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NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 075

2018 was the year in which the tourism industry of the Dominican Republic won the most awards

For the Dominican Republic, which leads tourism growth in the Caribbean and is among the top countries in Latin America, 2018 was the year in which most awards were obtained within the industry publications and in the main international tourism fairs in which the nation participated to promote the advantages of the Caribbean destination.

The marketing strategies and the work of the 22 offices of tourism promotion (OPT) worldwide driven by the Ministry of Tourism (MITUR) have allowed the Caribbean country to reach the first spots in events such as the recent 52th edition of the ITB Berlin, Germany; Fitven, in Venezuela; and AITF, in Azerbaijan, within the Caucasus region, stated a communication sent by MITUR.

Awards

The statement sent by MITUR highlights that the fascination caused by the modern and creative design of the stand of the institution, which consists in displaying in a single place all the elements and attractions that the Dominican destination offers, has led the country to win the prize for "Best International Stand " at the fair "Fitven 2018 ", held by the end of November 2018 in Caracas, Venezuela.

Also, in the 52th edition of the International Tourism Stock Exchange 2018 (ITB), in Berlin, Germany, held in March, the magnificent and vibrant site raised within a space of 443 square meters, earned the country the second place as "Best Exhibition of America and the Caribbean", trailing Costa Rica, which won the first place.

At the same venue, the Dominican Republic won the second place, among 150 participants, for the Golden City Gate award thanks to its promotional video "Me gusta" that exhibits the beaches, sun, hotels, culture, gastronomy, fun, and ecotourism of the entire national territory.

One month later, in April, the country was awarded the "Best Destination Promotion" in the 17th edition of the Azerbaijan International Travel and Tourism Fair (AIFT).

These awards for best tourism promotion are in consonance with the debut at the 40th Top Resa, of Paris, of the new exhibitor platform with the new face of Dominican tourism, in an exclusive space, developed by the construction company Think Tank, created with the latest technology and the most diverse elements, oriented towards the development of a more sustainable and ecological tourism.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 076

US \$350 million will be invested in the construction of hotels in Puerto Plata

Marriott International hotel chains and real estate developers Ocean Club Group announced a merger in order to establish a new tourism standard and made known their plans to construct two luxury hotels.

They agreed on an investment of US \$ 350 million in Puerto Plata and the creation of two thousand new direct jobs, which will increase the hospitality array in the market and thereby create a new niche for luxury tourism in the country.

“We are happy to have the opportunity to bring three of the most extraordinary and distinctive brands of Marriott to the Dominican Republic and in particular to the North Coast. This unique set of properties will make the area an irresistible destination for visitors from around the world”, said Laurent Kousemaeker, Development Director of Marriott International.

The agreement was signed to bring to the country three Marriott International luxury brands, which are The Ritz-Carlton Reserve, W Hotels and The Luxury Collection.

The construction is scheduled to start in 2019.

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NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 077

Private investment generates 85% of jobs in the Dominican Republic

In the Dominican Republic, the private sector is responsible for generating more than 85% of direct jobs, and at the same time more than 86% of the wealth produced in the economy.

This was stated by the Executive Minister of the Presidency, José Ramón Peralta, upon receiving a acknowledgement plaque from the Dominican Association of Free Zone Companies (Adozona); and the Víctor Espaíllat Mera Industrial Park, in the province of Santiago de los Caballeros.

Both entities recognized Minister Peralta for his contributions to the development and growth of the free zones sector in the national economy, who in turn promised to continue working together with President Danilo Medina and with the private sector.

He stressed that in the current year, declared by the Executive Branch as the year for competitiveness, exports are expected to continue to grow as well as jobs creation, with thousands of new jobs being added not only in the area of free zones, but also in tourism, mining, and agriculture.

He also indicated that the country has enjoyed great stability in the last 30 years and that the productive sectors have maintained their growth.

He recalled that since President Medina assumed the leadership of the Government “we committed ourselves to foster the economic stability of the country, creating the conditions so that the productive sector could work with a sense of security”. “The country has grown in the last six years like never before, we are leading all of Latin America, and we are still working from the Government so that in this year 2019 that leadership will remain at 7% GDP growth, and the private sector is the key factor for this to continue”, stressed Peralta.

He indicated that in the last 6 years the Government has contributed with the creation of 750,000 jobs, well above the 100,000 promised by President Danilo Medina when he took office.

The Executive Minister of the Presidency also stressed that the Competitiveness Council sets the main strategic points for the growth of the economy and competitiveness, such as industry, tourism, mining, and agriculture.

He said that the Dominican Republic has become the largest recipient of foreign investment, receiving 50% of the total amount that is invested in the Caribbean and 22% of the total allocated to Central America.

He attributes that growth of foreign investments to the fact that the country enjoys macroeconomic stability, and it is safe and reliable.

“There are conditions to continue strengthening economic growth, and measures are being taken by the Government to make the country one of the most competitive in Latin America and the Caribbean”, said Peralta.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 078

Dominican Republic: Culinary Capital of the Caribbean

The Dominican gastronomy has been recognized throughout the Caribbean due to myriad distinctive flavors and an eclectic influence based on its founding ethnic groups. The Ibero-American Academy and the Royal Spanish Academy of Gastronomy declared the Dominican Republic as the Culinary Capital of the Caribbean.

Dominican gastronomy has strong influences from various ethnic groups and different cultures. Chefs and restaurateurs have been leaving their mark on the culinary scene by reinventing the traditionalism and giving it a modern touch while maintaining the traditional flavors that make the Dominican cuisine so unique.

Inés Paez, known as “Chef Tita” has been named “Ambassador of the Dominican cuisine to the world”, and is the first Dominican chef to focus her cooking line towards the rescue of the Dominican gastronomy promoting the consumption and use of native products and reinventing the traditional dishes. Her restaurant, “Travesías”, provides guests with an exotic culinary journey around the island.

“Travesías” managed by Chef Tita, offers a menu of reinvented traditional dishes

“Jalao”, managed by chef Noemí Díaz, is located in Santo Domingo Old City. It is a place full of color, taste and culture where born and raised Dominican will feel right at home and tourists from anywhere in the world can be immersed in a pure Dominican experience with a gourmet touch. Live traditional music every night, folkloric expressions and a variety of traditional dishes from the different regions of the country contribute to a unique experience.

“Traditional cuisine served up fresh and made with love” are the words that describe “Lago Restaurant” in Casa de Campo, La Romana, which offers a flavorful menu of traditional Dominican dishes. From seafood and meat-based dishes to hearty stews, Lago will please all of those looking forward to a broader culinary experience.

The Dominican gastronomy is of Spanish and Taino-indigenous origin, with African influences; a mixture of the three cultures that formed the Dominican lineage. Other cultures have influenced at a smaller scale, finding Asian and Cocolas’ (immigrants of the Greater Antilles) influence in some of the Dominican dishes. Download our app to discover the great culinary world of the Dominican Republic

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 079

In Switzerland, Dominican Republic is recognized by 69 countries for advances in human rights

GENEVA, Switzerland.- The Dominican Republic made a detailed recap of the progress made in the country in the field of human rights and received the recognition of dozens of countries that participated in the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations (UPR).

The UPR, the third passed by the Dominican Republic, is a mechanism created by the United Nations under the support of the Human Rights Council in order to have its members subjected to the scrutiny of others in a thorough review of the state of affairs concerning human rights and make the appropriate recommendations.

In its totality, the 69 countries that participated in the Dominican UPR recognized the marked advances in respect to human rights and made positive recommendations aimed at expanding the citizen franchise.

The legal advisor of the Executive Branch, Flavio Darío Espinal, who heads the Dominican delegation, made reference to how the country was able to build a true democracy in the last 30 years.

He also explained the progress made in strengthening the rule of law through both the 2010 Constitution and with a series of social measures implemented by this government.

Regarding the latest-generation institutional measures, Espinal pointed out that “the new organic laws of the Armed Forces and the National Police, adopted in 2013 and 2016, respectively, established new provisions that regulate relations between law enforcement agents and citizens, with special emphasis on their professional training, the use of force, accountability, and the framework of consequences”.

“For the government led by President Danilo Medina, the strengthening of social policies in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals and the National Development Strategy Law has been of paramount importance as an essential part of a comprehensive human rights policy.”

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 080

Dominican Republic and the U.S. expand investment opportunities by simplifying approval process

Santo Domingo.- The Ambassador of the United States of America, Robin Bernstein, presented to the Minister of Finance, Donald Guerrero Ortiz, an agreement signed by the governments of the United States and the Dominican Republic to facilitate investments for US companies in the Dominican Republic, through the financial development institution Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC).

The agreement, signed by Minister Guerrero Ortiz and OPIC President and CEO Ray W. Washburne, facilitates the use of OPIC's loan guarantees and political risk insurance programs by US companies seeking to invest in the Dominican Republic. In addition, it modernizes procedures in accordance with a long-standing agreement between the governments of the United States and the Dominican Republic.

“We are pleased to formally announce that this agreement will simplify the process for US companies, supported by OPIC, to invest here in the Dominican Republic”, said Ambassador Bernstein.

Minister Guerrero Ortiz explained that the “Operational Procedure for Government Approval of Projects” defines the manner in which the Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Dominican Government, will give its approval to the projects that the OPIC is considering financing or supporting in the Dominican Republic.

He reported that the projects financed by the US financial institution are developed by the private sector and financed with private capital. “In this sense, we emphasize that they will not be developed with public funds, they will not generate an increase in public debt nor will they have any type of associated public guarantee”, the official said.

The Minister of Finance expects that the projects submitted to OPIC will promote the creation of quality jobs in the Dominican Republic and the United States, promote the productive investment of North American capital in our country, generate economic growth in key areas and help increase the trade flow between both countries, said the official during the activity.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 081

Belgium: an opportunity for Dominican organic cocoa

The Belgian government, together with representatives of the private sector, civil society and academic organizations launched the Beyond Chocolate alliance, which will allow all chocolate produced or marketed in Belgium by 2025 to comply with certification regulations and be produced with cocoa coming from sustainability programs.

The initiative is promoted by Alexander De Croo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Cooperation, to address the demands of a market that seeks a socially responsible product.

While talking about the subject, the Dominican Ambassador to Belgium and the European Union, Aníbal De Castro, highlighted that government and private investment has been essential for the implementation of organic farming techniques currently used by Dominican cocoa farmers to achieve a product of high quality. He also said that thanks to its productive capacity, the Dominican Republic has the potential to increase its supply to international markets.

De Castro spoke in those terms when announcing the country's first participation in the Belgian fair "Salon du Chocolat", the largest international event dedicated to chocolate and cocoa, which will be held from February 22 to 24 in Brussels.

"The presence of the Dominican Republic in such an important event will strengthen our business relationships with one of the largest producers of chocolate in the world and goes in accordance with the objectives of Beyond Chocolate, which is why this initiative represents a great opportunity for the country to consolidate itself in the organic cocoa market in Europe and in Belgium, where we are the third supplier of cocoa", explained De Castro.

For this sixth edition, the Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Belgium, together with the Tourism Promotion Office (OPT) of the Dominican Republic for Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg, will bring the participation of important national producers, who will be able to exhibit their exportable offer, establish direct contact with local companies, and make their product known to the final consumer.

The director of the OPT, Samanda Fersobe, said that in the framework of the event a cocktail reception will be organized to let potential Belgian customers know about the benefits of Dominican cacao and business opportunities in the country. The Dominican Republic will be represented by products from Rizek Cacao, CONACADO, Roig Agro-Cacao, Cortés Hermanos and Xocolat.

The Dominican Republic is a world leader in exports of organic and fine flavor cocoa beans. According to statistical data of the European Union, in 2017 the country exported 86 million euros of cocoa to the EU, of which 28 million or 32% was destined to Belgium.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 082

The Dominican Republic receives the award Sovereign Issuer of the Year

The country received the "Sovereign Issuer of the Year 2018" award by LatinFinance, the main global source of intelligence on financial markets and the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean.

This is due to the government's successful issuing of bonds on international markets during the months of February and July of last year.

The organization recognizes the financing strategy implemented by the country, which combined the issuance of bonds in US dollars at different maturities and the historical milestone of the first issue made in local currency, which was done last year.

In the transaction of February 2018, bonds were placed in US dollars with a maturity of 30 years, at an interest rate of 6.5% (the lowest achieved by the country for that number of years), for an amount of US \$1 billion, and bonds in Dominican pesos for an amount of DOP \$40 billion, at 5 years and a rate of 8.9%.

In July, bonds were placed in US dollars with a term of 10 years, at an interest rate of 6.0%, for an amount of US \$1.3 billion, after having a demand of around 2.7 times the amount of that issue, mirroring the significant interest for bonds of a country with sovereign credit rating.

The Minister of Finance, Donald Guerrero Ortiz, stated that the transaction was optimal in terms of costs and risks, because it managed to keep the weighted average interest rate of the portfolio stable.

He added that this reduced the risk of refinancing by increasing the average life of the portfolio from 9 to 9.6 years and mitigated the exchange rate risk by including a proportion of financing in local currency.

"This recognition reaffirms the confidence that the markets have in the sovereign credit of the Dominican Republic", the official said.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 083

Dominican Republic receives two awards for Excellence at FITUR 2019

In the 14th edition of the “Excellence Awards 2018”, the Dominican Republic won two prizes out of 36 projects related to tourism and personalities from Spain, the Caribbean and Latin America, which were granted within the framework of the recently concluded International Tourism Fair (FITUR) 2019.

Scooters DR was recognized for the growth in Inclusive Tourism in favor of vulnerable segments of society and people with disabilities, thus consolidating the company as the enterprise with the greatest potential for growth in accessible tourism.

Also awarded were the Clúster Turístico de la provincia Espaillat y el Consejo de Desarrollo Turístico de Jamao al Norte with “Jamao Ecoturs”, a local project that provides tourist services with the integration of community members from the area, which has exclusive attractions with its turquoise waters.

The awards were received by Teddy De Lara and Diana Toribio, managers of Scooters DR, and Maribel Villalona, coordinator of the Tourism Promotion Program Colonial City of Santo Domingo (PFTCC), on behalf of Jamao Ecoturs and the Cluster of Espaillat.

The opening for the event and welcome reception were headed by the president of the Excellence group, José Carlos de Santiago, and among the attendees were ministers and other representatives of 13 countries, as was the case for Spain, the United States, the Dominican Republic, Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Brazil, El Salvador, Paraguay, Mexico, and Cuba.

In the activity, awards were given out in the modalities of Tourism Excellence, Gourmet, Special Prizes Silvia Sorzanella In Memoriam Award; Spirit of Tourism Excellence; International Modality, among others.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 084

Fruit exporters from the Dominican Republic inaugurate “Fruit Logistica” trade show in Berlin

With the participation of a large business delegation of Dominican exporters, the fresh produce trade show “Fruit Logistica” was inaugurated in Berlin.

The fair, which takes place from February 6 to 8, 2019, will count with the participation of more than 78,000 specialized buyers from more than 130 countries, 3,200 companies from 90 countries will offer their fresh products plus everything that has to do with what is needed for their production and marketing.

During the opening ceremony of the Dominican stand, set up by the Center for Export and Investment of the Dominican Republic (CEI-RD), the Ambassador of Dominican Republic Maibé Sánchez Caminero expressed her satisfaction with the fact that exports of fruits and vegetables from our country to Germany continue growing. The diplomat said that the effective promotion of the country's agricultural products is one of the top priorities of her office.

Sánchez Caminero spoke with the representatives of the 16 Dominican companies exporters of fruits and vegetables that participated in the stand and they said they were satisfied with the expansion of exports to Germany and expect to close good business deals during the three days of the fair.

The Ambassador announced that a large food retailer chain is interested in increasing the number of organic products in its assortment, which represents a great opportunity for our certified producers.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 085

Businessmen from Central America and DR highlight industrial development role in Latin America

SANTO DOMINGO.- The Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industrial Associations of Central America and the Dominican Republic (FECAICA) considered yesterday that industrial development, as a generator of employment, wealth and investment, is a vital element in solving the economic, social and political problems of the region.

The organization considered that the coordinated work between industrial organizations of each country and FECAICA with the regional institutions and governments in the search of industrial development is a fundamental issue.

In a press conference held at the headquarters of the Association of Industries of the Dominican Republic (AIRD), which was attended by its President, Celso Juan Marranzini, and the Executive Vice President, Circe Almánzar, the President of FECAICA, Enrique Egloff, said that the private sector is the one that generates jobs.

He stated that industrial development is the only way to generate wellbeing and economic growth in the countries of the region. He recalled that legal certainty is a fundamental condition that must be met to be able to develop any economic activity.

Egloff argued that the situation in Nicaragua and Venezuela is impacting the economic growth of the entire Latin American region, which affects jobs creation and the welfare of the people.

The members of the Board of Directors of FECAICA met yesterday at the AIRD's offices in order to analyze in depth the political and economic situation of the SICA region (Central American Integration System), which affects the competitive development of the region's industries, especially those of Nicaragua.

He favored respect for democracy, the rule of law, and human rights in Nicaragua, as he has stated since the beginning of the political crisis.

Egloff expressed his commitment to the rule of law and respect for democratic institutions, describing them as imperatives to promote the development of a strong industry.

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(www.lainformacion.com.do)



NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 086

The Dominican Embassy and the Ministry of Tourism will celebrate a Dominican Festival in Ottawa

Ottawa - The Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Canada, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism of the Dominican Republic, will hold a three-day Dominican gastronomic and cultural Festival in the city of Ottawa to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the Dominican Republic and Canada.

With the capital of the Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo, recently chosen for the second consecutive year as the Culinary Capital of the Caribbean by the Ibero-American Academy of Gastronomy and the Royal Spanish Academy of Gastronomy, this event presents the perfect occasion to celebrate the Dominican culinary art.

The festival will take place from February 25-27, 2019, at the Sheraton Ottawa Hotel, located in the downtown of the capital of Canada, and it will feature seminars, daily lunches with a menu prepared by the renowned Dominican chefs Indhira Peguero and Paulette Tejada, cultural exhibitions, business meetings and activities, and more. The organizers of the festival will be accompanied by prominent members from public and private sectors, key areas such as travel and tourism, health, agribusiness and gastronomy, to bring an interesting, educational and productive event to Canada.

The activities will be attended by the Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to Canada, Pedro Vergés Ciman, who along with the Dominican delegation and representatives from the Tourism Promotion Office from Montreal, in representation of the Ministry of Tourism, will welcome a diverse group of Canadians including airline executives, tour operators, the media, business people from various industries, members of parliament, and other Canadian officials.

About the Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic's first tourist was Christopher Columbus in 1492. Rich in history, the country has developed into a diverse destination offering both Dominican and European flavors to more than 900,000 Canadian visitors in 2018. Named #1 Golf Destination in the Caribbean & Latin America by the International Association of Golf Tour Operators, the Dominican Republic boasts 26 designer golf courses, upscale resorts, pristine nature, and sophisticated cities and quaint villages filled with warm Dominican people. The nation features some of the world's best beaches, fascinating history and culture, and it is a chosen escape destination for celebrities, couples and families alike.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 087

Medina explains in Rome how he reduced rural poverty by half in the Dominican Republic in 5 years

Rome - President Danilo Medina laid out in Rome the strategies that have enabled the Dominican Republic to reduce rural poverty by half in the last five years.

In his address to the 42nd session of the Board of Governors of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Dominican Head of State explained how rural poverty has gone from 51% in 2013, to 25.6% by the end of 2018.

In the same period, extreme rural poverty went from 14.5% to 4.1%, according to the President.

In a meeting dedicated to “Innovations and business initiatives in the rural world”, Danilo Medina explained how important it has been for the Dominican Republic to advance in 4 axes simultaneously:

- Associative capacity of small producers.
- Access to credit.
- Improvement of infrastructures.
- Access to land ownership through the issuing of titles.

These combined strategies have made thousands of farmers go from having a subsistence economy to being true agriculture entrepreneurs.

Food sovereignty

At the same time, they have made it possible for the Dominican Republic to produce 85% of the food it consumes, thus becoming one of the countries that are closest to achieving food sovereignty in the entire continent.

“The Dominican Republic is among the only four countries in Latin America where hunger has been reduced consecutively in the last three years, according to FAO data”, said the President, “and that is possible thanks to the fact that our land increases its production year after year”.

The President explained that it was always a priority to support the farmers in the countryside, because it was there where inequality presented itself most crudely, as it happens in most countries of the continent.

“The truth is that, in Latin America, the only valid and sustainable strategy against hunger and poverty is the revitalization of the countryside, beginning with the strengthening of the most vulnerable people and guaranteeing their insertion into the agri-food value chains”.

He also assured that in countries such as the Dominican Republic “an innovative model can be achieved that substantially improves the living conditions of the people, with actions that are within the reach of both the government and producers”.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 088

Santo Domingo still leads as the "Cultural Culinary Capital of the Caribbean"

For the second consecutive year, Santo Domingo is elected "Cultural Culinary Capital of the of the Caribbean", announced the President of the Ibero-American Academy of Gastronomy, Rafael Ansón.

According to the Dominican Academy of Gastronomy, the decision was made in Madrid, Spain, during the recent celebration of the Ordinary General Assembly of the Ibero-American Academy of Gastronomy (AIBG), where the Dominican delegation requested to be granted the title for one more year.

The Ibero-American Gastronomy Academy was created in 2009 and each year it designates an Ibero-American Culinary Capital and another one from the Caribbean.

The AIBG, taking into account the progress of the Caribbean, decided to award this distinction to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, a country which now will retain the title throughout 2019.

For the Dominican Academy of Gastronomy, being able to maintain the title of Cultural Culinary Capital of the Caribbean, in favor of the city of Santo Domingo, represents an endorsement of the Dominican Republic for all the important initiatives that have been made to continue positioning the country as a gastronomy destination.

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NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 089

FAO's Director General thanks President Medina for his fight against hunger and poverty

Rome, Italy. – Today President Danilo Medina held a meeting with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), José Graziano da Silva.

The Director General of FAO thanked the Dominican Head of State for his visit to the headquarters of the organization and for maintaining the fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty as a top priority in his agenda.

The Dominican government is determined and works to address the food problem in the Dominican Republic with a comprehensive approach, thus, since 2012, increasing production in the countryside has been a fundamental objective for the authorities.

In that sense, Danilo Medina and José Graziano da Silva talked about the National Plan of Food Sovereignty and Security, launched on October 16 by the Dominican President.

The initiative is coordinated by the Ministry of the Presidency of the Dominican Republic and is supported by FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP). It is based on the ethical imperative of the President Medina administration that all Dominicans must have a decent diet.

For this reason, the National Congress worked for four years, through an inclusive and consensual process in the elaboration of Law 589-16 concerning Food Sovereignty and Security, enacted in 2016.

The main objective of this law is to make possible that all people in the Dominican territory have access to adequate food and are protected against hunger. The regulations create the National System of Food Sovereignty and Security, which will be responsible for laying out and developing policies to achieve that goal. It also establishes as the governing body of the system a National Council chaired by the Ministry of the Presidency and formed by 12 public institutions and the Dominican Federation of Municipalities. The purpose of this council is to channel the joint efforts of the nation, guaranteeing the food and nutritional rights of the people through the articulation of policies and institutional objectives.

To achieve these objectives, the Dominican government analyzed the food and nutritional situation of the country, which allowed the identification of the strengths, such as the various programs and current projects aimed at supporting good nutrition, production and distribution of food. Among these initiatives, the programs that stand out are the School Food Program, the “Comedores Económicos” (Economic Restaurants), Progressing with Solidarity, the Social Plan of the Presidency, and the improvement of road access in rural areas.

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NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 090

The IDB recognizes the economic and financial achievements of the Dominican Republic

SANTO DOMINGO.- The President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Luis Alberto Moreno, and the Minister of Finance of the Dominican Republic, Donald Guerrero Ortiz, reviewed the economic perspective of this country and the work agenda that both parties are carrying out locally.

During the meeting they recognized the economic and financial achievements of the Dominican Republic and valued the projected 6.4% growth for this year, being the country with the best economic outlook in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The meeting took place during the 33rd Annual Meeting of the of Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Governors of the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic, which took place on February 14 and 15 in Washington, United States, stated the Ministry of Finance of the Dominican Republic.

In addition to Guerrero Ortiz, the Dominican delegation was formed by Carlos Pared Vidal, Representative of the Dominican Republic to the IDB; José Luis Actis, Economic Advisor to the Ministry of Finance; Cynthia Arias, Deputy Director of the General Directorate of Public Credit, and Virginia Bello, Director of Information, Financial Analysis and Risk Control.

The IDB and the Dominican Republic are developing a common agenda that includes, among other things, improving economic growth and strengthening the fiscal structure, quality public services and transparency.

“Currently, there is an active portfolio of more than twenty development projects that will positively impact thousands of Dominicans. Undoubtedly, the IDB's regional experience, financial strength and knowledge agenda contribute significantly to the country's objectives”, said Pared Vidal.

During the annual meeting in Washignton, D.C., the governors of the member countries of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) of the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic analyzed policy options to accelerate growth, boost productive activity and reduce poverty.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 091

Marcos Díaz, the Americas' candidate for WADA's presidency

Punta del Este, Uruguay.- The dominican Marcos Díaz was unanimously elected as the candidate for the presidency of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) representing the countries of the Americas, within the framework of the 19th Assembly of the American Council of Sports (CADE), which brings together all the ministers of sports of the American Continent.

Fernando Cáceres, Minister of Sports of Uruguay, was the one who promoted the candidacy of Díaz. Cáceres is the official that has been part of the American Council of Sports (CADE) for the longest period and highlighted the leadership attributes of Díaz.

“Marcos has shown leadership in the World Anti-Doping Agency, being a person of consensus and creating bridges to resolve conflicts”, Cáceres said in his speech.

The elections will be held on May 14, in Montreal, Canada, where the headquarters of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) are located. The governments of the world can propose one candidate per continent. The candidate proposed by Europe was a representative of Poland.

“The Americas has a first-class candidate, the best, with Marcos”, added Cáceres.

Díaz thanked Cáceres for his testimony and said he was proud for having being able to represent the Americas before WADA during the last four years.

“We have the support of President Danilo Medina, from our Minister of Sports, Danilo Díaz, and especially from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Miguel Vargas Maldonado”, said Díaz.

“This is a country's commitment. We are representing not only the continent but the whole world in this fight against doping”, he added. “We want to make sure that the different realities of the world are represented in this subject matter”.

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NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 092

President Medina reasserts the leadership of the Dominican Republic in the field of tourism

President Danilo Medina proclaimed, while speaking before the National Assembly, that during the year 2018, our country registered a new increase in the arrival of visitors of 6.2%.

“We reached the record number of 7.6 million visitors and tourists, who generated a foreign currency income for the country of \$7.5 billion dollars in 2018, which reaffirms our position as leaders in Central America and the Caribbean.”

In order to offer the best services to the people who visit us, more than 10,800 new hotel rooms were built last year.

Similarly, jobs directly linked to tourism amounted to more than 350 thousand, which is 4.2% more than in 2017. It should also be noted that 54% of the jobs generated in this industry are held by women.

Also, direct foreign investment in the tourism industry went from around \$340 million dollars in 2017 to \$750 million dollars in 2018.

In addition, a new Ottawa-Puerto Plata air route has been established, which will attract more visitors to the northern region of the country.

The Head of State valued the importance of the tourism industry for the national economy, because there is no other business activity that creates more direct and indirect jobs.

“In 2012, I said that I wanted to achieve the goal of reaching 10 million tourists in 10 years. And we are accomplishing such goal.”

For this year, the Tourism Development Council (CONFOTUR) is already preparing a series of new projects throughout the country while expanding the existing infrastructure.

Another excellent news for the diversification and development of the tourism industry this year was the ruling of the Supreme Court, which conclusively ruled in favor of the Dominican Government for the appeal in the case of Bahía de las Águilas.

The President announced to the Dominican people that “we are already in the process of hiring an international company to design the Investment Master Plan.”

“Thus, we will make the expected tourism take-off of Pedernales a reality, which was one of the projects prioritized by this government from the beginning”.

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