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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 274

Banco del Reservas' General Manager: "Dominican economy is at its best moment"

The General Manager of the Reserve Bank, Simón Lizardo Mézquita, said that the Dominican economy shows one of its best performances in decades, with growth around 5% and projections for 2020 with similar numbers, which would be a milestone maintained for 17 consecutive years.

He said that this level of economic behavior would place the country again as the Latin American growth leader, a milestone achieved in five of the last six years.

"And the positive perspectives we have for 2020 suggest that we will reach another important landmark: For the first time in our history, we will have maintained an average growth of more than 5% for 17 consecutive years."

Lizardo Mézquita made the statement during a reception that Banreservas held for a large group of tourism entrepreneurs, including tour operators, hotels executives and investors. The activity, carried out within the framework of the FITUR International Tourism Fair, took place at the Villa Magna hotel.

Diversified economy

The General Manager of Banreservas stressed that the Dominican economy today is much more diversified, as it is foreign investment.

"We have -he added- a much more developed financial industry. Our institutions have been strengthened under an environment not only of macroeconomic stability, but also of political stability. "

He pointed out that in this context of economic growth described above, the Dominican Republic is proud to present the Pedernales Plan to tourism entrepreneurs as one of the destinations with the greatest potential for future development.

He added that the presentation is also made within the framework of this important international fair, which has a record attendance of 11,000 companies, from 165 countries, and more than 900 exhibitors from around the world.

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NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 275

Grupo Globalia announces the construction of a hotel with 96 ecological cabañas in Bayahibe

The Globalia group announced, within the framework of the International Tourism Fair FITUR, the construction of a hotel of 96 cabañas designed and operated with an ecological criteria in the Bayahibe area, in the Dominican Republic.

The project was presented by José Hidalgo, President of the company, and Francisco Javier García, Minister of Tourism, who praised the initiative and said these types of establishments are welcome to the Dominican Republic because they take into consideration environmental integration, while thanking investors for their trust in the Dominican Republic.

García said all projects with an ecological concept of preservation and coexistence with the environment will always be welcome to the Dominican Republic.

He stated that tourism activity is one of the most responsible activities when it comes to the preservation of the environment and that there is a segment of tourists who travel the whole world and prefer that type of accommodation.

“For all the projects that are approved by the Ministry of Tourism, the first thing you need to have is an environmental impact study and it should not affect the environment,” he said.

“Leaf Bayahibe proposes the construction of 96 cabañas with totally natural materials: wood, cane roofs, sand and gravel floors, using sand from the local area. Native materials, non-toxic to health, durable and recyclable,” said the hotel entrepreneur.

Hidalgo said the project will be built on a piece of land that is 244 thousand square meters so the density will be 0.4 rooms per hectare, the lowest in the region. The 96 cabañas will add 6,664 square meters of construction.

Leaf Bayahibe is totally oriented towards the ecotourism development that is having a great boom worldwide during the last decade and will promote the conservation and care of the natural environment.

He explained that synthetic aggregates will not be used and the design of the project is bioclimatic, oriented towards the sun, and with cross ventilation taking advantage of the warm climate offered by the town of Bayahibe, where it will be located.

The project is designed with small buildings in the form of cabañas that “blend” with the landscape, and the set takes into account seasonal variations (rain, solar angle, etc.), with organic shapes that simulate the nerves of a leaf always in harmony with the environment and adjusting to the topography of the land.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 276

Iberia and the Ministry of Tourism renew tourism promotion agreement

Madrid - The airline Iberia and the Ministry of Tourism of the Dominican Republic renewed their tourism promotion agreement starting in April, "Premium Tourist" will be introduced on their flights to Santo Domingo, aimed at higher-spending tourists.

The agreement was signed by the Minister of Tourism, Francisco Javier García Fernández, and the President of Iberia, Luis Gallego, within the framework of the International Tourism Fair FITUR, which takes place in Madrid, Spain, from January 22 to 26, 2020.

The Minister of Tourism said that for "Quisqueya" it has great significance to sign again a cooperation agreement with Iberia, because it is a global benchmark in aviation.

"For the country it is a real privilege to promote, through this extraordinary platform that is Iberia, our destination with advertising and in the broad program developed by the airline. With this agreement we are reintegrating our commitment with tourists, not only who travel from Spain, but those who travel from all over Europe to the Dominican Republic," Garcia said.

He added that the Caribbean country continues and remains strong as the main tourist destinations in the entire Caribbean region, which is receiving large investments from Europeans, North Americans and other countries.

Among the main features of the Premium Tourist class there are:

20 percent more spacing between rows of seats: 94 centimeters in Premium Tourist compared to 78.7 cm in the Tourist class. Wider seats: 48 cm versus 43 cm of the Tourist class, 40% greater seat recline, from 5" to 7" in Premium Tourist, adjustable headrests and reclining footrests.

Also, 12" full HD screens (compared to 9" for Tourist Class), noise canceling headphones and connectors for individual electronic devices, among other benefits.

They will also have greater baggage allowance: two bags included with the ticket, priority boarding and disembarkation and, at the Madrid airport, differentiated check-in counters.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 277

Dominican Republic exhibits its agricultural potential at Fruit Logistica in Berlin

Berlin- Since yesterday, the Dominican Republic is exhibiting in Germany its fruit and vegetable potential by participating in the twenty-seventh annual Fruit Logistica fair in Berlin, showing a portfolio of high quality fresh agricultural products to thousands of potential international clients.

The participation of Dominican companies is the result of the support and assistance process of the Export and Investment Center of the Dominican Republic (CEIRD), an institution that has set up a country stand of 130 m2 where its products are exhibited by 15 local companies and another 10 that attend as visitors to know the market, promote their offers and do business.

All the companies take on the challenge of increasing agricultural exports to Europe by conquering new markets and positioning the country in this international scenario as a world-class producer.

The Dominican portfolio exhibited in Berlin for the entire European market is based on fresh and top quality products such as avocados, bananas, coconuts, mangoes, tomatoes, eggplant, okra and pineapples. This year, 72% of the exhibitions at Fruit Logistica are focused on fresh fruits and vegetables.

Likewise, and in accordance with the strategies developed by CEIRD, the Dominican participation in this important international fair is aiming at taking advantage of the opportunity to expand local Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) share in international markets.

A scenario for the internalization of companies

Fruit Logística is defined as the world stage for new ideas, new trends, new solutions. It runs from today until next Friday, the 27th version will have the participation of 3,276 exhibitors from 90 countries and the attendance of 78,629 visiting professionals from 135 countries. They attend the exhibition to take advantage of its potential within the international trade of fresh products at a fair where the major international companies of the industry are present, as well as small and medium-sized suppliers from all over the world.

For Marius de León, Director of the Export and Investment Center of the Dominican Republic (CEIRD), the participation of Dominican producers in Fruit Logística brings about a great opportunity in 2020, which has been declared as the Year of Food Security Consolidation, given that the companies exhibiting in Berlin are advancing in their internationalization processes, establishing contacts with new suppliers and potential customers.

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NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 278

Dominican Republic is crowned champion of the Caribbean Baseball Series

Los Toros of the Dominican Republic conquered the Caribbean Baseball Series 2020 championship on Friday after beating Los Cardenales of Venezuela 9-3 in the final game of the tournament.

In the match held at the Hiram Bithorn stadium in the Puerto Rican capital, the Dominican lineup was aggressive on the field from the start and managed to maintain the lead throughout the nine innings to take the victory.

The Dominicans got their first run in the third inning, thanks to second baseman Gustavo Núñez, who was driven by a single of Rubén Sosa to the left field.

In the fourth inning, first baseman Peter O'Brien singled to right to get to the first base and get Jordany Valdespín to third.

On the next turn, Abraham Almonte hit a double to the center field driving Valdespín to the home plate for the second run of the Dominican team.

The third baseman of the Toros, Diego Goris also got a hit in the inning and with a line to the left pushed O'Brien for a third run.

Venezuela reacted in the fifth inning when a double by Gorkys Hernández to the center field drove Adonis García to home.

But in the bottom of the fifth inning, the Dominicans O'Brien and Abraham Almonte crossed the plate to put the score in their favor 5-1.

A passed ball by Venezuelan catcher Alixon Suarez allowed the sixth run for the players from Quisqueya, by Junior Lake.

In the seventh inning, Venezuelans got two more runs by Garcia and Hernandez.

The Dominicans responded with three more runs giving the final score to the match.

This is the twentieth title for the Dominican Republic, the first since 2012, when they dominated the Caribbean tournament with the Leones del Escogido.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 279

Dominican industrial free zone exports have grown 36.2% in seven years

Exports from the free zone sector have increased by 36.2 percent over the past seven years, which has had a fundamental impact on the country's economic growth, said on Monday the Minister of Industry, Commerce and MSMEs (MICM), Nelson Toca Simó.

In 2012, the exports from these companies amounted to US \$4.9 billion, but in 2019 they increased to US \$6.7 billion, an increase of 36.2 percent, explained the official in the Revista 110 TV program.

This is largely due to the fact that the number of free zone parks operating in the country has increased by 43.4 percent since 2012, while the increase in free zone companies accounted for 24.7 percent, the official added.

Similarly, he said that jobs in the free zone sector grew by 36.3 percent during the 2012-2019 period, indicating that in the last five years more than 20 parks were opened with more than 100 new companies established, which generated more than 40 thousand new jobs.

Currently, in the Dominican Republic, 78 free zone industrial parks operate with 800 companies established from different lines of work, which generate around 180,000 direct jobs.

Toca Simó explained that the country reported an economic growth of 5.1 percent in 2019, with 127 thousand new jobs and 1.5 million Dominicans who managed to overcome poverty.

He highlighted the contributions of the MICM in five basic areas for development, such as industry development, domestic and foreign trade, free zones and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Toca Simó said that during his time in front of the MICM, extraordinary work has been carried out in the field of fuel management

“When we started our administration at the MICM, we made a diagnosis that revealed that about 80 percent of the gas stations and LPG packing stations were not completely regularized,” he said.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 280

Mexican airline is interested in the Dominican market

The Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugo Francisco Rivera Fernández, met with officials of the Mexican Government and the Dominican Ambassador to Mexico, Jonny Martínez, with the objective of reviewing the bilateral agenda on trade and economic issues, and further strengthening relations between the two nations. Rivera Fernández traveled to Mexico on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Miguel Vargas to carry out an agenda with Ambassador Martínez to promote the country.

He was received by Maximiliano Reyes Zúñiga, Deputy Minister for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. Rivera was also received by Humberto Hernández Haddad, Deputy Minister for Quality and Regulation of the Mexican Ministry of Tourism, and Luz María de la Mora, Deputy Minister for International Trade of the Ministry of Economy of Mexico. The agenda included a meeting with Laura Elena Carrillo, Executive Director of the Mexican Agency for Development Cooperation (AMEXID), with whom he was able to share successful experiences in the field of international cooperation. At the Dominican Embassy, the Deputy Minister met with executives of the Mexican airline Interjet, interested in the Dominican market, motivated by the great economic growth of the country in recent years. At a breakfast held by the Dominican Embassy and the Binational Chamber of Business and Services Mexico-Dominican Republic (Cabimex-RD), Rivera Fernández gave a lecture to potential investors from different sectors about Dominican investment climate, highlighting the legal framework, political stability and sustained economic growth.

Meeting

At the Dominican Embassy, the Deputy Minister talked about his encounter with executives of the Mexican airline Interjet.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 281

Major League confirmed game to take place in Dominican Republic, Twins vs. Tigers

Santo Domingo.- The Minnesota Twins and the Detroit Tigers will play a spring training match at the Quisqueya Juan Marichal Stadium in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on Saturday, March 7, Major League Baseball (MLB) announced today in conjunction with the "Major League Baseball Players Association" (MLBPA). It will be the first MLB game in the Dominican Republic since the spring training of 2000, when the Boston Red Sox and Houston Astros played in the same stadium.

The game between the rivals of the Central Division of the American League will count as a home game for the Tigers. Detroit played at an international event for the last time in 1980, when they participated in the Roberto Clemente Series in Puerto Rico against the St. Louis Cardinals.

"The Detroit Tigers have the honor of being selected by Major League Baseball for this event in the Dominican Republic," said Al Avila, Executive Vice President of Baseball Operations and General Manager of the Tigers. "The growth of international sport, especially in Latin America, is a priority for many teams in the sport, and for me personally, it means a lot for my father, Ralph, who started the first Baseball Academy in the Dominican Republic - Campos Las Palmas - and with his efforts started the Dominican Professional Baseball League. It's really a country that has passionate fans and a rich history with baseball. "

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 282

Nautical tourism has an opportunity to expand in the Dominican Republic

Aware of the growth opportunities available to nautical tourism worldwide, operators of the main recreational marinas in the Dominican Republic announced the creation of the first Cluster of Recreational and Sports Marinas in the country.

The initiative, which is promoted by the National Maritime Affairs Authority (Anamar), seeks to potentiate the development of recreational nautical tourism, taking it as an opportunity for the diversification of the tourist portfolio that offers comparative advantages in the quality of spending and improves the distribution of the wealth generated by this activity in the communities where it develops.

Through a document it was reported that the first meeting of the cluster was attended by representatives of Casa de Campo, considered the most luxurious marina in the Caribbean, Cap Cana, Yacht Club Santo Domingo, Punta Arena and Ocean World and Limestone Park, located in the most hurricane-protected bay throughout the Caribbean and considered the first eco-marine in the region.

The creation of the first Recreational and Sports Marinas Cluster is an important step in strengthening the industry and contributes towards the improvements necessary for its development, the statement said.

“The Dominican Republic has been very successful in the development of sun and beach tourism under the all-inclusive modality, becoming the leader of the Caribbean region, however, the nautical tourism segment faces important challenges that need attention,” Explained Pascual Prota Henríquez, President of Anamar, who chaired the activity.

The meeting also had the support of Sandra Lara and Mateo Terrero, both representing the National Competitiveness Council, who valued the initiative as positive.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 283

A commitment agreement on trade and investment is signed between Dominican Republic and Brazil

Santo Domingo.- The Embassy of Brazil in the Dominican Republic and the Brazilian Dominican Chamber signed a collaboration agreement aimed at articulating joint initiatives to improve trade between the two countries and increase investment flows in strategic areas of each country.

In a press release, the Chamber explains that the commitment is part of the coordinated actions driven by the aforementioned representations, in order to balance the trade balance, boost tourism and capital flows, as well as strengthen competitiveness of the exchange, which during the last period of 2019 exhibited a surplus of US \$511,756,076, with a deficit balance for the Dominican Republic.

The document reveals that said alliance was sealed within the framework of a business event at the Center for Innovation and Training (CAPEX), in Santiago de los Caballeros, with representatives of the province, and was headed by the Brazilian Ambassador, Clemente Baena Soares, and Ángel Viro, President of the Chamber of Brazil.

In order to stress the need for the agreement, Clemente Baena Soares, Ambassador of Brazil to the country, highlighted the importance of maintaining a balanced trade, and of narrowing the gap that reflects a deficit for the Dominican side.

He considered it appropriate to take advantage of the potential of each economy and expand the bilateral flow of goods and services, while stating that in the framework of solid relationships, they have been identifying opportunities for trade and investment niches in strategic areas.

“In essence, we are working to promote investment flows in the Dominican Republic, since Brazil is the third major investor country, after Canada and the United States, and to achieve a competitive and fruitful exchange, especially in a market like Brazil, which has a population of 210 million people,” said the diplomat.

Meanwhile, Ángel Viro, President of the Chamber of Brazil said that both institutions intensify efforts to help increase trade between the two routes, and to promote greater quantities of Dominican products to Brazil, as well as to enhance investment in productive sectors of the two countries.

He stressed that the commitment also implies room for institutional collaboration between the two countries, among which is the coordination of business missions both ways, promotion of trade and tourism agreements, among others.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 284

Former Dominican Major League player Tony Fernandez passed away due to kidney problems

Miami.- The former Dominican Major League player Tony 'Cabeza' Fernández, 57, considered one of the best shortstops of the 80s and 90s, died last night at a hospital in Miami (USA), where he was treated for kidney problems, his family reported this Sunday in the Dominican Republic.

Fernandez died after several days in "induced coma" after his health situation worsened due to severe pneumonia, according to statements from his relatives, who have not given details about the former player's funeral.

In 2017, the Dominican was admitted to a Florida hospital, where he was diagnosed with hepatorenal polycystic disease, a hereditary disorder in which cysts form in both kidneys.

"May he rest in peace, the legendary shortstop Tony Fernandez. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and his legacy as a Blue Jay will live forever," said the team on Twitter, where Fernandez got a World Series ring in 1993 and spent his best years as a professional baseball player.

Precisely, in October 2016, the former shortstop was inducted into the Ontario Sports Hall of Fame, Canada, for its contributions and achievements in 12 seasons with the Toronto Blue Jays.

Fernández played for several teams in his 17-year career in the Major Leagues, but it is due to his performance with the Blue Jays from 1983-1990 that he is now considered one of the best players in position six of the 80s and 90s .

Fernandez debuted and retired from the big leagues wearing the blue uniform of the Canadian team. In 1985 he became Toronto's starting shortstop and in the following five years he led the franchise twice in batting average (1986, 1987), three times in hits (1986, 1988, 1990) and four times in triples (1986, 1987, 1989, 1990).

Also, during that period he was summoned three times to the All-Star Game and was catapulted as a shortstop elite player when he was awarded the Golden Glove repeatedly from 1986 to 1989.

In 1993, he returned to Toronto via a trade from the New York Mets. In 94 games with the Blue Jays, he had a batting average of .306 and helped them win their second World Series by driving nine runs, a shortstop mark with an average of .333.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 285

Tobacco contributions exceeded US \$ 934 million in 2019

Exports of tobacco in its different varieties (handmade cigars and manufactured with machines and “ramas”) during 2019 contributed 934 million dollars, a figure that could be exceeded during this 2020.

Manuel Alejandro Ureña, Executive Director of the Tobacco Institute (Intabaco) told Diario Libre that the harvest corresponding to the 2019-2020 period has the largest volume in the last decade.

“We plan to plant 8,800 hectares with different varieties and at the beginning of this month we have completed a total of 8,300 hectares in the 32 tobacco zones that we have throughout the national geography,” he said.

He said that the climatic conditions have favored the development of tobacco plantations and it is expected to harvest more than 300 thousand quintals, since the yield per “tareas” ranges between 2.1 and 2.3 quintals.

Ureña said that the tobacco industry generates more than 155 thousand jobs directly and indirectly, since the activity involves growers and entire families that for centuries have made their living from the cultivation of the aromatic leaf. He highlighted that in 2019, more than nine billion cigar units were sold in different foreign markets, mainly in the United States, Europe and some Asian countries such as China, which is the latest market conquered by the country.

As for the diseases that previously affected the crop, Ureña said that the virosis and blue mold that did a lot of damage remain under control.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 286

Dominican Republic launches renewable energy generation forecasting service

The Coordinating Body of the Interconnected Electric System (OC-SENI) launched its Solar and Wind Power Generation Forecasting Service on Thursday, which will ensure the massive integration of renewable energy sources in a safe, efficient and sustainable manner over time.

The initiative, which has the support of the Ministry of Energy and Mines of the Dominican Republic, the Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety of Germany and the GIZ, will be developed under the framework of the Energy Transition Project.

The development of the project, under the direction of the German company Energy & Meteo Systems, will have a positive impact for more than 13 power generation plants, nine wind farms and four solar, which represent more than 600 megawatts in the Dominican electrical system.

The Minister of Energy and Mines, Antonio Isa Conde, considered that this service strengthens and gives root to the most important pillars in the electricity market, which are planning, trust and certainty, while correcting the dispersion of information in this matter.

“With adequate forecasts, based on the latest generation technologies, we assumed control of what would happen in the short, medium and long term with the supply of wind and solar energy, not only to take advantage of them but also to meet market demand with strategic and timely responses”, argued Isa Conde.

The head of the governing body of the electrical system valued the German cooperation to make feasible the system of renewables sources generation forecasts and stressed that it will allow the OC-SENI to establish the “Know How” for the future management of renewable energies.

At the launch, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Dominican Republic, Volker Pellet, said that “as the capacity of renewables sources increases, the challenges that the system operators must face and balance also increase. The importance of a forecasting service lies in establishing how much renewable generation will enter the electrical system and thus know how much conventional generation is needed to complement the rest of the demand. ”

Meanwhile, the General Manager of OC-SENI, Manuel López San Pablo, explained that “one day in advance we receive the estimate of the next 72 hours of renewable energy production, which are used for daily planning.”

In the activity, Daniel Almarza, Principal Advisor of the Energy Transition Project, presented the details of the Generation Forecasting Service, and Angelica Lam, Project Engineer for Energy & Meteo Systems, showed the results and conclusions of the first month of operation.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 287

Report has the Dominican Republic as the country with the highest economic growth

El Salvador.- The IDB Group's 2019 Activity Report places the Dominican Republic as the country with the highest economic growth in Latin America, Central America and the Caribbean, during the year 2019, as reported by the Ministry of Finance on Friday.

The institution said in a press release that the document was released during the Meeting of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank of Central America and the Dominican Republic, which began yesterday and ends this afternoon in San Salvador, El Salvador.

The Dominican Republic leads in growth with 5% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), followed by Panama, which registered a growth of 4.3% in GDP, according to the IDB report that presents the growth levels of the countries from Central America.

He adds that the report recognizes a regional growth of 3.4% in GDP, which is above the average for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), 0.2%, and the global average (3%).

“Among the main factors that led to this growth are the increase in exports and remittances, as a result of growth in the United States, and higher domestic consumption, due to low inflation,” he said.

The meeting of the Board of Governors of the IDB Group was inaugurated by the President of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele, and Luis Alberto Moreno, President of the IDB.

The delegation of the Dominican Republic includes: Athemayani del Orbe, General Director of Public Credit; Carlos Pared Vidal, IDB Executive Director in the Dominican Republic; and Soraya Asunción, Director of Credit Negotiations of the General Directorate of Public Credit of the Ministry of Finance.

Among the topics discussed at the meeting are the opportunities for growth in the region, the role of fiscal policy to reduce inequality and vulnerability, and the need to design public policies that promote growth with greater equity.

In this context, the Representative of the Dominican Republic before the IDB explained that the country and that multilateral body have created “a solid alliance” to develop a common agenda that addresses three themes: improving growth and strengthening the fiscal structure, quality in public services and transparency.

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NEWS SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 288

Foundation of Dominican Customs exhibits 30 of the best artworks of its collection in Ottawa

Ottawa, Canada - The Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Canada and the Fundación del Patrimonio Cultural of the General Directorate of Customs (DGA) of the Dominican Republic, with the collaboration of the Ministry of Tourism, through its Tourism Promotion Office in Montreal, opened on February 20, in the magnificent hall of the Ottawa City Hall, the exhibition “Modernity and Contemporaneity in Dominican Art”, consisting of 26 paintings and 4 sculptures, masterpieces of Dominican plastic art.

The catalog of the exhibition contains a message from Enrique Ramírez Paniagua, General Director of Customs, in which he affirms that the exhibit “summarizes the multicolored culture, product of the mixture of ethnic groups that formed our society, from the Taínos, Ciguayos and Caribes natives, then with the Spaniards, on the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1492.” Ramírez Paniagua highlights that the exhibition reflects the vision and feeling of leading artists of the Dominican paintbrush, recognizing the initiative of the late Director of Customs and promoter of the arts, Miguel Cocco Guerrero.

The Dominican Ambassador to Canada, Pedro Vergés Ciman, in his welcoming words, pointed out that the exhibition is part of the program of activities commemorating the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations of our country with that North American nation. The diplomat described the exhibition as “an expression of the high level that we have been able to achieve in the field of visual arts” and thanked the DGA and its director, Mr. Enrique Ramírez Paniagua, and the members of the Foundation for having chosen Canada for the show.

With a high attendance, at the inauguration were also present Canadian Senators Jane Cordy, René Cormier and Marie-Françoise, the Director of the Ottawa Art Gallery, Alexandra Balzak, as well as Mark O'Neill and Kay Richter, Executives of the Museum of History and War. Also, at the event there was a broad diplomatic representation from Spain, Belgium, Cameroon, El Salvador, Saint Lucia, Cuba, Argentina, Israel, Yemen, Colombia, Mexico, Portugal and Austria, among others, along with various officials of Global Affairs Canada, the Ottawa City Council, representatives of the Universities of Carleton and UNAM-Canada, the Dominican Aviation Institute (IDAC), as well as leaders of the Dominican community, members of the press and the general public.

With this exhibition, open from February 20 to March 4 at the Ottawa City Hall, the Fundación del Patrimonio Cultural of the DGA, continues an initiative that has reaped many successes in places such as the headquarters of the Organization of American States, in Washington, in New York, Madrid, Santiago de Compostela, in Spain, in Brussels, Belgium, and in Havana, Cuba.

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NEWS SHEET EMBASSY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN CANADA

No. 289

Dominican Republic shines with the largest solar power plant in its history with Elecnor Spain

The Spanish company Elecnor, which is an infrastructure, energy and telecommunications business group, has been awarded the construction of the Girasol solar park for the power generation company Generadora de Electricidad Haina (EGE Haina). It will be located in the Yaguate municipality, in the province of San Cristóbal. The power plant will have a capacity of 120 MW at peak generation and will allocate its production to the National Interconnected Electric System (SENI).

An official report collected by Energía Limpia XXI highlights that this new photovoltaic power plant will be the largest in the country and will increase the capacity of solar projects connected to SENI by 64%.

The project will be built on an area of 220 hectares where solar irradiation is higher than the average in the Dominican Republic. It will include the installation of about 300,000 photovoltaic modules, a 150 MVA substation and a transmission line of 10 KM in length at 138 kV.

In recent years, the Dominican Republic has given a boost to the diversification of its energy matrix by promoting solar, wind, biomass and other enterprises.

Elecnor in Dominican Republic

Elecnor got its first contract in the Dominican Republic in 1980 and since 1985 it was established definitively in the country. Elecnor's experience of 40 uninterrupted years in the country allows the company to assume the execution of this projects directly without having to resort to external subcontracting. Elecnor is a leading company in the country in the construction of distribution and transmission lines, helping to improve and modernize the Dominican power grid. It is worth mentioning the recent construction of the 48 MW Larimar II Wind Farm in the province of Barahona, also developed for EGE Haina.

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No. 290

Dominican Republic and Canada sign memorandum on trade and investment

Santo Domingo.- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic (Mirex) and Global Affairs Canada signed on Wednesday a Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Consultations on International Affairs, Trade and Investment.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Miguel Vargas and the Deputy Minister for Latin America of the Government of Canada, Michael Grant, signed the document, which will serve to “deepen our political, trade and investment relationship, contributing to achieving the potential of the complementarity of our economies,” said the high Dominican official.

After signing the agreement, Vargas highlighted the mutual support and fluid dialogue between the two nations, highlighting that, in terms of economic exchange, the Dominican Republic has a positive trade balance, with exports to Canada worth more than 637 million dollars and imports for 220 million.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs also referred to the more than 900,000 Canadian tourists that visit the Caribbean country each year, said Vargas in a statement.

He also cited figures from the Central Bank concerning Canadian investment in the Dominican Republic from 2010 to 2019, which amounted to \$4.59 billion “becoming the third largest foreign investor,” said the Dominican official.

Also present in the activity were the Canadian Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, Shauna Hemingway; the Director of the Export and Investment Center of the Dominican Republic (CEIRD), Marius de León; the Director of the Santo Domingo Aqueduct and Sewer Corporation (CAASD), Alejandro Montás; among other officials and special guests.

After signing the document, representatives of both Governments held a meeting that, on the Dominican side, was led by the Deputy Ministers Hugo Rivera, for Economic Matters and International Cooperation, and Alba María Cabral de Peña Gómez, for Bilateral Foreign Policy; while the Canadian team was headed by Deputy Minister Grant.

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