and in that respect we made a lot of progress in today's meeting (yesterday)”, the Minister of Foreign Affairs pointed out.

The agreements cover cooperation in financial affairs, trade, immigration, agriculture, education, tourism, and air navigation, among others.

At the meeting were present the Minister of Agriculture, Osmar Benítez; of Tourism, Francisco Javier García; of Industry and Commerce, Nelson Toca; and of Economy, Planning and Development, Isidoro Santana, and it was headed by José Ramón Peralta, Administrative Minister of the Presidency.

Vargas said that Hu will visit the free zones, the Colonial City, and will meet with the Chinese community in the country.

The meeting was attended by Zhang Run, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the country; Zhao Bentham, General Director for Latin America of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Liu Xianfa, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, and Zhou Liujum, Vice President of the International Cooperation Agency.

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NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 120

US\$960 million have been invested in the country's clean energy industry

In the Dominican Republic, 960 million dollars have been invested in renewable energy projects of the private sector, considering that eight of them have been completed and that each one has cost around 120 million dollars.

“Four other projects are at a very advanced stage for completion”, said the Executive Vice President of the Dominican Corporation of State Electricity Companies (CDEEE), Rubén Jiménez Bichara.

After delivering the opening remarks at the seminar: “Integration of Renewable Energy in the Electric System of the Dominican Republic”, at the El Embajador hotel in the capital, the official told reporters that in terms of renewable energy, within the first advancement plan, which has a portfolio of 12 projects, eight are virtually completed, since six of them have been inaugurated already and two will be inaugurated in April and May.

“The intention is to be able to guarantee at least five to six projects per year in the next five years. We will be a regional and global benchmark for renewable energy in terms of electricity”, said the CDEEE’s official. He said that the goal for this year is to reach at least 700 megawatts of installed capacity of renewable energy. “That puts us at a percentage close to 18%”, he said.

He estimated that 207.3 new megawatts of renewable energy will enter the system this year, while in 2020 another 96 megawatts of solar and wind projects will be in operation to reach a total of 604.5 megawatts of clean energy next year. He stated that on top of this amount of renewable energy, we also have to take into account the more than 600 megawatts of installed capacity of the Government’s hydroelectric plants, as well as the 114 megawatts from the combined-cycle power plant of AES Dominicana in Los Mina, which consists in the addition of energy without the use of additional fuel, which also translates into clean energy.

“The increase in wind and solar generation units is the result of the Government's firm decision to change the generation matrix and integrate renewable energy sources”, said the head of the CDEEE. The power plants installed so far are the Los Cocos 1, Quilvio Cabrera, Los Cocos 2, Larimar 1 and Larimar II, Monte Plata Solar and San Pedro Bio-Energy wind farms. The ones that will start operations in 2019 and 2020 are the wind farms Matafongo, Guanillo, Agua Clara, Guzmancito and Puerto Plata Imbert, and the photovoltaic plants Solar Canoa and Washington Capital.

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NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 121

United Kingdom guarantees trade continuity with the Dominican Republic

The Dominican Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Hugo Guiliani Cury, and the British Minister for the Americas, Sir Alan Duncan, signed an agreement that guarantees trade continuity between the Dominican Republic and the United Kingdom. In 2017, total trade between both countries amounted to almost US \$275 million.

The agreement will allow companies and enterprises from both countries to continue their business dealings as they have done so far, under the umbrella of the CARIFORUM-UK agreement, without additional tariffs or barriers.

The signing of the agreement was welcomed by the British Chamber of Commerce in the Dominican Republic (BRITCHAM) and other British companies in the country.

The British Ambassador to the country, Chris Campbell, congratulated the Minister of Foreign Affairs Miguel Vargas and his team at MIREX for this great achievement and stated that "Almost 169 years after the Dominican Republic signed its first trade agreement in 1850, which coincidentally was with the United Kingdom, I am very pleased that the Dominican government signed today the trade continuity agreement that will take the business relations between the United Kingdom and the Dominican Republic to, what I believe, a new era of growth and triumphs for our countries and our respective companies".

The agreement will help support jobs in the United Kingdom and in the Dominican Republic and will ensure that trade between the two countries continues.

A new era for the region

With the signing of the new CARIFORUM-UK trade continuity agreement, which includes the Dominican Republic, exporters of bananas and other fruits and nuts could save more than US \$18 million per year in tariff charges that could be applied in the absence of the agreement.

The new agreement also covers the service sector, including tourism, which will benefit Britons visiting the Caribbean, including the nearly 190,000 that visit the Dominican Republic each year.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 122

The Dominican Republic produces 200 million quintals of food

The Minister of Agriculture, Osmar Benítez, assessed the potential of the Dominican Republic for food production and self-sufficiency. He informed that by the end of 2018, the country surpassed 200 million quintals of food produced, which represents 85% of the national demand.

He expressed that this growth is the result of an investment policy implemented by the Government for the productive regions through the “Visitas Sorpresa” program, which injects capital, technology, and it opens markets for small producers to generate wealth.

The agriculture fair “Feria Nacional Agropecuaria 2019” is an example of the revolution the sector is experiencing. Here we can witness how the small producers that were benefited by the “Visitas Sorpresa” are already exporting and taking their place in the development of their communities”, he explained.

“The result of a policy based on the growth of the credit portfolio, the reduction of the interest rate on loans, a land titling program, the promotion of the Agricultural Insurance, and an investment of more than \$40 billion Dominican pesos. By means of the “Visitas Sorpresa” program, the Government has focused all its attention on the national agricultural sector, providing a greater stimulus to all productive sectors”, the Minister emphasized.

He said that despite the drought that affects a large part of the national territory, which could extend until the end of April in the Dominican Republic, there will be no shortage.

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NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 123

Dominican Republic, among the 10 most searched countries in Google from the US

The Dominican Republic is a tourist destination that is increasingly of interest to US citizens. Last year the country received 2.2 million tourists from the United States.

Giovanny Stella, Google Manager for Colombia, Central America and the Caribbean, said that the Dominican Republic is on the list of the 10 most searched countries on Google by people living in the United States, above Germany.

During his participation in the Wyndham Hotels & Resorts Regional Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean, Stella said that the country is in second place, second only to Mexico, in the list of the most searched countries of Latin America from the United States.

As for cities and tourist destinations in Latin America, people from the United States look more often into Cancun, in Mexico, and Punta Cana, in the Dominican Republic, thus demonstrating the interest they have in visiting those places.

“There is a very strong interest from the United States towards Mexico, which is something that at the tourism level can and should be capitalized. Also towards the Dominican Republic, there are more searches about that country than about Germany, it is an interesting fact”, said Giovanny Stella in his presentation.

The expert says that this information is very significant because it can generate interesting “insights” when making decisions for marketing campaigns and digital communication.

He also highlighted the importance for companies in the tourism industry to have a digital strategy that makes their information visible on the internet.

He considered that it is a market where cell phones are increasingly taking relevance and that the tourism industry must take that into account when thinking about how to manage their presence online.

Looking into the future, he said that there has been talks about digital transformation and artificial intelligence, which he defined as important and relevant issues at this time, adding that Google's main effort is artificial intelligence.

“People will be incorporating into their daily habits more and more elements with integrated artificial intelligence and that will change the way people interact with their activities and hotels”, said the expert during his speech.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 124

Dominican Republic has more than a hundred players in the Major Leagues

More than 100 Dominican players were included in the rosters of Major League teams at the start of the season, the first time a foreign nation exceeds a hundred players.

Major League Baseball reported Friday that 251 of 882 players on opening-day rosters, injured lists and the restricted list were born outside of the United States. Among those, 102 were from the Dominican Republic. That comes to 11.6 per cent, just behind the 11.7 per cent record it set in 2007 with 99 of 849.

Dominicans are responsible for 40.6 percent of all foreign-born players, the highest number ever recorded. They surpassed the previous mark of 40.4 percent that was reached in 1995 (57 of 141).

The total number of international players is the third highest, behind 259 in 2017 and 254 from last year. The 28.5 percent is a slight setback compared to the 29 percent from last year and it is the fifth highest. The record was 29.8 percent set in 2017.

Venezuela provides the second highest number of players with 68, followed by Cuba (19); Puerto Rico (18); Mexico (eight); Japan and Canada (six each); Curacao and South Korea (five each); and Colombia (four).

Germany, Aruba, Australia, Brazil, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Nicaragua, Panama, Taiwan and the US Virgin Islands have one per head.

Minnesota Twins and the Pittsburgh Pirates have the most international players on their payroll, each with 14. They are followed by Chicago White Sox with 13 and Miami and Tampa Bay with 11 each.

As for the most diverse rosters, Los Angeles Dodgers, the New York Yankees, and Oakland have players from seven countries or different territories to be leaders in the majors.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 125

Construction industry grew 8.1% in 2018

The construction industry grew 8.1% in 2018, representing 12.2% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). During this year the projection of growth exceeds 10% on the basis of the indicators of inflation, monetary policy, credits, interest rate, and jobs.

The total square meters of construction recorded as of May 2018 is 5,176,049, where 73.8% corresponded to the private sector, 2.7% to the public sector and 19.8% to public-private partnerships.

The information was offered by the economist Jacqueline Mora, from Analytica, while giving a lecture to a group of builders and addressing the economic prospects for the country in 2019.

The average growth in construction is 10%.

The conference was sponsored by the “Asociación Cibao de Ahorros y Préstamos”.

The opening words of the activity were given by the Vice President of Business Development for the South and East regions, Randolph Phipps, who defined the conference as a contribution of the financial institution to an industry that has always been relevant within the credit portfolio of the entity.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 126

US Ambassador to the Dominican Republic: USA and Dominican Republic work together for Haiti

The Ambassador of the United States in the country, Robin Bernstein, said yesterday that his country provides a large amount of humanitarian aid to Haitians, as part of sharing the load that the Dominican Government has with the neighboring country, and assured that in tourism matters the Dominican Republic has no problem receiving US tourists.

“We are providing a lot of humanitarian assistance through USAID; we also have the PEPFAR project (The United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS relief), to prevent the spread of diseases such as AIDS and we work with different institutions providing assistance when it is requested for this type of matter”, said the diplomat, after a working visit with her delegation to the President of the Senate of the Republic, Reinaldo Pared Pérez, where various issues were addressed.

Regarding the alert made by his country to its tourists, Bernstein explained that in the United States a review is made regularly concerning crime and violence statistics of all the countries of the world, which are classified from 1- the safest, to 4- which are the ones with the worst rating.

“The vast majority of tourists who come here to the Dominican Republic do not have any problem or any difficulty, but the fact is that there are crimes in all countries; it's just that they are at different levels. What this warning says is that if you are the victim of a crime, these are your rights and this is what you should do. But I would like to reiterate that the vast majority who visit the country do not experience any problems”, said the US diplomat.

In her visit to the Senate, Ambassador Bernstein stressed that both nations are striving to work together to improve aspects as important as transparency, as well as other issues.

“We discussed briefly about disaster response and preparedness issues, education and matters related to women and children. The most important thing is that we always keep our doors open to work together and strengthen the bilateral relations we have”, said the US diplomat.

Published on March 27, 2019, by newspaper Hoy (www.hoy.com.do)



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 127

ECLAC: Dominican Republic leads the region's economic growth with 5.5%

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) updated its projections of economic activity growth for the countries of the region during 2019 and slightly lowered its estimate for the regional average to 1.3%, in contrast to the 1.7% predicted in December 2018 when the institution launched its annual Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean 2018.

The new estimate for 2019 —reported today through a press release—is influenced by the complex external scenario and domestic dynamics that have been observed in the countries of the region. As in previous years, ECLAC projects a growth dynamic whose intensity is different between countries and subregions, and which responds not only to the differentiated impacts of the international context in each economy, but also to the behavior of the components of expenditure —mainly consumption and investment—which have followed different patterns in the economies of the north and south.

According to ECLAC, economic activity in South America will go from a growth of 0.5% in 2018 to 1.1% in 2019. Central America will grow 3.1% in 2019, with slight revisions downwards in most countries. This is a consequence of the greater deceleration expected for the United States this year, which affects not only trade but also remittances that are directed towards this sub-region, among other factors.

ECLAC adds that for Central America, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Cuba growth will be 2.0%. Meanwhile, the economies of the English-speaking Caribbean and Dutch will also show a growth of 2.0% this year 2019, close to the forecast made in December.

According to the agency, the main risks to the economic performance of the region for 2019 continue to be a lower global growth rate, the low dynamism of world trade, and the financial conditions faced by emerging economies.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 128

Dominican Republic awoke the value of technology and entrepreneurship

Finding a job is not like it used to be. Now during the interviews to know if someone can take on a position or not, there are new questions that emerge from the changes of the Fourth Revolution, and among such questions technology and digital entrepreneurship are never absent.

According to the Dean of “Spain”, a business school from Spain, in the Dominican Republic the education authorities realized the importance of these areas in which more than focusing in the technical aspects, they are seeking more into knowledge and skills in everything that is related to digital matters.

According to Ángel Blanco, there is always an ongoing need to evolve in the labor market and in the educational field because the only thing left is to “transform or die”.

“That's why the universities are planning on having technology as a cross-disciplinary area aside from your technical field, whatever you choose to be.

“Skills are needed to allow us to position ourselves”, said Blanco while explaining his school's interest in having Dominicans being able to study there.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 129

Ministry of Foreign Affairs launches the program "Let's Talk about Gastronomy"

As part of the gastronomic diplomacy strategy, which is implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX) under the direction of Minister Miguel Vargas, the institution launched the initiative "Hablemos de Gastronomía" (Let's Talk about Gastronomy). The first issue of this monthly dialogue about the gastronomic industry took place at the Ministry headquarters and was in charge of the renowned Spanish chef Charo Val, who gave the lecture titled "Sustainable cuisine, circular economy and rural development". The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugo Rivera, delivered the welcoming remarks on behalf of Minister Vargas.

"We continue working on the positioning and recognition of Dominican cuisine as part of our country brand, through understanding, respect, and the use and appreciation of our cultural and gastronomic heritage abroad", said Rivera.

Chef Inés Páez, Chef Tita, Advisor of Gastronomic Diplomacy at MIREX, said that "Let's Talk about Gastronomy" will be an important place for exchange, reflection, and learning that will enrich the gastronomic guild, while also promoting the union of all the chefs of the Dominican Republic.

While the lecturer spoke about her line of sustainable cooking, based on the use of natural food resources, while preserving the forests. The event also had the presence of Alejandro Abellán, Ambassador of Spain in the country, along with chefs, culinary students, gastronomy media, among other guests. "Let's talk about Gastronomy" will be held every month at MIREX, with the participation of both national and international experts in culinary art, who wish to transmit and contribute—from their experience—health, culture, and innovation. Concerning gastronomic diplomacy, MIREX presented in December 2018 the strategy "Gastronomic Diplomacy of the Dominican Republic", consisting on the promotion of the national gastronomy as a country brand for commercial purposes, through the Foreign Service. In order to support this initiative, on March 13, 2019, Minister Miguel Vargas signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Tourism and with the asset management firm INICIA.

Charo Val is an entrepreneur, designer, creator and defender of the Sustainable Kitchen concept. Based in Ibiza, since 2006, she owns an unconventional business model which she calls "La Alacena del Gourmet". She has cooked for renowned figures such as actor Leonardo di Caprio; top models Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell; the Spanish royal family, among other personalities.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 130

OAS will support Office of the Attorney General of Dominican Republic in New Penitentiary Model

The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Attorney General of the Dominican Republic (PGR) signed a cooperation agreement today to strengthen the Office of the Attorney General's capacity to promote citizen security.

Through the agreement, the Department of Public Security (DPS) of the OAS will support the PGR through the exchange of experiences and the design and execution of strategies to strengthen and consolidate the progress that the Dominican Republic has made in the modernization of its penitentiary system with the implementation of the New Penitentiary Model.

At the signing of the agreement, the OAS Secretary General, Luis Almagro, stated that "unfortunately, many of the juvenile systems reproduce the logic - and the problems - of adult prison systems, without prioritizing the best interests of the minor. Youth systems should be focused on the development of adolescents in conflict with the law and not on punishing them".

The Attorney General of the Dominican Republic, Jean Alain Rodríguez, affirmed that for his Government the challenge of building a "safe" country, where crime is much smaller each day, is essential, and that is why we are working with the institutions related to persecution and crime prevention. The humanization plan of the prison system that we hope to finalize next year is a living proof of that".

The signed agreement establishes a commitment on cooperation between the OAS and the Office of the Attorney General in matters of juvenile justice through the exchange of good practices and the development of joint projects and policy development. The DPS, which is responsible for the development of the agreement on the side of the OAS, currently serves as the Technical Secretariat of the Meeting of Officials Responsible for Penitentiary and Prison Policies of the OAS Member States.

Published on April 25, 2019, by the Press Department of the Organization of American States (www.oas.org)



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 131

Dominican Republic achieves progress in environmental preservation, says the Legatum Institute

The Legatum Prosperity Index Report highlights that the Dominican Republic ranks #21 out of 149 countries in terms of protection and conservation of the environment.

It also highlights that the country is one of the most efficient in the world reaching a score of 72.91 points, surpassing countries in North America such as the United States that reached 72.26 points, Europeans such as Belgium that scored 72.83, in South America such as Chile that had 70.81 points, in Central America like Costa Rica with 69.85 points, as well as Portugal with 69.44 points, Japan 68.58 points, and Mexico with 66.65 points.

The results achieved by the Dominican Republic in terms of environmental growth and preservation have been the result of changing the mindset of using charcoal and firewood to cook food, reducing the number of houses made of wood, and shutting down lumber mills, all of which have been reduced by more than 95%.

Likewise, the study also states that the Dominican Republic has been responsible as a nation with its policies towards safeguarding the environment, in the efforts for the preservation of ecosystems and the effectiveness of the public policies that regulate the norms concerning the protection of natural resources, in compliance with Law 64-00, in this case.

The Legatum Prosperity Index is an annual ranking, developed by the Legatum Institute, which is based on several factors including wealth, economic growth, the environment, education, health, personal well-being, and quality of life of nations.

The measurement is based on statistical reports from the Gallup firm, data from the World Bank, the UNESCO Global Monitoring Report, and statistical consultations of the BBC London, under the leadership of a group of special advisers for the Prosperity Index, who for many years have provided useful advice and suggestions.

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NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 132

The country will host more than 500 delegates for regional meeting on Internet

The Dominican Institute of Telecommunications (INDOTEL) and the Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry (LACNIC) will host more than 500 delegates from 33 countries and territories of the region that will attend, from May 6 to 10, to the organization's 31st annual meeting.

INDOTEL reported today that the meeting will be held at a hotel in Punta Cana, in the east of the country.

The conclave, which will be held for the first time in Dominican territory, will be attended by representations from Argentina, Aruba, Belize, Bolivia, Bonaire, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, French Guiana, Honduras and the Malvinas Islands.

Also, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, among other countries.

LACNIC 31, one of the most important Internet events in the region, brings together experts and representatives from academia, civil society, business, government, and professionals from the telecommunications industry.

Among the featured speakers are Radia Perlman, an American engineer named "the mother of the Internet" for her discovery that gave the final boost to the Ethernet network in the 80s.

Perlman, creator of the Spanning Tree Protocol (STP), will talk about the transformations that society has undergone with the Internet, will address technical issues such as TCP / IP and IPv6, and will discuss the contrast between theory and practice in cases of DNS certifications.

Another lecturer will be Charlie Kaufman, an expert on Internet security, matters on which he has worked for more than 25 years and in which he owns more than 50 patents.

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