



# Women empowerment

Page. 3



## Science

Female contributions  
Page. 5



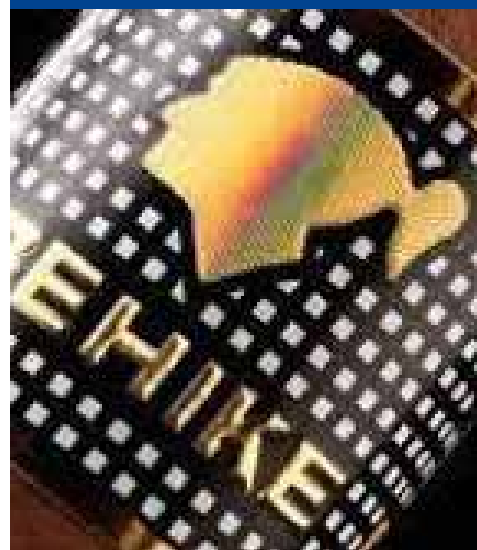
## Culture

Havana's Book Fair  
Page. 9



## Economy

Cigar Festival  
Page. 14



## Sports

Baseball League  
Page. 15



# Guardalavaca Stands Out among Tourist Destinations

Text and Photo Benjamín **MICERINOS**

GUARDALAVACA, HOLGUÍN.- The eastern Cuban beach of Guardalavaca stands out as a favorite destination among travelers who come to Cuba to enjoy their holidays, particularly among European visitors. Spokespersons of the Cubanacán Hotel Group stated that they are happy with the fact that many families want to spend their holidays in this place, located at about 800 kilometers east of Havana, on the northern coast of this province and considered one of the country's most beautiful beaches. Travelers from all over the world arrive in this region and once they visit this destination, which includes all-inclusive hotels, they only think of coming back again to relive the experience, directors of the abovementioned hotel group indicated. In this beautiful spot of the Cuban geography, Cubanacán runs the Brisas Guardalavaca Hotel, a four-star facility with 437 rooms and ideal either for families or

the youth segment or those who plan long stays.

The hotel's beach area includes the Eagle Ray International Diving Center, in addition to a variety of gastronomic and recreational options that stand out for the quality service and the kindness of the staff.

The Club Amigo Guardalavaca Hotel, for its part, has 747 rooms and stands out for the pool and beach entertainment, which involves guests, as well as for its night shows and culinary delights.

Both hotels enjoy an excellent beach zone, with fine sand and wonderful vegetation. In addition, those staying in Guardalavaca can easily go to the Holguín city, where the Cubanacán group offers a luxury service at the Caballeriza, Esmeralda and Saratoga E-Hotels – each, with 40 rooms – located in the surrounding areas of the city's main parks. Other options include visiting the Gibara city – aka the White Village – where Cubanacán has the Ordoño, Arsenita, Plaza Colón and Buena Vista E-Hotels (57 rooms in total).

The Cubanacán Hotel Group offers a very attractive scenario in the Holguín province, full of color and with the possibility of not

only enjoying the abovementioned beach and city modalities but also the nature, adventure and rural tourism.



Guardalavaca is considered one of the most beautiful beaches in Cuba. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

## Importance of Accessible Tourism

By Tom **MIX**

HAVANA.- Cuban professor and researcher José Luis Perelló stated that accessible tourism is an essential element for the development of the travel industry at present.

He affirmed that this travel modality could generate incomes amounting to about 90 billion dollars this year, which represents a 65 percent increase in this decade, according to a study conducted by Emerald Insight.

Perelló added that traveling is an opened door to new experiences and perspectives; however, it represents a series of obstacles and limited options for over one billion disabled people

With an aging world population and increasing health problems, the need for an accessible tourism is more urgent than ever. In this sense, the specialist pointed out that in recent years, the so-called chimney-free industry is taking an important step to improve the experience of its millions of guests.

It is a unique and appropriate change, whose main challenge at present is not only to offer alternatives with different price ranges but also with high levels of quality that stand out, particularly, for their inclusive nature.

In spite of the progress made, many companies and suppliers still do not know how to conduct this new model of development; for that reason, the objective is to offer support through information and experiences that promote new initiatives addressed at accessibility, the professor commented.

He also said that travel companies often consider the travel market for the disabled persons as a legal

requirement, instead of taking advantage of this as a business opportunity.

According to the European Network for Accessible Tourism, the world annually loses over 150 billion dollars because of the lack of facilities for disabled travelers.

The Saudi Arabia multiple project developer, Red Sea Global (RSG), is benefitting from this opportunity by integrating inclusive designs and facilities in its Red Sea destination since the planning stages.

Perelló made reference to different types of limited accessibility to this form of travels, such architectonic and urban designs, transportation systems, communication and web.



The need for an accessible tourism is more urgent than ever. PHOTO: Internet.

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# Empowerment and Accomplishments



Women hold 55.74 percent of positions in the Cuban Parliament. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

By Melissa **KING**

HAVANA.- Women empowerment, gender equality and a wide-ranging number of rights are some of the accomplishments Cuban women have achieved, although there are still some challenges to face.

After the triumph of the Revolution in 1959, headed by historical leader Fidel Castro, the implementation of public policies addressed at making progress in Cuban women's inclusion and the development of their potentials became a priority.

At present, women hold 55.74 percent of positions in the National Assembly of People's Power, thus having a prominent role in the drafting of the country's economic, social and political policies.

At the same time, 51,000 Cuban women work in science and technology-related activities and 69.6 percent are involved in the public health sector.

Likewise, of the ten Cuban inventions that have received the Gold Medal of the World Intellectual Property Organization, six of them are the main authors. In all this process of emancipation and empowerment, the Cuban Women's Federation, created by Vilma Espín on August 23, 1960 to defend the same rights for everyone and end discrimination, has played an important role. In addition to achievements in topics such as equal contribution in productive areas and managing tasks, as well as acknowledgement to the contribution they make to their families as the core of

the society, Cuban women still face sexist stereotypes and prejudices that hinder their full fulfillment.

Because of the above, the implementation of the National Program for the Progress of Women is the cornerstone for the development of actions addressed at guaranteeing equal rights and the institutionalization of policies on the topic. In addition, the Families Code establishes the economic assessment of domestic work, attention to senior adults or with people with disabilities, and strengthens the figure of vulnerable ex-spouse, among other issues.

In the last five years, important government policies have been approved, including the Comprehensive Strategy for Prevention and Attention to Gender Violence in the family scenario.

The said strategy is part of the will of the Cuban State and Government to create the mechanisms for the comprehensive and systematic attention to that phenomenon, which affects our society, through the articulated and coordinated action of different actors.

In addition, it endorses the constitutional mandate of favoring women's comprehensive development and their full social participation, and guarantees the exercise of their sexual and reproductive rights, while protecting them from gender violence in any form and space.

## Education with UNESCO Standards

By Lisván **LESCAILLE**

HAVANA.- Cuba ratified the strategic importance of education for sustainable development, with justice and social inclusion, during the XIX Pedagogía 2025 International Congress, in compliance with UNESCO and the UN 2030 Agenda.

In this event, held from February 10 to 13 with the participation of over one thousand teachers from 30 countries, Cuba set the course for this sector, in tune with the Fourth Sustainable Development Goal defended by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Cuba's experiences ratified that education is a human right that provides and fosters other rights established by the United Nations and sets the course to face world challenges that have an important impact on Latin America and the Caribbean.

Cuban minister of education Naima Trujillo mentioned among those challenges equal access to technological development, knowledge, innovation, technology and its effects in productive processes, so that they are sustainable and are in harmony with the environment. UNESCO acknowledged the commitment of the Cuban educational system as the basis for peace and sustainable development, for its conception of a transforming and solidarity teaching that uses a large network of schools aligned with the concepts of that UN body.

The Cuban educational experience is endorsed by dozens of thousands of persons who, in 30 countries of the world, have learnt to read and write thanks to the Yes, I can teaching method, an expression

of the solidarity vocation of the Cuban Revolution, Trujillo stated.

Cuba has a network for the internationalization of education that gives hope to millions of people in the world and whose purpose is to share knowledge and increase the quality of the teaching institutions in the country and other nations.

With that purpose in mind, 163 PhD programs are conducted in 39 universities and authorized institutions.

At the forum, several countries of the area appreciated Cuba's collaboration in the field for the impact it has on the elimination of illiteracy among their most vulnerable population, being Honduras the best example highlighted by the press accredited to the event.

Honduras and Cuba strengthened ties through the signing of new agreements that reinforce the abovementioned internationalization policy in the educational field, a sign of the model of relations between nations with similar interests and destinies.

Thanks to the Cuban teaching method, over 400,000 Hondurans have learnt to read and write, and now have the intention of enrolling the educational system to raise their level of instruction. Pedagogía 2025 also showed successful teaching practices in relation to the use of technologies, science and innovation in favor of the quality of the educational processes.

A meeting of the Confederation of Latin American Educators executives and the I Forum of Cuban Teachers leaving abroad were also held as part of the congress.



President Miguel Díaz-Canel attended the inauguration of the XIX Pedagogía 2025 International Congress. PHOTO: Vladimir Molina.

# Tough Policy on Cuba

By DeisyFRANCIS

WASHINGTON.-All it was needed was for January 20 to arrive. The president elect, Donald Trump, reverted what his predecessor, Joe Biden, had stipulated just six days before.

It took four years for the Democratic president to undertake the path he had promised during his electoral campaign in relation to the policy on Cuba, and when he did it, the definition could not be different: it was a late action.

Cuba "should no longer be designated as a State sponsor of terrorism", the White House affirmed in a release on the notification the then president sent to the Congress.

He also issued an exemption to Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, also known as Liberty Act, for a period of six months and rescinded the National Security Presidential Memorandum-5 of 2017 on the policy toward Cuba to eliminate the so-called "Restricted List."

The measures were welcomed as an elemental justice duty to the Caribbean island and a step in the right direction, although the blockade remained unaltered.

However, at the stroke of the pen and shortly after returning to the Oval Office, his Republican successor revoked all orders Biden took in relation to the policy on Cuba. Five minutes were more than enough, Trump said.

On January 31, Secretary of State Marco Rubio issued a release clearly stating that the "tough" policy on the island, which should characterize the next four years, was restored.

Rubio reinstated the Restricted List, a step to restore the United States' "tough" policy on Cuba in the next four years.

The head of the U.S. diplomacy not only reinstated in that list entities that were already sanctioned, but included one more: Orbit S.A., a channel for the sending of remittances to the Caribbean island.



Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, one of the architects of the policy on Cuba at the U.S. Congress. PHOTO: Internet.

According to Rubio's statement, who during his term as a senator was one of the main architects of the U.S. policy on Cuba at the Congress, Orbit S.A. is a remittance processing company that "operates for or on behalf of the Cuban military."

Thus, as it was to be expected, shortly after, Western Union notified the suspension "with immediate effect" of money transfers to the Caribbean nation "because of a change in the U.S. sanction regulations."

## Solidarity and Love

Text and photo DeisyFRANCIS

NEW YORK.- Cuba is famous worldwide for its solidarity and love, for its desire to collaborate even with the U.S. people; for that reason, the inclusion of the island in a list of countries that allegedly sponsor terrorism is unbelievable.

That is the view of executive director of the Pastors for Peace Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), Claudia De la Cruz, who in an interview with **The Havana Reporter** stated her rejection to president Donald Trump's decision of revoking the measures his predecessor, Joe Biden, took in favor of Cuba a few days before leaving the post.



Executive director of the Pastors for Peace Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), Claudia De la Cruz. PHOTO: Internet.

She said that "it is important to be able to expand and strengthen solidarity ties with Cuba, with the Latin American and Caribbean region, with the world, and from IFCO we consider that there is a lot to be done."

In particular, "we want to preserve the legacy of reverend Lucius Walker, the legacy of many of those who have joined IFCO and Pastors for Peace (...). They paved the way in this fight against the blockade," the activist added.

In present times, it is essential to fight the misinformation campaigns against Cuba by the Trump government and conservative sectors of the Democrat Party, she commented.

In that sense, it is important to work in the new conditions of hostility toward the island by the government of the United States, added De la Cruz, former 2024 presidential candidate for the Socialism and Liberation Party.

To us, as well as to the Pastors for Peace caravans of the 1990s or the beginning of 2000 that conducted actions to denounce, confront and demand the end of the inhuman blockade, it is a must to continue demanding the elimination of Cuba from that list, she stressed.

Part of reverend Lucius' legacy – which was preserved by his daughter Gail Walker, former

IFCO executive director – includes support to Cuba and that is what we will continue doing from the United States, she said.

De la Cruz affirmed that as part of the actions to fight fake narratives, we have to stress that Cuba has not been involved in any way in terrorist actions; however, the United States has indeed coordinated, promoted terrorism against this country, a terrorism that on many occasions has come from Miami.

In relation to the present deportations by the Trump administration, the IFCO executive director condemned the sending of undocumented immigrants to the detention center located at the United States naval base in the illegally occupied territory of Guantánamo.

"We are seeing that conditions are being created to receive at that naval base about 30,000 people deported from the United States as if they were terrorists," the activist commented when highlighting that the rights of the immigrants sent there are being violated.

To us, as part of the solidarity project with Cuba, it is also a must that the Guantánamo naval base is closed, that the Cuban people gets back a territory that belongs to them, and that the blockade, immorally imposed for over 60 years, is finally lifted.

# Long List of Female Scientists in Cuba

By Erika **HERNÁNDEZ**

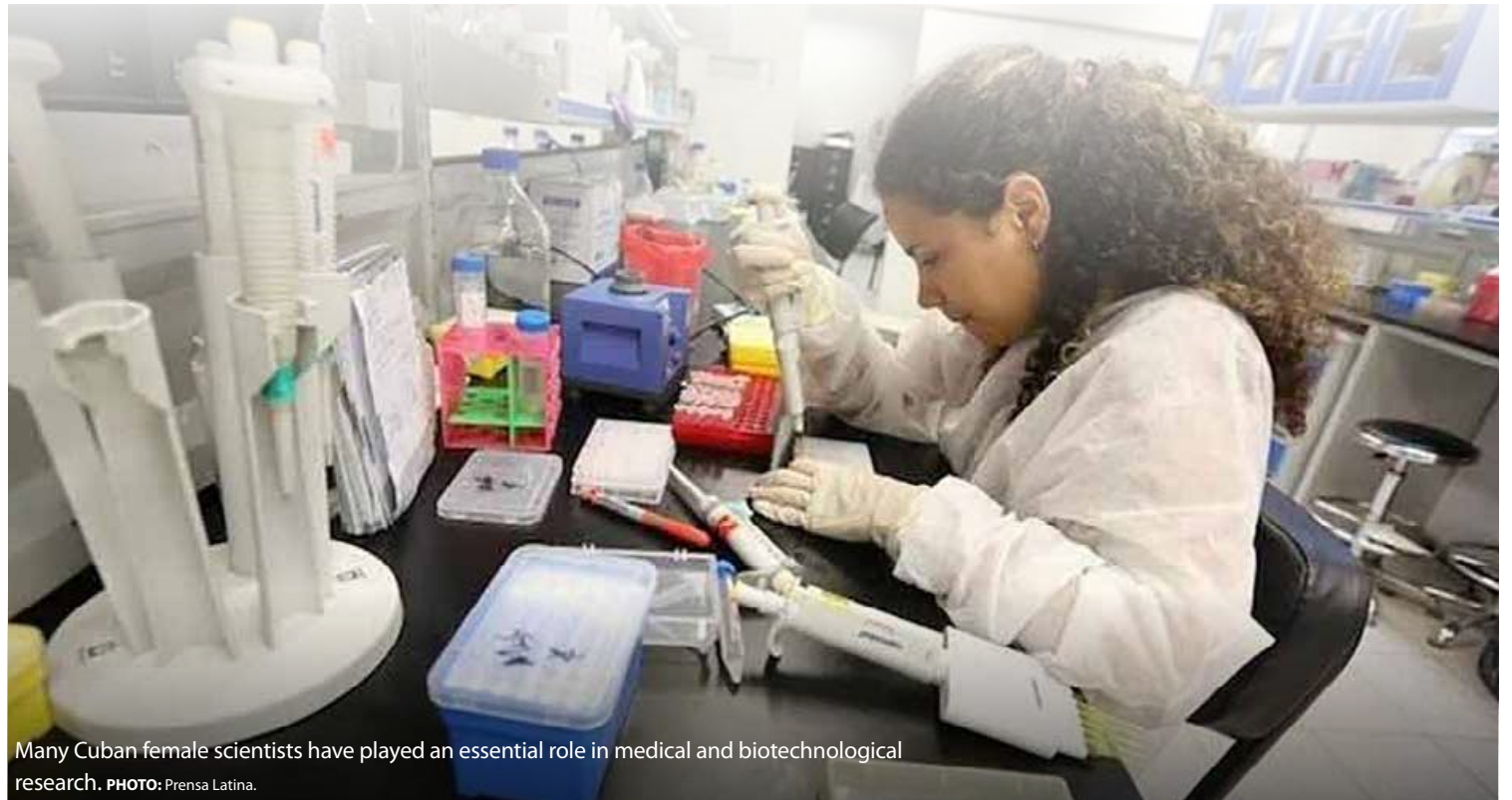
HAVANA.- The National Statistics and Information Office, (ONEI) has revealed that about 51,000 Cuban women work today in science and technology-related activities, which represents the highest number in recent years.

But they are not just numbers, because behind such figures, there are names such as that of Rosa Elena Simeón, who was the president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences (ACC) for many years and also the first woman to hold the position of Minister of Sciences, Technology and Environment. Simeón headed the fight against African swine fever and examined a novel analysis method on studs' artificial insemination.

Another outstanding female scientist is Concepción Campa, leader of the research that allowed developing the world's only vaccine with proven effectiveness against meningitis B and C, which is applied in several countries of the world since 1988.

The list also includes winners of the Sofia Kovalievskaja prize in its seventh edition: Beatriz Marcheco, clinical geneticist and Director of the Medical Genetics Center; Martha Ana Castro Peraza, of the Pedro Kourí Tropical Medicine Institute (IPK); and Mayra Paulina Hernández Sánchez, of the Material Technology and Science Institute. The abovementioned prize is granted since 2005 by the Foundation that carries the name of the famous Russian scientist and feminist from the 19th century.

During the pandemic of COVID-19, many female scientists were in the front line fighting the disease, participated in the



Many Cuban female scientists have played an essential role in medical and biotechnological research. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

development of new research projects and co-headed trials of the vaccine candidates developed in Cuba.

Two of the eight Cuban academicians selected in 2020 to join the International Board of Experts as part of the Advisor Group top fight COVID-19 were women.

One of such academicians, Tania Crombet, director of clinical research at the Molecular Immunology Center and one of the leaders of the CimaVax-EGF vaccine against lung cancer, was chosen as member of the World Academy of Sciences in 2022.

Guadalupe Guzmán Tirado, IPK research and diagnosis director, was the other academician selected, and although her work focuses on dengue studies, she conducted research on epidemic neuropathy, Zika, pandemic influenza and the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Guzmán was also chosen among the 45 women of sciences from 37 countries to receive the International Awards L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science, an acknowledgement that praises Cuba's prestige worldwide thanks to her research, which allows understanding and better treating dengue.

Dr. Sonia Resik, another IPK member and head of the virology department, headed studies on health intervention with the Abdala vaccine and contributed to research on poliomyelitis in Cuba.

Many other Cuban female scientists have also played an essential role in medical and biotechnological research, as well as in Cuba's success in the fight against COVID-19, in the search for sustainable solutions to environmental and social challenges, and in making Cuba become a referent in science and technology worldwide.

## Youngsters' ICTs Strength

By Claudia **DUPEIRÓN**

HAVANA.- Younger generations' digital empowerment is one of the key topics of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Global Youth Summit 2025 to be held in the Varadero resort by the middle of this month.

Under the theme "Amplifying youth voices in ICT for an inclusive and connected future," the event will take place at the Meliá Internacional de Varadero Hotel and will include exchanges and panels for youngsters to join dialogues and processes in decision-making worldwide on this field. Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), Cosmas

Luckyson, said at the launch of the event's summit that the main purpose of this summit is to "create a space for youngsters to exchange and generate concrete proposals on how to define the future in the context of the digital era."

Organized by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the Ministry of Communications of the Republic of Cuba, the summit (GYS-25) will be held on-site and will welcome ITU members, Generation Connect Youth Envoys and invited guests from the United Nations and other related organizations.

"I am confident that this event will become a unique world platform to share ideas and perspectives contributing to the creation of a more inclusive and interconnected digital future for youngsters of the world," Luckyson affirmed.

The summit also aims at exploring and harnessing the potential of young minds in the digital era and fostering global intersectoral and intergenerational dialogue that actively involves them.

According to the program, the first day, youngsters will talk about their role as agents of change for green digital

transformation and climate action, as well as about the relevance of transformative technology from a deep dive into Artificial Intelligence for connectivity.

The agenda also includes sessions on topics such as intergenerational dialogue and its contribution to ICTs for health, wellbeing and a better future.

Participants will also discuss about how ICTs are revolutionizing telehealth, fostering safe listening practices and dealing with mental health challenges in all age groups. Delegates will likewise talk about cybersecurity, digitalization of societies and economies, and the ever-increasing exposure to cyberattacks and threats.

The purpose of the event is to find solutions to anticipate online risks, share essential skills to stay safe on the Internet and consolidate a solid resilience in the field of cybersecurity in the long run.

Other topics will deal with networking and speed partnership to promote and foster the implementation of youth-led projects and activities in the exhibition space; empowerment from the economic aspects of ICTs, and digital transformation: innovative business models.



The purpose of the event is to find solutions to anticipate online risks and share essential skills to stay safe on the Internet. PHOTO: Internet.

# A Miracle Called La Colmenita

By Marcelo **GARCÍA**

HAVANA.- The Cuban children theater group La Colmenita radiates the same charm among children and adults as when they were created, 35 years ago.

Enjoying again their performances, as the one offered last February at the Havana Amphitheater, is like going back to childhood from the hands of children and grandchildren, because more than one generation of Cubans have grown with their performances, dances and songs.

Either at the capital, where their headquarters is located, or in any province of the country, where other groups were founded later on, the magic of La Colmenita passes on happiness and hopes to those attending their shows.

In addition to giving their art in national tours or performances held in regions of the country affected by climate events, which are frequent in the island, the group has infected thousands of children in different countries of the world.

The spell of the Carlos Alberto (Tin) Cremata group enchants either grandchildren, children, parents, music and sport stars, ambassadors or presidents who have been part of their audience or fans for years.

It does not matter the show, either La Cucarachita Martina, La Cenicienta según los Beatles, Ajiaco de sueños, Ricitos de Oro... their charm is present once and again among the audience, either with the strains of the Pícaro pilluelo or with the songs of troubadour Silvio Rodríguez, or the salsa songs of the Los Van Van orchestra or the Bacalao con pan of the Irakere band.

The group gets the best of the people, not only of its members; while children act, problems, frustrations, disappear among the audience; it has been like that with the passing of the years and several generations of La Colmenita members.

On February 14, Valentine's Day, La Colmenita celebrated its 35th anniversary with the joy of making millions of Cubans happy, and no present is better than that.



# Cinemateca de Cuba Celebrates its 65th Anniversary

By Daimarelys **PÉREZ**

HAVANA.- This year, the Cinemateca de Cuba (Cuban Film Library) celebrates its 65th anniversary with the screening of a series of films, both classical and contemporary, whose program started in February 6, the day of its creation.

Attached to the Cuban Film Institute (ICAIC), the entity has conducted one of the most constant cultural works in its over six-decade long history, focusing its efforts in the preservation and safeguarding of the national and international film heritage.

The center safeguards the documents of the film history kept in its vaults, be it books, magazines, posters, essays, film reviews, among others.

Since the beginning, the Cinemateca de Cuba's main objective has been the establishment of a sustained and permanent dialogue between spectators and the cinema, both the one made at present and the one considered classical today.

As part of such premises, it is opened to movie buffs, researchers and students involved in movie-related careers as a center for study and consultation, allowing access to materials of interest on the cinema and its history.

The center's director, Luciano Castillo, said in a recent interview that film programming and screening is another form to approach the audience.

Throughout these years, the institution has treasured a varied collection of Cuban and foreign film titles that have been screened as part of thematic cycles or tributes paid to outstanding seventh art figures.



The Cuban Film Library director, Luciano Castillo. PHOTO: Trabajadores.

Historically, such exhibitions lead to debates headed by specialists which result in reflections, the specialist added.

The film that opened this cycle of celebration was *Porte de Lilas* (1957), directed by René Clair, which was highly acclaimed in its première and is based on the novel *La Grande Ceinture*, by René Fallet.

The opening of this anniversary also included several short films by the Lumière brothers, inventors of the cinematograph – the first equipment that was able to screen and project moving images.

The initial program of these celebrations included the screening of high-definition (4K) quality restored films, thanks to the use of techniques in photograms' restoration and the application of color to images, based on their original tones.

The abovementioned short films were not the only ones restored and screened on this occasion, but also *Napoleon* (1927), by Abel Gance. The sound of the copy of this work was also retouched, as well as the high-definition image, and a narrator was added in replacement of the dialogues. Other productions that are highly acclaimed by spectators and the specialized critics were also added to the celebrations, such as the feature films *Blade Runner* (Ridley Scott, 1982); *Breezy* (Clint Eastwood, 1973) or the recent *Rapito* (2023), by Marco Bellocchio.



Voces del Sur Global  
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# Galería Habana in Mexico

By Liana **SANJOSÉ**

MEXICO CITY.- Galería Habana, an entity with a vast history in the promotion of Cuban art, exhibited the work of four Cuban artists at the Zona Maco Fair, a famous art event held in Mexico.

In its 21st edition, held in the capital's Citibanamex center, the event welcomed the proposal of the Cuban gallery, which included sculptors and multimedia artists from different generations, such as Esterio Segura, Glenda Salazar, Roberto Fabelo Hung and Lianet Martínez.

In the case of Segura, an artist with a solid formation, the Cuban stand exhibited Good Bye My Love. Mambo Number Five, a wall installation made of painted glass fiber, while Salazar's work included pieces of the series Pinturas en Silencio (Silent Paintings).

On her work, Salazar told **The Havana Reporter** that the main idea "comes from the search of the essence, which are fragments that delimited in the piece" and "also talk about the same process of thought in which we get involved."

The creator, who attended Zona Maco for the third time, said that connecting the Cuban art with galleries

from different countries of the world was an enriching experience, as well as exchange between creators and the audience.

Roberto Fabelo Hung, for his part, exhibited two pieces – one of them, Untitled (Liquid Havana) – while Lianet Martínez presented two pieces of the series Coraza: una instalación (Ecdisis/Contención/Transmutación/Matria/Puntal/Doble naturaleza/Asentamiento) and an interactive sculpture (Encuentro).

Galería Habana, attached to the Génesis Galerías de Arte Company of the Ministry of Culture, indicated that in its most recent series and works on public spaces, Martínez has used the motif of the shield as a symbolic element linked to the body, its fragility and self-protection.

"But also to courage as a permanent challenge in the face of everyday life and the vicissitudes of the female condition," the entity added.

The present edition of Zona Maco, the largest fair of its type in Latin America, welcomed over 200 galleries from the continent, in addition to Africa, Asia and Europe.

According to the Mexican Culture Secretariat, the initiative emerges as an inclusive space of visibility and dialogue that fosters talk between famous figures and younger voices, particularly from Latin America.



Zona Maco Fair welcomed the proposal of the Cuban gallery, which included sculptors and multimedia artists from different generations. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.



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# Biopharmaceutical Collaboration Increases

By Isaura **DIEZ**

CHANGZHI.- Chinese and Cuban authorities inaugurated the first phase of a joint biopharmaceutical company settled in the high-technology industrial development zone located in this city, in the province of Shanxi.

Cuban ambassador to China, Alberto Blanco, stated that this step reaffirms the huge potentials to increase bilateral cooperation in this sector.

Governor of the Shanxi province, Jin Xiangjun, stressed the importance of guaranteeing key factors and the necessary support services for this joint work, focused on medicine and industrialization research and development.

According to the official website of the Changzhi municipal government, the objective of the project is to promote significant progress in antibody biomedicine production.

"The city of Changzhi focuses on areas such as electronic information, new energies, biomedicine and high-range equipment manufacture, and is working to cultivate an industrial park of billions of yuans, as well as to build a provincial demonstration zone for comprehensive transformation and reform," the official site indicates.

The Cuban ambassador recently affirmed that relations between China and his country in the biotechnology field increase and develop satisfactorily since the last 20 years.

"The high level of political relations between our two countries and the close friendship between our peoples allow us to continue strengthening a strategic alliance with important results and huge potentials," he added.

In statements to **The Havana Reporter**, president of the Biotech Pharmaceutical Limited (BPL) joint venture, Bai Xianhong, praised the contribution of the Cuban scientists and experts.

He also described BPL as the largest collaboration between both nations in the biopharmaceutical field, and in that

sense, he recalled the success of the first humanized monoclonal antibody of the giant Asian nation.

"Nimotuzumab provided an efficient treatment against cancer to over 300,000 Chinese patients," he stressed.

The president also affirmed that cooperation with Cuba will remain in the next years; the joint venture will improve the monoclonal antibody production capacity and will establish

leading lines of perfusion in the world, based on mammal cells' culture.

The province of Shanxi, with a population of about 39 million inhabitants, is located at the west of the country's northwestern region and its capital, Xi'an, is famous for marking the beginning and end of the Silk Road caravans and being home to the well-known Terracotta Army.



The joint biopharmaceutical company reaffirms the huge bilateral potentials, said the Cuban ambassador to China, Alberto Blanco..

PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

## New Decree-Laws approved

By Ernesto **VERA**

HAVANA.-The Council of State of the Republic of Cuba approved three new decree-laws at the ordinary session of that body, in compliance with the legislative program, official sources indicated.

The regulations are related to the Simplification and Integration of Arrangements in the Administrative Management; the peaceful and safe use of nuclear energy and ionizing radiations, and Trade Brands and Names.

The first of such draft laws is addressed at regulating simplification, integration and computerization of

administrative arrangements, particularly those linked to legal entities and individuals, in light of its improvement.

The aforementioned laws also foresee making a good use of the peaceful benefits nuclear energy and ionizing radiations have for the society through their application in the medical field.

In that regards, the legislation establishes that all practices or activities linked to uses that are not peaceful are forbidden in Cuba, in tune with the regulations established in the Constitution of the Republic and the international agreements signed by the Cuban State.

The decree-law on the Trade Brands and Names, for its part, has the objective of protecting Cuban trade brands and

names through the granting of patent rights, considering that the request, granting and the rest of the legal acts or businesses involving such rights are registered at the Cuban Patent Right Office.

At the meeting, held last February 12, in addition to the approval of these decree-laws, information was also provided on the regulations to face gender violence.

On the topic, deputy prime minister Inés María Chapman presented the 2024 Report on the Results of the Implementation of the Comprehensive Strategy for Prevention and Attention to Gender Violence and in the Family Scenario.

President of the National Assembly of Peoples' Power (Cuban parliament) and member of the Council of State, Esteban Lazo, stated on the topic that legal ordering offers large protection in the face of this phenomenon.



The laws also foresee making a good use of the peaceful benefits nuclear energy. PHOTO: Estudios Revolución.



# Literature is Again a Special Treat

By DaiLIEM

HAVANA.- The 33rd edition of Havana's International Book Fair recently reaffirmed itself as one of the cultural events that gathers the highest number of people, and as usual, most of its activities took place at the San Carlos de la Cabaña Fortress, in the capital.

Held from February 13 to 23, with South Africa as the guest of honor, initiatives also reached 18 different sub-venues in the Cuban capital, under the José Martí's premise that "To

read is to grow" and the thematic line "A whole country in books". The fair also included the participation of over 400 foreign guests from more than 40 nations.

This year's edition paid tribute to researcher and professor Francisca López Civeira, National History and Social Sciences awardee, in 2008 and 2022, respectively and poet, essayist, researcher and literary critic Virgilio López Lemus. The event also commemorated the 25th anniversary of the territorial publishing houses system (SET) and the 130th anniversary of the death in combat of Cuban National Hero José Martí.

The fair put at the disposal of the audience over two million printed copies and more than 2,600 digital books, in addition to 2,500 artistic-literary activities and book donations to schools and hospitals, among other actions.

More than 15 South African authors participated in the event with their works, which were launched at the pavilion dedicated to the guest country of honor. Children, youth and culinary books, novels, short stories and other materials were also launched.

South Africa is the third nation of the continent that attended the fair as guest of honor, after Angola and Algeria.

Personalities from the field of culture and politics; authors; editors; publishing houses; promoters and booksellers from several continents met at Cuba's largest arts party that, at the conclusion of the capital edition, will tour the rest of the provinces, until its closing the present month of March at Santiago de Cuba province.

In addition to literature, other artistic expressions were also present, including music, dance, visual arts and cinema, for visitors' enjoyment.

As it usually happens, the Literature, History, Editing, Social and Humanistic Sciences and Design awards were granted at the La Cabaña Fortress, in addition to other important prizes, such as the Alejo Carpentier and Nicolás Guillén (poetry) awards.

The main activity of this fair was the launch of the Biblioteca del Pueblo, a collection of 82 volumes that gathers the best works of the Cuban and universal literature. The theoretical program included spaces such as the Professional Book Hall, with the holding of the National Bookseller Workshop; the Editors and Literary Translators Meeting, and the Public Policies in Favor of Reading meeting, in addition to the Ibero-American Young Writers and Poetry Promoters meetings.



In addition to literature, other artistic expressions were also present, including music, dance, visual arts and cinema. PHOTO: Vladimir Molina.

## Ciro Bianchi Reveals Lesser-known Stories

By IbisFRADE

HAVANA.-Hemingway's experiences in Havana; Mafia visits to the Hotel Nacional; the death of famous pimp Yarini; the romance between Eulalia of Bourbon and

the Prince of Asturias; Federico García Lorca's experiences in Cuba, are some of the stories renowned journalist **Ciro Bianchi** includes in his recent book.

The volume, entitled *La Habana de Hemingway y otras historias* (Hemingway's Havana and other stories), gathers lesser-

known, exotic and curious stories that had already been published in the Cuban journal *Juventud Rebelde*.

I had the intention of including figures that called my attention since I was a child, like **Andarín Carvajal** and **Ernest Hemingway**, **Bianchi** said at the launch of the book at the La Cabaña Fortress, in the framework of the Havana's International Book Fair that ended in February 23.

In this opportunity, the journalist shared with his readers several stories included in the book, and said that on many

occasions, references to those events were only found in the testimonies of the persons who lived them and who frequently exaggerate.

I always try to include the name of Havana in the title of my books, he commented while stating his appreciation to the **Abril** publishing house, "that managed to make this publication in such difficult times."

The director of the abovementioned institution, **Miguel Cruz**, affirmed that this was a special launch, because *La Habana de Hemingway y otras historias* reveals unknown details about the history of Cuba.

In addition, Havana is the focal point that joins these stories on important personalities, sportspeople, artists, politicians and even Mafia members, he added.

On many occasions, **Bianchi** has been close to the events he writes about or knew the characters of his stories; that adds a lot of value, **Cruz** affirmed.

After the launch at the La Cabaña Fortress, the journalist signed several copies and stated his desire to continue publishing books on lesser-known events that happened in Havana.



*Hemingway's Havana and other stories* was launched at the La Cabaña Fortress during the Havana's International Book Fair. PHOTO: Vladimir Molina.

# Doctors Prevent Blindness in Mexico

By Lianet **ARIAS**

MEXICO CITY.- Cuban ophthalmologists contribute to the training of health professionals and the recovery of sight among patients with low resources at the Mexican state of Baja California Sur.

In statements to **The Havana Reporter**, Teresa de los Ángeles Casanova, head surgeon of the Cuban team at the Juan María de Salvierra Hospital, in the city of La Paz, talked about the characteristics of their work and the results obtained as part of the collaboration between both nations.

According to the member of the Cuban medical brigade in Mexico, the center, a reference institute, receives patients with eye traumas and there, three Cuban professionals provide attention to all of them, from newborns to senior adults.

"Every week, we carry out surgical procedures, including pterygium, cataract and other types of diseases that have an ocular cause," said the

doctor, who stressed that in 2023 and 2024 they conducted surgery campaigns linked to the second disease mentioned before.

The Cuban professionals have also been involved in "ablation processes, multiorganic transplants, have worked with surgeons in kidney and cornea procedures, trying to get organs for patients in need," she commented. "We have been directly involved in all the hospital services, such as pediatrics, oncohematology in children, including interaction and follow-up to those children, in addition to the gynecology and internal medicine services, among others," the doctor explained.

In relation to the purpose of the work they conduct in this country, focused on preventing blindness, the specialist, who has 33 years of experience, expressed her satisfaction for being able to help many people recover their vision and have a better quality of life.

We have many moving stories, especially in regards to attention to children, because we also receive children with eye traumas

and the fact that a minor "does not have a disability or does not lose an eye is something very precious which is given for free," she stressed.

In her opinion, the Mexican people not only appreciate the attention the Cuban specialists provide in relation to health, but also their sensitivity and humanism, as well as respect to the profession they exercise, "a feature acknowledged worldwide."

In addition to attention to patients, the Cuban ophthalmology team present at the Juan María de Salvierra Hospital have also conducted workshops on organ donation, particularly

cornea, and have worked on the formation of residents with the purpose to develop a cornea bank.

Since their arrival, in 2022, they have also collaborated in activities linked to prevention and health education with patients suffering from diabetes, which has a high incidence in Baja California Sur.

To Casanova, who had previous experiences in Yemen, Jamaica and Ecuador, Mexico has been very important because of the integration attained, the learning of protocols, the organization of the service and the clinical practice guidelines established in the country.



The Cuban doctors have been directly involved in all the hospital services, such as pediatrics, oncohematology in children and gynecology, among others. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

# Descendencias, A Dialogue about Races and Traditions

By Marcelo **GARCÍA**

HAVANA.- Decendencias (Descendants) is the title of a collective exhibition on display at the lobby of the Covarrubias Hall of the National Theater, in Havana, that gathers the works of Cuban visual artists, mostly women.

Open to the audience since the end of November 2024 and until the present month, the exhibition is part of the XV Havana Visual Art Biennial and includes the work of five Cuban photographers settled in the island, three residents in the United States and one U.S. artist.

The work includes pieces by Sonia Almaguer, Claudia Corrales, Yari Rassi, Titina (Yianne), Marila Sarduy, Claudia Millares, Laura Pairo, Leticia Sánchez and U.S. Liza Camilo, in addition to video-maker Livan Gispert, also from Cuba.

According to the exhibition curator and general producer, Mayda Tirado, the works highlight codes and elements of the Cuban culture.

"In this exhibition, the topic of descendants acts as the thread that joins all artists, who offer a unique perspective of how family and cultural stories are passed on and transformed with the passing of the years," Tirado stated in the exhibition catalogue.

At the walls of the Covarrubias lobby, spectators can see stories that go from intimate portraits that explore family



The exhibition includes the work of five Cuban photographers settled in the island, three residents in the United States and one U.S. artist.

PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

lineages to images that celebrate traditions deeply rooted in the Cuban culture.

"These photographs show the depth and the diversity of the roots that join these women with their past and their communities," the specialist added.

She also stressed that race also emerges as a crucial topic in these pieces, exploring portraits that challenge stereotypes and celebrate the beauty and the diversity of race within the Cuban society.

"These photographs not only capture physical appearance but also personal and collective stories that define racial experience in Cuba and the United States, offering an intimate and often provocative look at descendants and racial identity in a unique cultural context," she affirmed.

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# Nature Tourism, A Fashion Activity

Text and Photos Roberto F. CAMPOS

HAVANA.- Nature, adventure and rural tourism is a fashion activity in the world, especially because of humanity's needs of getting closer again to a pleasant world that brings spirituality and health.

Many professionals of the travel sector endorse the abovementioned criteria, in addition to documents and references by UN Tourism, which indicate that more and more people look forward to taking active vacations.

The tendency grew stronger after the pandemic of COVID-19, which demanded isolation and distancing among the people to avoid the spread of the disease.

However, packed cities and changes in people's behavior all over the world, in addition to efforts to protect the environment, also allowed the spread of this type of recreational activity.

Cuba, in particular, has experienced a progressive development of this tourist modality and its scenarios welcome each year families and people from all corners of the world interested in knowing about and enjoying those places.



# Ecuador, Two Models in Dispute

By Adriana **ROBREÑO**

QUITO.- Ecuador will go back to the polls next April 13 to elect the president, either Luisa González, of the Revolución Ciudadana (RC) party or Daniel Noboa, the incumbent president who hopes to be reelected in a balloting that shows social polarization, with two models in dispute.

Noboa and his team apparently hoped to win in the first round, even though several surveys and experts predicted a pretty tight contest between the incumbent president and the representative of the pro-Correa movement.

After the announcement that he would have to run again for the presidential seat, the president did not even show up at the site where his supporters and the press were waiting.

Communicator and sociologist Irene León, of the Network of Intellectuals and Artists in Defense of Humanity-Ecuador Chapter, stated that the idea of considering a supposed victory of the president in the first round was a media strategy that ultimately did not work.

"Many people are in favor of an urgent change because of the critical conditions

the country faces in all fields and that was seen in the closing days of the presidential campaign with the popular support to the RC candidate, as it has not been seen for a long time", León told **The Havana Reporter**. According to the analyst, the runoff election is a moral victory to González amidst a scenario of potential fraud and irregularities. International observers ruled out the

possibility of fraud but made warnings in relation to the fact that the process was unequal because of the candidate-president's legal outrages.

Other analysts consider that Noboa has been able to get around obstacles, such as the 14 daily hours of blackouts, the crime committed against four children from Guayaquil, the security crisis, economic

difficulties and other problems, with a campaign based on TikTok, dances and music.

They added that after Noboa declared the domestic armed conflict in January 2024, as a strategy against organized crime, a firm-hand vision against insecurity took roots in the country, attached to the extreme right.

However, according to León, González has offered a comprehensive and humanist proposal on the problem, which allows a democratic sector of the society to follow that path in order to face the main concern the Ecuadorans have.

In relation to the economy, the RC stance on the diversification of the sources of incomes and other forms of growth, placed on the agenda topics that had not been recently discussed in public debates, the sociologist added.

The second round, thus, will again be tough and the RC movement should have to stick to the principles already announced, León said.

The runoff election, between the same candidates as in 2023, predicts a clash between two opposing visions of country: neoliberalism, endorsed by the oligarchy and media power bloc, and a social economy, supported by the progressive sectors, which also claim the pro-Correa inheritance, historian Juan Paz y Miño indicated.



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# Tributo 2025, Havana Club International New Rum

By TeyunéDÍAZ

HAVANA.- President of the Havana Club International (HCI) S.A. company, Christian Barré, launched in this capital a new rum: Tributo 2025, a limited edition of only 2,967 bottles.

The event took place at the emblematic Cuban Hotel Nacional, a facility that according to Barré is linked to the presentation of this new jewel of the Havana Club range and is part of the iconic series of the rum Tributo.

Barré recalled that the first launched of the rum Tributo was held in 2016 to celebrate the know-how of the rum maestros, who offered these exceptional products thanks to their creative capacity and innovation.

"It is a night to celebrate tradition, innovation and international collaboration," Barré stressed when highlighting that Tributo 2025 is the result of the Cuban excellence and the Irish whisky inheritance.

This exceptional Cuban rum, meticulously aged and finished in Redbreast Single Pot Still Irish Whiskey barrels, from the Midleton Distillery of Cork, Ireland, will no doubts captivate the most demanding spirits lovers, he affirmed.

Barré also revealed the new design of this Tributo series, which will gradually be on the market.

In his opinion, it is a bottle that meets the international standards of luxury and at the same time recalls the architecture of the city of Havana, particularly its most beautiful homes and palaces.

The design includes the logo of La Giraldilla, the city guardian and a reference to the Cuban Rum Maestros, who are acknowledged as maestros of the Cuban rum culture.

Tribute 2025 will be available as of April in over 20 international markets, at a price of 450 euros per bottle. In Cuba, the product is available since February 6.

HCI had an eight percent increase in value in the 2024 fiscal period, exporting to over 125 countries – except the United States, because of the commercial and economic obstacles imposed by Washington on Cuba.

The main markets of Havana Club are Germany, France, Italy and Spain, followed by the United Kingdom, Mexico, Canada, Chile and Argentina. The Havana Club products won 58 awards worldwide in 2024 – 518 since 1994.



## Development of Food and Agricultural Projects

By YunierSIFONTES

SANTA CLARA.- Representatives of non-governmental organizations from the European Union evaluated in the Cuban province of Villa Clara the progress made in the collaboration projects focused on food production, a strategic objective in the island.

Those initiatives included the ALASS project, implemented by the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in six municipalities of the island to boost local self-sufficiency and food security.

UNDP assistant resident representative in Cuba, Gabriel Bottino, highlighted that the joint work between the national authorities, the European Union (EU) and the United Nations system contributes to increase soils' productivity and promotes higher efficiency in the use of resources among farmers.

As part of the "Strategic support to sustainable food security in Cuba" program, financed by the EU, those

projects focus their work on local food production for municipal self-sufficiency, in addition to fostering the development of value chains that benefit from endogenous capacities and favor the creation of jobs.

According to head of the EU cooperation in Cuba, Pedro Campos, such initiatives are highly valuable because they contribute to agricultural production and food security, two of the country's priorities, through the development of pilot experiences focused on families' access to nutritious food.

Noel Rolando Benítez, one of the producers who have benefited from these initiatives, commented that some of the project's main contributions include training and the use of science and technology, as well as the creation of strategies for the closing of the productive cycles.

He also acknowledged the boost given to crops' diversification, mostly vegetables, root vegetables, grains and fruits, in addition to the production of small livestock meat, eggs, rabbits and pork.

## Better-Qualified Women to Run Businesses

By YugdaniSICET

SANTIAGODECUBA.-Theentrepreneurial women from Santiago de Cuba are better qualified today to run their businesses thanks to the driving force of Zuturo, a local development project specialized in consultancy.

As part of those efforts, Marta Deus, a business woman who is in the vanguard among the Cubans, recently offered a lecture at the Sierra Maestra Hall of the Meliá Santiago de Cuba Hotel, which was attended by several interested persons.

In statements to **The Havana Reporter**, Deus expressed her satisfaction for the presence of over one hundred women, which she considered a good sign, "because they are managing the information they need to make their dreams come true."

The businesswoman praised ladies' qualities for communication, which allowed the spread of information

among those present, while stressing that these are a potential to be successful in the world of businesses.

On women empowerment, she commented that there is a lot of work to do yet, "because Cuban women have to trust themselves, in all the capacities they have, even more.

Many things are done but they are not structured, organized," she explained.

Deus affirmed that spaces of exchange such as those make women say "I believe, I can do it." She also stressed the need of fostering such spaces even more, so that others can see how much can be done and hence have a referent.

The businesswoman told **The Havana Reporter** that she has had exchanges with other Cuban entrepreneurial women from the Pinar del Río, Villa Clara and Holguín provinces, including the Isla de la Juventud special municipality.

# The Finest Cuban Premium Cigars

By Francisco **MENÉNDEZ**

HAVANA.- The 25th edition of the Cigar Festival returned to the Cuban capital, highlighting attractions to those luxurious products and their impact on the international market.

The holding of this event, from February 24 to 28, was a unique opportunity for smokers and professionals of the sector, who enjoyed a program that included visits to tobacco plantations, reports on the most recent productive results, talks, exchanges, among other activities.

The objective of the festival was to go in depth into the world's best cigars and their passionate culture, linked to the condition of the soil, the climate and farmers' experience.

This five-day event included tours to cigar factories and plantations; blending sessions; three special nights dedicated to matchless brands; the Habanos World Challenge Contest; the Commercial Fair, and the International Seminar.

On this occasion, the 150 years of the Romeo y Julieta brand was highlighted at the opening ceremony, in addition to a panel on the 35 years of the La Casa del Habano franchise and a night dedicated to H. Upmann, while the closing gala was dedicated to the 15 years of the Behike Line of the Cohiba brand, the most exclusive.

The Habanos S.A. International Corporation launched on this occasion a world contest on one of the most exclusive and prestigious cigars it commercializes in the world: Cohiba Behike, a line that celebrates its 15 years of creation. To commemorate the occasion, Habanos S.A. decided to offer cigar lovers the opportunity of attending its exclusive Gala Night, one of the most eagerly awaited events of this festival, in which spectacular humidors are put up for auction.

Behike, a term that comes from the legend of a doctor or chief of the Taíno tribe (indigenous group of Cuba), is considered one of the most luxurious products of the industry.

This cigar, created in 2010, has become a symbol of the Cuban cigars' tradition and prestige and has consolidated itself as the best kept secret of the Cohiba brand.

Cohiba, created in 1966, was the first cigar brand manufactured after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, in 1959. Its name, which makes reference to an instrument used by the Cuban indigenous population to light the

tobacco leaves, is today a synonym of excellence in the world of Premium cigars.

Behike in particular, with a limited production, is manufactured at the El Laguito factory in Havana and uses the best tobacco leaves of the San Juan y Martínez and San Luis regions, in the Pinar del Río province.

Such leaves, known as medio tiempo (half time) or Fortaleza 4 (strength 4), are extremely rare as they only come from the top part of the tobacco plant cultivated under the sunlight, which gives an additional value to this already exclusive product.



The closing gala of the Cigar Festival was dedicated to the 15 years of the Behike Line of the Cohiba Brand, the most exclusive. PHOTO: Habanos S.A.

## Cuba Contributes to Ecological Cement Research

By Yunier **SIFONTES**

SANTA CLARA.- The Low Carbon Cement LC3 Experimental Plant, located in the central province of Villa Clara and the first of its type in Cuba, diversifies its activities in light of the development of this material in the world.

PhD José Fernando Martirena, director of the Center for Research and Development of

Structures and Materials at the Marta Abreu Central University of Las Villas (UCLV) and head of the project, commented that they also work on materials' testing, automation processes and other innovations linked to the construction field.

The Cuban industry is a world pioneer of the work with LC3 ecological cement, a type of material that is capable of reducing carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere during its

manufacturing process, like no other material of its type.

The most recent United Nations report on the topic, published under the title Low Carbon Cement: Harmonizing environmental goals and housing needs, indicates that at present, there are 22 plants of this type worldwide, which last year were capable of producing over 50 million tons of ecological cement.

Work relations between the Cuban plant and foreign entities contributed to that

accomplishment, especially as a result of its raw material evaluations, the holding of real industrial tests and the definition of technical parameters for productive scales. Martirena also explained that this type of cement can reduce the environmental impact of productive industries up to a 40 percent – a worldwide attractive figure in a sector that is to reduce pollution.

The Cuban industry, attached to the UCLV, has ties with European and Latin American nations, in pursuit of the development of that material.

This experimental plant is an important research center that analyzes new materials and automation processes, in addition to other innovations linked to the construction industry, José Fernando Martirena, an expert from the Villa Clara province, told the local press.

In the meantime, the Vanguardia newspaper informed that member of the Party Central Committee and first secretary of the Villa Clara province, Osney Miguel Colina, recently visited the plant, which is not only focused at producing low carbon cement but also certifying construction materials' samples, following rigorous analysis of their physical and chemical features, in addition to their composition.



The Cuban industry is a world pioneer of the work with LC3 ecological cement. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

# Baseball, Backups and Reflections

By Boris **CABRERA**

HAVANA.- Las Tunas, Pinar del Río, Granma, Industriales, Santiago de Cuba and Ciego de Ávila baseball teams qualified to the third edition of the Cuban Elite Baseball League and although the squads tried to patch their weaknesses during the backup lottery, many achieved to do so, but others did not.

Making an anticipated analysis or predicting what could happen is rather difficult in a

selective tournament such as the Cuban, when at any time baseball players can go on a contract with professional leagues and not all backups get adapted to their new home, amidst the economic difficulties the country faces.

However, considering the list that managers now have in hand and based on my personal experience, only four teams emerged victorious in the magic night in which, in a couple of hours, they solved most of their problems.

In my opinion, such teams – Industriales, Las Tunas, Pinar del Río and Ciego de Ávila – knew

to better consider their needs, were luckier in the selection order or had the privilege of choosing players who, on backstage, stated their desire not to be chosen by any other team. Industriales could not fish better in troubled waters after catching, above all, two national team members: catcher Andrys Pérez and shortstop Erisbel Arruebarrena.

In addition to providing better protection in the central line, a key element to win in baseball, the team recovered the soul of the squad (Yosvani Peñalver), added an excellent

batter (Dennis Laza) and a closer such as Armando Dueñas, who is one of Cuba's most powerful throwing arm.

Las Tunas, two-time national champion, should be delighted, because in addition to its strong offensive, it wisely chose a defensive catcher (Nelson Batista), a high-ranking field utility (Luis Vicente Mateo) and several quality pieces for the Leñadores mound, the team's main weakness.

In the meantime, Pinar del Río anticipated the departure of two its main pitching stars and covered those absences with outstanding pitchers Yunieski García and Geonel Gutiérrez, in addition to veteran closer José Ángel García, Cuba's all-time leader in saves.

Ciego de Ávila, hit by an avalanche of resignations at the beginning of the year, in an instant became again a competitive squad after getting strong in almost all fronts.

In the case of the Granma team, although it caught some powerful pitchers such as Alain Sánchez, Noelvys Entenza and Yanieski Duardo, in addition to an excellent catcher such as Andy Cosme, it came short in relation to the infield.

Finally, Santiago de Cuba made a good choice with José Amaury Noroña, who must increase the team's offensive power, but failed to strengthen its power in the bullpen, although it got a breath of air in positions near the bases with Jeison Martínez and José Ángel Sánchez.

Although it might sound like a cliché, the field has the final say.

As of March 15, the "Play Ball" will be called out and there will be more elements to make predictions.



The first Cuban Elite Baseball League was held in 2022. PHOTO: JT.

## Young Chess Players Win Bronze Medal in Russia

By Germán **FERRÁS**

MOSCOW.- The young team of Cuban chess players won third place in the second Russian Intellect Academy Cup, held in the city of Novokuznetsk.

President of the Cuban Chess Federation Carlos Rivero told **The Havana Reporter** that individually, first board and team captain Felipe Herrera (14), who was the champion of the Capablanca 2024 International Tournament in his category, won the gold medal.

From the second to the fifth boards, the Cuban team was composed of Hanoi Fernández (10), Ryan Molina (9), Samuel González (8) and Mya Valdés (9) – the latter, the only girl in the team.

According to Rivero, this edition of the Chess 2025 Intellect Academy Cup included the participation of 43 teams from the best chess schools from 18 countries and the invitation Cuba received is an acknowledgement to the work conducted in the teaching and practice of this discipline.

The Cuban official also stated his sincere appreciation to the organizers of the event for giving them the possibility of attending this cup, which not only celebrates talent and strategy in chess but also union among nations.

Chess is more than a game; it is a thought school, a meeting space between generations and cultures. It teaches us discipline, patience and the importance of strategy, values that show the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation between our peoples, Rivero stressed.



The Chess 2025 Intellect Academy Cup included the participation of 43 teams from the best chess schools from 18 countries. PHOTO: CVI.

# Eradicating Gender Violence

By Loretta **CINTRA**

HAVANA.- The Cuban Women Federation (FMC) decided to intensify efforts with a comprehensive and integrated vision addressed at eradicating gender violence in the country, a phenomenon that affects women and girls worldwide.

With that objective, and endorsed by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Canadian embassy in Cuba, the organization announced the launch of the project Endorsement to National Response against Gender-based Violence.

Member of the FMC secretariat, Osmayda Hernández, stressed in a press conference that the project will guarantee attention to over 30,000 Cuban women and girls.

Although the program will originally reach 40 municipalities of the country, Hernández spoke about its future expansion and affirmed that no woman in Cuba is defenseless.

The territories chosen underwent a process which proved that they have the highest violence rates in recent years. Their potentials

to guarantee the success of the project was also taken into account.

Hernández championed the importance of eliminating stereotypes and discriminatory practices that perpetuate violence and added that attention to men will also be an important step to eradicate sexist attitudes and reach equity.

In that sense, Canadian ambassador to Cuba, Mariancik Tremblay, praised the Cuban government's commitment to the fight against this global problem and stressed that the project complements the program's cooperation objectives between both countries, focused on improving gender equality and women empowerment.

Meanwhile, head of the UNFPA office in Cuba, Marisol Alonso, reaffirmed the FMC commitment to the 2030 Agenda and highlighted that the eradication of gender violence is an essential objective.

Alonso also explained that this project, which is based on the strategies already in place in Cuba, allows including international experiences that can help improve the effectiveness of the services offered.



Gender violence is a phenomenon that affects women and girls worldwide. PHOTO: Internet.

The main objectives of this include the opening of a telephone line to immediately attend potential victims and the creation of a training process for future employees of the service.

It will also focus its objectives on data and statistics collection through diagnosis studies and the creation of a constant and interoperable register of the attention services. These actions are not only directed at responding to violence situations but also

preventing them and fostering a safer environment for all Cuban women and girls.

The project, to be extended until 2029, will give priority to the objectives included in the Comprehensive Strategy for Prevention and Attention to Gender Violence, the 2030 Agenda, the National Program for Women Progress and the National Plan for Cuba's Economic and Social Development.

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