



Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Canada

130 Albert Street, Suite 1605, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G4, Canada
Tel.: (613) 569-9893 Fax: (613) 569-8673 E-mail: info@ca.mirex.gob.do
www.dominicanembassycanada.gob.do

COMPENDIUM OF NEWS SHEETS

July 2019

Numbers 172 - 193

- [172 - A Dominican venture makes its way among the best in the region](#)
- [173 - Curacao and Dominican Republic sign agreement for cruise and cargo industries](#)
- [174 - Excellent numbers show how Dominican film industry is moving, according to Cannes](#)
- [175 - Dominican Republic presents in Paris the transparency report of extractive industry](#)
- [176 - The Dominican Republic is the special guest country at FIT 2019](#)
- [177 - Manufacturing Activity Index rises from 56.6 in April to 58.9](#)
- [178 - UNESCO will help boost the cultural industry in the Dominican Republic](#)
- [179 - Trade between Dominican Republic and Russia grows 160 percent](#)
- [180 - Dominican Republic will make oil licensing round in Texas on July 10](#)
- [181 - Dominican Republic will host the 3rd Latin American Digital Banking Congress in July](#)
- [182 - Dominican avocado and banana: items with high growth potential](#)
- [183 - Footwear production boosts growth in Dominican industrial free zones](#)
- [184 - Dominican Republic is the special guest country at the World Meetings Forum](#)
- [185 - Dominican Republic and WFP sign an agreement to fight hunger](#)
- [186 - Valdez Albizu discussed economic performance and Dominican tourism's strength at CMCA meeting](#)
- [187 - Solar potential in southern region of Dominican Republic is appealing for clean energy generation](#)
- [188 - Santo Domingo, hosting Summit of Mayors from Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean](#)
- [189 - Dominican Republic received more than 3.5 million tourists in 1st half of 2019, 3.9% more than 2018](#)
- [190 - Director CEI-RD: Dominican exports increase 1.7% in the first half of 2019](#)
- [191 - Dominican Republic is recognized as the most important luxury destination](#)
- [192 - Trade between the DR and the UK totaled US \\$107.27 million in first quarter of 2019](#)
- [193 - Dominican Republic, first Caribbean country to establish a unique registry system to mitigate Climate Change](#)



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 172

A Dominican venture makes its way among the best in the region

Startups Academy Colombo-Dominicana was selected among 1,700 Latin American proposals.

About six years ago, in Medellín, Colombia, a project was born with the purpose of leveling the knowledge of entrepreneurs and “fill gaps”, so that everyone could be at the same level, within the tripartite alliance consisting of the academy, and the public and private sector, to achieve a better ecosystem of entrepreneurship.

Such was the starting point of Startups Academy, whose franchise in the Dominican Republic (Startups Academy Colombo Dominicana) is today one of the finalists from among 1,700 proposals of the Innovation Awards Latam, along with another 150 in the region.

During an interview on the “Camino al Sol” radio broadcast of the 99.7 FM radio station, with hosts Reynaldo Infante, Zobeida Ramírez and Cinthia Ortiz, the Representative for Central America and the Caribbean, Arturo López Valerio, explained that the idea of bringing this initiative to the country initially sought to support players that wanted to promote entrepreneurship in three areas (private sector, government, and civil organizations).

This was done with the objective of generating technology-based entrepreneurship, which involves placing technology in a transversal way in business. “Businesses can be more optimal when they have the technology and manage to automate processes”, he explains. The technological entrepreneur also says that upon learning about this initiative, he was struck by the fact that it focused on ventures from vulnerable communities and on sustainable business models that impact those communities, because “we can learn more from those who lose”. On the other hand, the observation that that “when the money reached these local enterprises they failed”, brought as a consequence the project of applying this methodology to the Dominican needs and experiences.

Thus, while working together with the Medellín team, the “Colombo-Dominican Startups Academy methodology” was created, which helps create homogeneous teams based on the Myers-Briggs process, trying to achieve harmony among them, because “each business has its role”.

Startups Academy Colombo-Dominicana is a training platform where the capacity to create new innovative businesses through collaboration is strengthened, with the purpose of producing human development in individuals who live in vulnerable areas of Latin America. This franchise of Colombian origin arrived in the Dominican Republic in 2017 with of Arturo López Valerio.

Published on June 18, 2019, by the newspaper El Caribe (www.elcaribe.com.do)



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 173

Curacao and Dominican Republic sign agreement for cruise and cargo industries

The governments of the Caribbean island of Curaçao and the Dominican Republic signed an agreement with the objective of promoting the exchange of information related to the cruise ships and maritime cargo industries.

“The agreement initiates collaboration that will facilitate the exchange of information related to the cargo and cruise ships industries in each port”, said to the press Humberto de Castro, Executive Director of the Port Authority of Curacao.

The executive said that the exchange of information also includes statistical data, development of seaport infrastructures, and research on commercial issues in general.

In addition, the agreement stipulates that the parties will study the possibility of increasing maritime traffic in both ports and will work to conduct exchange visits.

“We will also seek to promote the advantages of doing business in both ports and consider mutual participation in conventions related to each infrastructure”, de Castro added. The port official also indicated that the signing of the agreement is in line with the strategy of the Port Authority of Curaçao to strengthen alliances with other ports of strategic value.

The agreement was signed by De Castro and Gabriel Rodríguez, Executive Director of the Port of the Dominican capital. Also present at the signing ceremony were Raúl Manotas, of the Port Authority of Curaçao, and Sharon Mei and Carlos Faulkner, directors of the Dominican facilities.

Curaçao is an autonomous territory of the Kingdom of the Netherlands located in the south of the Caribbean Sea, about 50 kilometers off the northwestern coast of Venezuela.

Curaçao is located in one of the main maritime routes of the Panama Canal, which is one of the main contributors to the economy of this Caribbean territory. The ports of Curaçao that are available for commercial activities are those of Willemstad, Fuik Bay, Caracas Bay, Bullen Bay, and St. Michiel's Bay.

The port of the Dominican capital consists of the Sansouci Terminal, intended for tourist vessels and allows the arrival of large capacity cruise ships, operating as a “homeport” terminal it allows passenger transfers, migration, and baggage handling. In addition, it has the terminals Don Diego and Santo Domingo.

Published on June 10, 2019, by the newspaper Hoy (www.hoy.com.do)

130 Albert Street, Suite 1605 Ottawa, ON K1P 5G4, Canada, Phone: 613-569-9893, Fax: 613-569-8673

Website: www.dominicanembassycanada.gob.do e-mail: info@ca.mirex.gob.do



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 174

Excellent numbers show how Dominican film industry is moving, according to Cannes

Data of ten Latin American countries were presented in the Focus magazine of the 2019 Cannes Film Festival market. This magazine presents to all the participants of the market the annual results for all the industries of the world.

As general data, the Latin market fell by 6.1% compared to 2018, with only 717.4 million dollars in tickets sales, this decline followed three years of continuous growth (2016, 2017, and 2018). The markets that suffered the most this decrease are Brazil (-11.1%), Mexico (-5.3%), and Venezuela (-31%). These figures correspond to 700 films released throughout 2018, an increase of 9% relative to 2017 and 34% when compared to 2014, with Mexico having the highest number of releases with +27, Argentina with +18, and Brazil +11.

The Dominican Republic is the country that grew the most in National Market Shares. The country had the largest growth of all markets, growing 21%, followed by Peru, which grew 13.4%.

Although the Dominican Republic is in the sixth place according entrance price within the entire industry, with 3.8 dollars, the Dominican industry raised 24.6 million dollars with just 201 theaters reported in 2018. This is an impressive achievement for the industry since we are the country with the least amount of movie theaters in the entire Latin American industry, with Mexico being the leader with 7,024 working theatres and generating 848.4 million dollars. Mexico grew 9% last year.

The National Film Commission of the Dominican Republic (DGCINE) published the financial results of the industry for 2018, in which it highlights that it generated DOP \$3,338,182,008.58 in the Dominican economy. This was possible thanks to the benefits that the Dominican Film Law offered to national and international productions. Thanks to the 86 audiovisual projects that were produced in the country, out of which 23 were cinematographic. From these, eight were foreign productions that benefited from the incentives of Law 108-10, in compliance with articles 34 and 39.

According to Yvette Marichal, Director of DGCINE, a total of 1,167 filming permits were issued, which translates into a greater number of jobs generated thanks to the national film industry, reaching 5,666 since the law came into force.

Published on June 5, 2019, by the digital portal Nota Clave ([www. Notaclave.com](http://www.Notaclave.com))



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 175

Dominican Republic presents in Paris the transparency report of extractive industry

Paris, France.- The Ministry of Energy and Mines of the Dominican Republic presented in the French capital a comprehensive report on transparency initiatives adopted by the Government since 2012, which positions the country as one of the nations that has made the most efforts in that matter.

The document was delivered to the Secretariat of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), within the framework of its 2019 Global Conference, by the Minister Antonio Isa Conde, who gave a speech on Wednesday in the plenary session “Showing leadership in the transparency agenda”.

The official said that, as far as EITI is concerned, the Dominican Republic is the first country in Latin America with reports completely online, highlighting particularly the export data and the contract disclosure policy.

“But this was done not only for the extractive industry, transparency has become a state policy across the entire administration, to the point that the Dominican Republic, today, is one of the countries that has implemented the most measures in recent years to promote transparency”, stated Isa Conde.

He said that, in 2015, when the Dominican Republic joined EITI, there was no information available from the mining companies, nor from the Government, and those that existed, which were few, were widely dispersed. “But today we can say that, as far as the extractive industry is concerned, we broke apart from that scheme and that is a significant progress for the country and for the creation of a culture of transparency”, the Minister of Energy and Mines outlined.

He pointed out that, in terms of transparency within the extractive industry, the preparation of the draft law that creates the National Management System for Government Mining Income (SINAGEREM), recently delivered to the Executive Branch, is a step of great importance.

“This legislation policy strengthens the vision of the Ministry of Energy and Mines in the sense that the wealth from the subsoil must serve for sustainable development under three principles: development of the country, of the communities, and equitable and transparent distribution of resources”, he said.

Published on July 3, 2019, by the website Diario Digital (www.diariodigital.com.do)



NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 176

The Dominican Republic is the special guest country at FIT 2019

With the presence of the FIT President Gustavo Hani; the Ambassador of the Dominican Republic in Argentina, César Pina Toribio, the Director of the Tourism Promotion Office, Rhina Olivares, and FIT Vice President, Hernán Gómez, the Dominican Republic was formally presented as the special guest country for FIT 2019.

“It is a great joy for us to welcome the Dominican Republic as the special guest country at FIT, its presence as such highlights the importance of the Fair at the international level. Year after year, the different nations of the world that choose FIT as a meeting place for exchange and business talks affirm that the Fair is always being renewed and reinvented. In this edition, among the innovations, and for the first time in the history of FIT, travel agents will be able to perform sales, which will mean that thousands of people will be choosing and buying their vacations at the Fair. In this sense, a greater impact will be generated by all those destinations and companies that each year choose to join the most important International Tourism Fair in Latin America, and one of the five most important worldwide”, said Gustavo Hani, President of FIT.

For his part, the Ambassador of the Dominican Republic in Argentina, César Pina Toribio, said that “Argentina and the Dominican Republic have made the firm decision to get to know each other, to walk together and enrich our visions and efforts, bringing together and building a mutual relationship, for which tourism is fundamental component”.

The diplomat finalized his speech emphasizing the quality of the Dominican tourism industry, indicating:

“I would like to point out that the Dominican Republic HAS IT ALL, as a favorite place in the Caribbean region to enjoy your holidays and our goal is to build loyalty within Argentine tourists, creating a feeling of confidence and security in our destination. We are ready to welcome you just like we have done until now, offering you a tourism experience that is diverse, sustainable, and of great good.”

To close the ceremony, Rhina Olivares, Director of the Tourism Promotion Office of the Dominican Republic, said that “being a special guest at FIT 2019 fills us with pride, our Ministry of Tourism becomes the place to show our gratitude to the Argentine businessmen, travel agents, airlines, and tourism investors in our country, as well as to all the Argentine people in general for choosing our destination. I cannot leave without mentioning the specialized press that supports us in this work. Thank you FIT authorities for giving us this important opportunity. The Dominican Republic is waiting for every one of you and we invite you to live a tourism experience full of diversity, beautiful landscapes, paradisiacal beaches, history, culture, and the warmth of our people”.

Published on June 13, 2019, by Daily Traveling News (www.dailyweb.com.ar)



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 177

Manufacturing Activity Index rises from 56.6 in April to 58.9

The Manufacturing Activity Monthly Index (IMAM) of the Association of Industries of the Dominican Republic (AIRD) rose from 56.6 in the month of April to 58.9 in May 2019. Out of the five variables that make up the index, the two major ones experienced an increase over the previous month

The IMAM remains above the threshold of 50 points reflecting that the conditions and economic prospects of the manufacturing sector remain favorable.

As for the variables examined, these were weighted and adjusted for seasonality. Two of the five variables showed increases: sales volume went from 57.4 in April to 63.7 in May 2019; production volume went from 60.4 in April to 65.2 during this year.

When adjusted and weighted, the employment variables decreased, going from 50.6 in April to 50.3 in May 2019.

Inventory of raw materials “went from 60.2 to 46.8” and “delivery lead time” went from 49.5 in to 48.1 in the same period.

Published on July 1, 2019, by the newspaper Hoy (www.hoy.com.do)



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 178

UNESCO will help boost the cultural industry in the Dominican Republic

Santo Domingo (EFE) .- Officials of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Minister of Culture of the Dominican Republic, Eduardo Selman, discussed in Paris, France, an alliance to promote cultural-creative industries in the country.

The initiative of the Dominican delegation to UNESCO will consist in a strategic partnership guided, among other objectives, towards the development of cultural and creative industries in the country, in order to enhance their contribution to the sustainable and inclusive development of the nation.

In a statement issued by the Dominican delegation, it was stated that during his visit to UNESCO, Selman carried out a busy schedule that included meetings with the Director of the World Heritage Center, Mathilde Rössler, and the Deputy Director of Culture at UNESCO, Ernesto Ottonne.

During the work meetings, the Dominican Government's efforts to strengthen culture were discussed, highlighting issues such as cultural tourism, the strengthening and commercialization of Dominican handicrafts, creative cities, the fight against the trafficking of cultural goods, and enlisting La Isabela (Puerto Plata) in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

According to the statement, Selman stressed that for the Dominican Republic it is “essential” to promote, formulate, and implement cultural policies aimed at strengthening the role of culture in the fight against poverty and the promotion of sustainable development.

In that sense, the Dominican Ambassador to UNESCO, José Antonio Rodríguez, recalled that the “orange economy” currently produces 3% of the national gross domestic product, emphasizing that the fight against poverty urgently demands support to artists and creators, as well as the adoption of public policies to favor the formalization of these economic activities.

The Dominican representative stressed that “UNESCO has the experience, networks, and programs to support this and other efforts of President Danilo Medina in favor of the development of the cultural industry in the Dominican Republic”.

Published on June 20, 2019, by the digital newspaper Acento (www.acento.com.do)



NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 179

Trade between Dominican Republic and Russia grows 160 percent

Trade between the Dominican Republic and Russia increased by 160% in 2018, with the country is placing in the market a wide diversity of agricultural products, tropical fruits, and the agribusiness products, highlighting chocolates, Santo Domingo coffee, both Brugal and Barcelo rums, mangoes, avocados, pineapples, sweet potatoes, and soon more brands of rum and liquor will enter as well, as stated by José Manuel Castillo Betances, Dominican Ambassador to the Kremlin.

Castillo Betances said that Russia is currently exporting metals, chemicals, machinery, and other industrial products, in a trade exchange with the Dominican Republic that already technically reaches 150 million dollars, so he stressed the importance of improving the production line of supply by offering greater value added on the Dominican side in order to balance the trade balance.

A country presentation is being prepared for the month of October, led by the CEI-RD, for the businessmen and entrepreneurs of Russia. It will feature the participation of several Dominican industries, such as textiles, footwear, plastic, medical equipment, electronic, metallurgical, as well as other leading sectors of the Dominican economy, such as the tourism sector, among others.

Additionally, in September the Dominican Republic will participate once again in the WorldFood Fair of Moscow, with a diverse delegation of Dominican companies from this industry.

The Ambassador said that the execution of these trade promotion events is motivated by the mandate given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in its intention to successfully introduce the Dominican Republic in the international market, seeking to meet the goal of President Danilo Medina to achieve the development of the Republic.

Also participating in the exhibition will be representatives from all across Russia, who “will present their progress and business offers to entrepreneurs of the Dominican Republic”.

The information was given by the Dominican diplomat in the context of the lecture titled “Dominican Republic, a Country to Invest in and Live in”, held at the Institute of International Relations in Moscow, where academics, students, and businessmen were present, and where the Dominican Republic was presented as the China from Latin America due to its high level of growth in the region and in the world. Also, it was emphasized that the Dominican Republic has displayed an average growth rate of 5% for more than half a century and above 6% in the last twenty years, and several years with significant growths of 8.5%, 7.8%, 7.3%.

Published on July 2, 2019, by the newspaper Diario Libre (www.diariolibre.com)



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 180

Dominican Republic will make oil licensing round in Texas on July 10

The Minister of Energy and Mines, Antonio Isa Conde, announced on Thursday that the oil licensing round will be opened in Texas, United States, on July 10 to offer 14 blocks in four basins of the country, under the advice of Wood Mackenzie.

The blocks in public tender will be Cibao, with six interterritorial zones; Enriquillo, with three interterritorial blocks; Azua, with an interterritorial block, and San Pedro, composed of four maritime blocks, he said, according to a press release from the Ministry.

“This oil round is the result of work that is being carried out practically since the formation of the Ministry of Energy and Mines in 2014, when we began to gather information for the creation of the National Database of Fossil Fuels, from scientific endeavors carried out since 1904 until 2013”, said the Minister.

Isa Conde made reference to this initiative concerning the development of the Dominican fossil fuel industry during his speech at the “Conference on natural gas in the Dominican Republic”, held in Santo Domingo with the sponsorship of the US Department of State, the Western Hemisphere Affairs Office, the Bureau of Energy Resources, and the firm Deloitte.

The official also stated that the priorities of the Dominican Republic in terms of gas are the diversification of the energy matrix and the development of the fossil fuel industry, with focus mainly on natural gas and sustainable generation in tune with the environment.

Isa Conde highlighted the interest of the Government in adapting and converting the power plants that operate with petroleum derivatives and the creation of new infrastructures for the reception, processing, storage and distribution of natural gas.

“Our expectation is that in 2020 the conversion to natural gas of the power plants in the East Zone of the country will materialize, with a capacity of 940 MW. This includes Quisqueya I and II units, CESPM, Sultana del Este, and Los Orígenes”, said the Minister.

He stressed that, if this conversion is achieved, the country will be able to comply with the international commitment established in the National Determined Contribution in regard to the electricity sector, to avoid some 800,000 tons of CO₂ and polluting gases into the atmosphere by 2030.

Published on June 27, 2019, by the newspaper El Dinero (www.eldinero.dom.do)



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 181

Dominican Republic will host the 3rd Latin American Digital Banking Congress in July

The Dominican Republic will host on July 11 and 12 the Third Latin American Congress on Digital Banking, Innovation, and Technology, focused on the challenges of financial entities, said the organizers on Thursday.

The event will be “an ideal place to get to know firsthand trends, challenges, and initiatives” in the face of “accelerated technological growth”, which has generated rapid changes in the processes of digital transformation, according to a statement.

The event will feature cases of success, innovation, and disruption in banking, as well as trends, trial and error within the industry, artificial intelligence, blockchain, analytics and big data, digital transformation, user experience, cybersecurity, Fintech, open banking, among others.

“In a world in which bank users, rather than comparing banks, compare experiences, it is very important to continue with this work that we started three years ago to open a stage for the different players where they can think, propose, and draw paths for innovation in the banking industry in the years to come”, said the President of the Congress, Juan Carlos Arcila Espinosa.

The meeting, which will take place at the Intercontinental Hotel in the capital, will address the opportunities offered by technology for the provision of financial services and the “enormous challenges” that this entails for the industry, the statement added.

The congress, according to its promoters, has positioned itself as “the ideal scenario” for banks to know “the path that innovation is tracing along the way”, given that each of the financial entities has been developing its own model of digital transformation and digital banking

According to Arcilla Espinosa, “nowadays it is very difficult to find a bank that has not developed a transactional web portal or that is not venturing into transactions through mobile banking”.

In this context, she said, there are many technologies that accelerate these processes and that should favor the digital transformation in banking, for example, “the massification of smart phones, QR codes, to name a few”.

Published on June 21, 2019, by the newspaper Diario Libre (www.diariolibre.com)



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 182

Dominican avocado and banana: items with high growth potential

Out of the agricultural items produced in the Dominican Republic, avocados and bananas have the greatest growth potential. While the cocoa's priority should focus on its derivatives, such as liquor, butter, powder, or chocolate.

The recommendation is stated in the Study and Diagnosis of Agricultural Supply Chains, presented by the National Competitiveness Council and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Avocado is unquestionably an item with a high potential for growth and capacity to respond, the report states.

While bananas are also a priority but with less potential than avocados because, although they compete well in the organic market and production has been increasing, it is not clear that they can compete and continue to rise against new producing countries that have entered the market, like Colombia or Peru.

With a production of US \$227 million, avocado is the number one produce in value, the fourth in growth and third in exports, with 5% of the total volume in 2017. In addition, it is the largest jobs creator (400,000) and the country has 15,000 producers currently.

The export of green skin and fresh hass represents the greatest opportunity since there is demand at a good price. The more than 15 varieties of green skin avocado account for 80% of the production, while the hass variety amounts to 20%. World consumption grows faster than production, with imports of US \$6,107 million in 2017 and annual growth of 15.6% (2013-2017).

The Dominican Republic is the second largest producer in Latin America and grows faster than its competitors, although it has the lowest producer prices.

According to the Competitiveness Council's report, the greatest opportunity within the avocado supply chain of the Dominican Republic is in the export of green skin and fresh hass because there is demand at a good price.

At the export level, the report points out that in the short term there is a good opportunity to position the varieties of green skin (certifications and PDO) and expand its sales from the East Coast to the entire United States, as well as to move from the Caribbean consumer base to the Latin American consumer in general, which represents 50 million in that country.

Published on June 24, 2019, by the newspaper El Dinero (www.eldinero.dom.do)

130 Albert Street, Suite 1605 Ottawa, ON K1P 5G4, Canada, Phone: 613-569-9893, Fax: 613-569-8673

Website: www.dominicanembassycanada.gob.do e-mail: info@ca.mirex.gob.do



NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 183

Footwear production boosts growth in Dominican industrial free zones

Currently, the Dominican Republic produces more than 7 million 900 thousand pairs of leather footwear each year in factories located in the industrial free zones spread across the provinces of the south, southeast and Cibao (north).

Out of that amount, 69% is produced within the Industrial Park Santiago Norte (PISANO) by three large footwear companies known as The Recreational Footwear Company (subsidiary of VF Corporation), AESC Manufacturing (subsidiary of Allen Edmonds Shoe Corporation) and DMG International.

We talked with executives of each of these companies, which are responsible for manufacturing more than 113,245 pairs of shoes on a weekly basis, totaling 5.5 million pairs of shoes per year for export purposes approximately.

The Recreational Footwear Co. (RFC). Its parent company, VF Corporation, acquired, in 2011, the renowned footwear brand Timberland, which has operated in the Dominican Republic for about 35 years, out of which 26 have been in PISANO. In addition to Timberland, VF owns other well-known brands such as The North Face, Nautical, Vans, Kipling, Jansport, among others. RFC produces about 4 million 300 thousand pairs per year, employing between 3,300 and 3,500 workers.

Donnie Dyer, Vice President of Manufacturing at VF, explained that they have focused on making investments to continue improving their operations, equipment, and employee benefits.

An example of these improvements can be seen in the 2 million dollars investment towards automated cutting facilities, where they will have real automation in the cutting process. Also, they have been making many of the seams operations by computer, thus contributing to the quality of the product and the efficiency and technical development of the workforce.

Today VF has seven individual factories in the park and they run seven different types of product operations. This equals to about 200 patterns and about two thousand SKUs in general, this allows the versatility of the operations to be more complex than in any other shoe factory in the world.

This company also highlighted that 90% of the leather, which is the most important component of its products, is acquired in local tanneries, and the company projects that by the end of 2019 it will have produced between 4.2 and 4.4 million pairs of shoes.

The increase in the production of footwear in the year 2019 reflects increases in the industrial park salary payments which amount to more than DOP \$1,500 million annually, as well as increases in exports, job creation, and foreign currency income.

Within these three important companies located in the PISANO industrial park, more than 4 thousand jobs have been created, representing more than 70% of the existing ones.

Published on June 25, 2019, by the newspaper Hoy (www.hoy.com.do)



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 184

Dominican Republic is the special guest country at the World Meetings Forum

SANTO DOMINGO (EFE) .- Dominican Republic has been designated as the guest of honour in the sixth edition of the World Meetings Forum 2019, which will be held from July 8 to 10 in Baja California, Mexico, according to the Ministry of Tourism.

The event is one of the most important in the meetings industry because it brings together the main leaders of the sector, and more than 120 buyers and 100 international suppliers participate in order to create attractive business opportunities in the MICE tourism segment (meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions), the agency said in a statement.

“Receiving this distinction in the sixth edition of the World Meetings Forum 2019 makes us proud as a country and encourages our willingness to show to a global audience the variety of our products and services designed to satisfy the interests and desires of the MICE industry”, said Carolina Pérez, Director of the Tourism Promotion Office (OPT) of the Dominican Republic in Mexico

She said that this recognition, which helps to encourage Mexican business groups as well as organizations from other countries to hold their next meetings in the Dominican Republic, is notable due to the successful integration of the meetings and business sector into the tourism portfolio.

“We are well aware of the demands that the MICE industry requires; therefore, investment and the pledge to continue offering quality products that exceed their expectations is a commitment that both public authorities and the private sector maintain in favor of our visitors”, added Pérez.

The official said that the country is considered the best connected destination in the Caribbean, with eight international and two national airports, a multilingual staff, and 80,000 high-quality hotel rooms (the largest in the area).

MICE is business tourism in which the trip is motivated by the undertaking of work or professional activities for business meetings, congresses, conventions, incentive trips, and other similar meetings.

Published on July 3, 2019, by the website Al Momento (www.almomento.net)



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 185

Dominican Republic and WFP sign an agreement to fight hunger

SANTO DOMINGO.- The Government of the Dominican Republic and the World Food Programme (WFP) signed a letter of understanding on Wednesday in which they affirmed their commitment to execute a strategic plan between this year and 2023 with the objective of reducing food insecurity and malnutrition.

The document was signed by the Minister of Economy, Planning, and Local Development, Isidoro Santana; and by the WFP representative in the country, William Vigil.

The letter of understanding is for the implementation of the WFP Strategic Plan for the country 2019-2023 in support of the achievements made within the Sustainable Development Goals regarding the fight against hunger, food security, and improved nutrition.

This plan has among its objectives the task of providing technical assistance to the Government, civil society, the private sector, the academic world, and other social organizations in order to promote access to food for the most vulnerable groups and improve the dietary habits of the Dominican population.

In addition, it seeks to strengthen the design and implementation of social protection and public health programs to address the causes of malnutrition through strategic and nutritional interventions that are cost-effective and with a quick-impact nature to prevent and control micronutrient deficiencies, reported the Ministry of Economy in a statement.

“In any circumstance and in unforeseen situations, the country is prepared for any factor that could put food security at risk”, said Santana.

For his part, the regional director of WFP for Latin America and the Caribbean, Miguel Barreto, said that the Dominican Government has the technical capabilities to continue eradicating hunger.

According to data from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 10.4% of the Dominican population suffers hunger, that is, 1.1 million people, to this we must add the problem of malnutrition, where overweight and obesity affect 50.5% and 38.8% of women and men, respectively.

Published on July 3, 2019, by the newspaper El Nuevo Diario (www.elnuevodiario.com.do)



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 186

Valdez Albizu discussed economic performance and Dominican tourism's strength at CMCA meeting

EL SALVADOR.- The Governor of the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic (BCRD), Héctor Valdez Albizu, participated in the 286th Meeting of the Central American Monetary Council (CMCA) that took place in the city of San Salvador, where he spoke about the performance of the Dominican economy and tourism's strength in the country.

A statement from the Central Bank indicates that at this event, held on July 18 and 19, met the presidents of the central banks of the Central American region, as well as international experts and government officials of the member countries of the council.

During the course of the meeting, the presidents of the central banks reviewed the achievements made during the implementation of the Institutional Strategic Plan of the CMCA for the period 2015-2019, while, at the same time, defined the main guidelines of the plan that will govern the activities of the council during the next quinquennium 2020 - 2024.

In addition, the presidents of the central banks discussed issues related to the administration of international reserves in the region, in light of a presentation made by the Mexican expert, Joaquín Tapia Macías, and analyzed the impact of modern financial technologies (FINTECHs) in the future of central banks. On this last topic, they listened to the presentation of Mr. Otto Boris Rodríguez, Vice President of the Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador.

Participation of Valdez Albizu

Within the framework of the meeting, the Governor of the BCRD, addressed relevant issues on the behavior of the Dominican economy in the current context. In his speech, he stressed that during the current year the economic growth has remained around the potential reaching 5.1% between January-May, while year-on-year inflation was 0.92% by the end of June.

Valdez Albizu also referred to the performance of the tourism industry in an environment of uncertainty, emphasizing that the decline observed in travel reservations to the Dominican Republic during the first weeks of June began to reverse by the 26th of the same month, according to the English global travel intelligence firm Forward Keys.

Published on July 21, 2019, by the newspaper El Nuevo Diario (www.elnuevodiario.com.do)



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 187

Solar potential in southern region of Dominican Republic is appealing for clean energy generation

The goodness of nature endowed the Dominican Republic with ideal places for the production of renewable energy.

Among those places are the provinces of Pedernales and Barahona, which have become attractive poles for the development of wind and solar energy.

“Development has to come hand in hand with energy, so you should take the opportunity to promote the solar potential of the southern region of the country to produce photovoltaic energy, which was studied and measured even by international agencies”, stated the Executive Director of the National Energy Commission, Ángel Canó.

However, Canó explained that one of the great challenges the system faces is to strengthen the electricity transmission infrastructure, so as to ensure that all energy can be used.

“Wind projects such as Juancho, Los Cocos, Larimar I and II, located in Pedernales, inject energy into the system, but it is not distributed in its entirety, since existing lines are overloaded”, he said.

The official said that they are currently working on the construction of new lines to take advantage of it more efficiently.

He stressed that renewable energy has had a social impact because it has aroused people's interest and mentioned that a company can have its own energy through the installation of solar panels.

He explained that another appealing feature of these sources is the net measurement mechanism, where companies or individuals can use technologies to compensate for the use of electricity and establish a solar energy system. They can interact with the distribution companies to buy electricity if they run out, or to sell it if they have a surplus.

Published on July 22, 2019, by the digital newspaper El Día (www.eldia.com.do)



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 188

Santo Domingo, hosting Summit of Mayors from Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean

On July 19 and 20, the 27th Summit of Mayors of the Region of Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean of the Union of Latin American Capital Cities (UCCI) was held, which gathered mayors of the cities of Managua, Mexico City, San Juan, Guatemala, San Salvador, Tegucigalpa, Panama, and San José, along with the Mayor of the Distrito Nacional David Collado.

In the event, the 2018-2019 UCCI activity report was presented, which was prepared by a delegation of the General Secretariat of the organization, as well as the economic and activity summary of the region for the same period, presented by German David Barahona, International Affairs Coordinator of the Tegucigalpa Mayor's Office, in charge of the Vice Presidency of UCCI.

Published on July 22, 2019, by the digital newspaper El Día (www.eldia.com.do)



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 189

Dominican Republic received more than 3.5 million tourists in 1st half of 2019, 3.9% more than 2018

The Dominican Republic received 3,575,298 tourists in the first half, an increase of 3.9% over the previous year, according to data released by the Central Bank (BCRD), during a period marked by controversy due to the death of several Americans in hotels in the country.

86.4% of total travelers corresponds to foreigners, while the rest corresponds to non-resident Dominicans, according to a report published by the issuing bank on its website.

Including resident travelers, the total passenger arrivals by air amounts to 3,881,252, for an increase of 3.9%, that is, 145,921 more than January- June 2018.

64.0% of visitors arrived from North America, 20.6% from Europe, 11.5% from South America, 3.6% from Central America and the Caribbean and 0.3% from Asia and the rest of the world.

In the particular case of June, the report specifies that 587,143 non-resident visitors arrived by air, for an increase of 336 passengers (0.1%) compared to the same month in 2018.

Within these figures, the segment of non-resident Dominicans experienced a growth of 14.5%, equivalent to 12,902 additional passengers, offsetting the decrease of 2.5% of non-resident foreigners, for a decrease of 12,566 travelers, in comparison to June 2018.

The arrival of non-resident passengers during the month of June 2019, according to regions of residence, reflects that 64.1% of visitors arrived from North America, 17.7% from Europe, 11.8% from South America, 6.2% from Central America and the Caribbean, and 0.2% from Asia and the rest of the world.

Regarding the arrival by countries in the said month, the Central Bank stressed that “despite the media campaign” after the death of several Americans in hotels in Dominican territory, which local authorities attribute to health issues, the increase in tourists from the United States remained positive, registering 9,366 additional visitors compared to the same month of the previous year, that is, there was year-on-year variation of 3.6%.

Tourism is the main source of income of the Dominican Republic, and, according to official figures, in 2018 it received 7.5 million tourists, including 1 million cruise passengers.

Published on July 22, 2019, by the newspaper El Nuevo Diario (www.elnuevodiario.com.do)



NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 190

Director CEI-RD: Dominican exports increase 1.7% in the first half of 2019

The Dominican Republic exported 5,522 million dollars during the first half of 2019, which represents an annual growth of 1.7%, according to data from the Export and Investment Center of the Dominican Republic (CEI-RD).

As for the projections for this year, the institution expects to end 2019 with exports amounting to 11,867.47 million dollars, says a report that the CEI-RD provided to EFE.

The main destination of Dominican exports is the United States, which accumulates 51% of the total with 2,496.82 million dollars worth of sales.

It is followed by Haiti, which accumulates 8.6% of the transactions, with 420.92 million dollars worth of exports; India, with 6.5% of exports, totaling \$315 million, and Canada, which purchases Dominican products amounting to \$277.99 million, that is, 5.7%.

As for exported products, the main ones are raw gold for monetary use (646.83 million dollars) and cigars (387.33 million dollars), among others.

The document also reflects the income from investments and tourism and indicates that between January and May 2019, 3,499,000 visitors arrived in the country, a figure that includes arrivals by air and by sea of non-resident passengers, compared to 3,330,869 accounted for in the same period of 2018.

Tourism revenues for the first quarter of 2019 totaled 2,152.5 million dollars, while between January and March of last year they amounted to 2,070.1 million dollars, according to data from the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic.

Data relating to foreign investment for the first quarter of this year placed Mexico as the main investor, with 29.96%, followed by the United States with 26.63%; Spain with 18.18%; Brazil (4.89%), British Virgin Islands (3.49%), Italy (1.45%), and Canada (1.35), among other countries.

The annual percentage increase in direct foreign investment by sector, also for the first quarter, puts telecommunications at the top, with 81.40%, electricity with 60.81%, Free Zones with 20.60%, as well as transport (9.75%), tourism (3.64%) and real estate (1.9%).

Published on July 18, 2019, by the newspaper El Nuevo Diario (www.elnuevodiario.com.do)



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 191

Dominican Republic is recognized as the most important luxury destination

During the ninth edition of the most important luxury forum in Latin America, LuxuryLab Global, the CEO and General Director, Abelardo Marcondes, named the Dominican Republic as the “Most important luxury destination in the Caribbean”.

This recognition is due to the fact that the country maintained a 3.9% increase in international tourists during the first half of 2019.

The Technical Vice Ministry of the Ministry of Tourism (MITUR) published in its semiannual report that the arrival of non-resident visitors by air was 3,575,298, a figure that represents an increase of 134,493 visitors compared to the same period of 2018.

According to a press release, the increase of foreign travelers to a total of 3,089,650 represents a growth of 2.5%.

From those tourists, Mexico was the region of origin that experienced the highest growth (42.6), followed by Poland (24.2%), Colombia (10.2%) and the United States (9.8%).

Carolina Pérez, Director of the Office of Tourism Promotion of MITUR in Mexico, said that the Dominican Republic is an ideal place to enhance spiritual and physical well-being, an attractive destination to rest body and mind.

“Dominican Republic features a privileged natural scenario with a wide range of options for all tastes and needs. The high quality standards of the facilities allow visitors to enjoy a global and very satisfactory experience”, said Pérez during the event.

Published on July 25, 2019, by the newspaper El Listín Diario (www.listindiario.com)



NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 192

Trade between the DR and the UK totaled US \$107.27 million in first quarter of 2019

In the first quarter of 2019, trade between the Dominican Republic and the United Kingdom totaled US \$107.27 million, of which US \$35.8 million correspond to the country's exports to the United Kingdom, while US \$71.47 million were imports from the United Kingdom into the Caribbean nation”.

This data is stated in bulletin number five regarding trade relations between the United Kingdom and the Dominican Republic “Brexit: Beginnings, Chronology, and Current Situation”, which includes the period January - April 2019.

When describing and analyzing the behavior of the main trends on bilateral trade between the United Kingdom and the Dominican Republic, it is reported that, in general terms, “total trade increased by 34.86% compared to the same period in 2018, exports of goods increased only by 3.23% while imports grew 59.32%”, so they argue that the Dominican trade deficit with the United Kingdom increased by 250.74%, presenting the highest in the last eight years.

The top 10 represented 70.30% of the total, the product that amounted to the highest import value was petroleum oils, followed by whiskey, and if we add the percentages of the two items (2208.30.20 and 2208.30.90), they alone totaled 27.68% ”.

The report also notes that 49.5% of Dominican exports to the United Kingdom during this period came out under the national system modality, 10.8% under the free zone modality, and an important 39.7% came out under the modality of others, mainly temporary admission”.

Regarding the implications for the Dominican Republic, it mentions the Economic Partnership Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the member countries of the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM), of which Dominican Republic is a member, to point out that the main objective is “to guarantee the continuity of all trade rights and commitments established in the Economic Association Agreement (EPA) between the European Union (EU) and the CARIFORUM States, once the United Kingdom (UK) materialize its exit from the European bloc ”.

Published on July 24, 2019, by the newspaper El Nuevo Diario (www.elnuevodiario.com.do)



NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 193

Dominican Republic, first Caribbean country to establish a unique registry system to mitigate Climate Change

Santo Domingo. - The Dominican Republic is the first country in the Caribbean to establish a unique registry system on initiatives to mitigate climate change through a virtual platform that will systematize all the efforts that the productive sectors make to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This is the National Registry of Mitigation Measures and Actions on Climate Change, an initiative jointly implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the National Council for Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism (CNCMDL), with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) with the objective of establishing a unique national registry on initiatives to mitigate climate change in the Dominican Republic

The system, which will focus on projects presented by the private sector and will generate disaggregated information, even at the municipal level, was announced during the launch event led by the Vice Minister for International Affairs and Cooperation of the Ministry of Environment, Patricia Abreu, the Technical Director of the CNCMDL, Moisés Álvarez, and the Director of the UNDP Environmental Sustainability and Resilience Unit, María Eugenia Morales.

The National Registry of Mitigation Measures and Actions on Climate Change is part of the actions carried out by the country to present the First Biennial Update Report (BUR), before the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

“With this technology, we are taking a step further. We will be able to know how projects are doing in the country, how they can reduce emissions, and even where in the country they are carried out. This is very important, because as there is more information, we will not only know if we are fulfilling the commitments we have with the Paris Agreement, but we can also know which sectors may need more support from the Ministry of Environment to move forward their development”, said Vice Minister Patricia Abreu during the opening ceremony of the event held in the Yarey room of the Sheraton hotel.

The First Biennial Update Report, BUR is part of a country’s process that has already updated the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory based on 2015 data, as well as the information available on mitigation actions, needs, and support received.

Published on July 25, 2019, by the newspaper El Caribe (www.elcaribe.com.do)