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Massive support for the Revolution

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Fidel in Washington

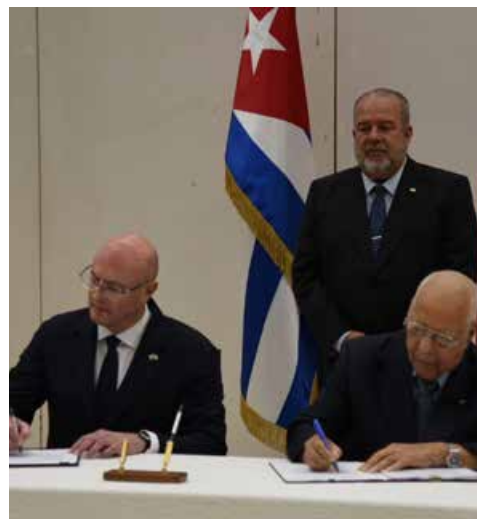
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Africa-Latin America Shared Future at UN Tourism Summit

Text and Photo Enrique **GONZÁLEZ**

LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA.- At the II Africa and Latin American Tourism Summit, Cuba championed the vision of a shared future between both regions as a reflection of a common past and legitimate aspiration of prosperity and social justice for everyone. In her speech at this United Nations summit, Cuban ambassador to Zimbabwe and representative to the event, Susellys Pérez Mesa, urged to work together to strengthen tourist strategies and explore new forms of collaboration.

Connectivity between both regions is a must and we need to facilitate exchange and create new routes that highlight our destinations with emphasis on sustainability, the diplomat commented. Cuba and Africa are joined by history, blood and culture, a relationship marked by solidarity between both regions, Pérez Mesa stressed when appreciating the solidarity of the African continent

“in our fight against the economic, commercial and financial blockade unfairly imposed by the United States for over six decades.”

The official affirmed that such a hostile policy toward her country has a direct impact on the development of the tourism sector and its related services, and mentioned in that

regards the measures the White House has taken to deprive U.S. citizens of their right to freely visit Cuba, in spite of geographical and cultural proximity.

The ambassador stated that the tourist sector is a source of income that has a priority in the development strategies, but also a means to preserve and promote the country's natural resources, culture and identity.

She acknowledged the work the UN has conducted and the opportunity this event offered to foster dialogue and cooperation, as key elements for the sustainable development of the so-called smoke-free industry.

According to the Cuban representative, tourism, as a strategic sector, faces major challenges, while representing an opportunity for innovation and adaptation. Responsible and sustainable tourism is essential for our nations' economic and social development. We have huge potentials that must be translated to higher growth and wellbeing for our societies, she stressed.



Cuban ambassador Susellys Pérez Mesa urged to strengthen tourist strategies and explore new forms of collaboration.

Cuba's Furthestmost Points among Tourists' Options

By Roberto **CAMPOS**

HAVANA.- Travels to Cuba in 2025 bring higher demands among regular foreign visitors, who are eager to have an in depth knowledge of the island's environment, particularly its furthestmost points.

Such objectives go hand in hand with nature, adventure and rural tourism, which demands better planning by travel agencies such as Ecotur, an entity that is happy to provide tailor-made trips.

Traveling around Cuba is a major attraction, especially because of the island's perfect sites for adventure and nature trips, which can be fully enjoyed at the country's furthestmost points, real wonders in all respects.

The Cuban archipelago is composed of two main islands – Cuba and Isla de la Juventud, previously known as Isla de Pinos – and over four thousand small islands, islets and keys, many of which are an attraction for active holidays.

The Cuban Island is the largest in the Caribbean, with 104,945 square kilometers, while Isla de la Juventud covers an area of 2,200 square kilometers.



Nature, adventure and rural tourism demands better planning by travel agencies. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Even though the wonders of the island have been promoted in the world, there are still some hardly-known sites that allow a perfect knowledge of the insular geography, particularly the country's furthestmost points, which are part of that geography people compare to a green alligator, because of the island's colorful vegetation and the archipelago's own shape.

Cuba's furthestmost points include Punta Francés, in the Hicacos Peninsula, in the north; Punta del Inglés, in Cabo Cruz, in the south; Punta de Maisí, in the east, and Cabo de San Antonio, in the west.

The Hicacos Peninsula, the northernmost point, is famous for being the home of Cuba's most important resort, Varadero, which is about 140 kilometers east of Havana, the capital city, while Cabo Cruz, in the Granma province (southeast region), is the seat of important archaeological sites, such as Atabey.

Cabo Cruz is also the home of a fishermen community, where a lighthouse and tourist facilities can be found and whose unquestionable beauty can be enjoyed as part of trail trips.

Meanwhile, Cabo de San Antonio, Cuba's westernmost point, is located in the Pinar del Río province, a region that is famous for the excellent tobacco leaves used in the production of the Habanos or Cuban cigars.

However, the sea prevails in San Antonio, where the Roncali Lighthouse built by the Spanish crown on the coastal reef and which is still active today illuminates the area, until the Yucatán strait.

Punta de Maisí, in Baracoa municipality – the first village the Spanish founded in Cuba, in 1511 and which is part of Guantánamo province – is the easternmost point.

Maisí limits to the east with the Paso de Los Vientos; to the west with the Consejo Popular Sabana; to the north with the Atlantic ocean, and to the south with the Caribbean sea. A navigation lighthouse is its distinctive element.

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Editorial Vice President: Ariel Barredo Coya
Art Direction: Anathais Rodríguez
Chief Editor: Ilsa Rodríguez Santana
English Editor: Isabel García

Translation: Yanely Interián
Graphic Designer: Fernando Fernández Tito
Chief Graphic Editor: Francisco González
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Calle E, esq. 19 No. 454, Vedado, La Habana-4, Cuba
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Fax: (53)7833-3068 E-mail: thr@prensa-latina.cu

Support of the Revolution on International Workers Day



President Miguel Díaz-Canel and the leader of the Revolution, Raúl Castro, led the parade. PHOTO: Vladimir Molina.

By Lisván **LECAILLE**

HAVANA.- Cuba expressed support of Socialism and the Revolution during the mass rallies held on May 1, International Workers Day, in squares and public spaces, despite the complex economic situation the country faces.

Cuban flags and posters on the proletarian party adorned the mass demonstrations that brought students, professionals, workers, families and solidarity groups together throughout the Caribbean nation. The return of the traditional march to the José Martí Revolution Square, in the capital city – interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic – enhanced national celebrations because of the symbolism of the site, as exactly 25 years ago (May 1, 2000), historical leader Fidel Castro stated the concept of Revolution.

In the presence of the country's top leaders, tens of thousands of residents of the capital and over one thousand foreign guests stated their rejection of the blockade imposed by the United States, which has affected the lives of millions of Cubans for over six decades.

In this scenario, general secretary of the Cuban Central Trade Union (CTC) Ulises Guilarte de Nacimiento highlighted the heroism of the people and urged the working class to be involved in the country's economic recovery by making a good use of the working day and increasing lines linked to food exports and production.

He also urged the trade union movement to continue promoting industrial production, based on the availability of raw materials, and to boost the materialization of investments in the hydraulic sector, in

addition to the diversification of agricultural lines, among others.

That day, mass demonstrations were held all over the island in support of the revolutionary process, encouraged from previous days under the communication campaign Por Cuba Juntos Creamos (For Cuba Together We Create), promoted by Cuban trade unionists.

Workers and trade union leaders' life stories were spread in traditional and virtual spaces, promotional spots, television and radio, in addition to interviews with representatives of various unions who gave their testimonies in relation to workers' mobilizing force.

The participation of workers in mass voluntary activities, including the revitalization of their artistic and sports movement, which systematically calls for the practice of activities in these fields, also stood out.

International Workers Day brought together in the Caribbean island more than one thousand international delegates from over 30 countries, in representation of over one hundred trade union organizations from all five continents, who condemned the economic, commercial and financial siege that prevents the full development of Cuba's productive forces.

As a culmination of the activities, the International Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba was held from April 30 to May 2, sponsored by the CTC and the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, which led to the holding in this capital of the so-called "union tribune" and "international trade union solidarity party."

Cuba Defends Value of Medical Missions

By Rafael **ARZUAGA**

HAVANA.- A Cuban medical brigade was first established is May 23, 1963, when doctors were sent to Algeria, despite having sent over 50 health professionals to help recovery actions in Chile, after the Valdivia earthquake, in 1960.

It happened shortly after the mass exodus of doctors because of France's withdrawal from that African nation.

Cuba's international medical collaboration, which according to national authorities gathers the spirit of altruism and the solidarity vocation of its people, has taken on another dimension since the triumph of the Revolution in 1959, a turning point in the country's medical sector because of the migration of over half of the 6,286 professionals in service at the time.

From that month of May, in particular, Cuban doctors, paramedics, technologists and other specialists began to arrive in all the geographies of the world, especially in those places where other doctors and paramedics could not go or simply refused to go.

As the foundation of that practice states, Cuba does not use its medical growth as a diplomatic weapon nor a means of political proselytism nor an incentive for commercial relations or sale of services.

Health authorities affirm that the medical collaboration is offered expecting nothing in return, governed by purposes such as meeting the needs of recipient countries, promoting true integration, strengthening infrastructures that help health systems' sustainable growth and

benefiting populations settled in remote or overlooked areas.

Ethics, humanism, altruism, support, generosity, nobility and other values fill the luggage of the collaborators who, by the hundreds of thousands, provide their services in more than one hundred nations in Africa, America, Asia and also Europe.

Along with collaboration, Cuba promotes the training of doctors, nurses and professionals in other specialties with the opening of educational centers in almost every nation in which their brigades offer their services, and welcomes and prepares youngsters from different countries in undergraduate and postgraduate programs.

The phases of medical collaboration, its increase and diversification, fill dozens of pages and are the object of research work and newspaper articles, most of which are full of praise and testimonies revealing their scope.

However, some texts and politicians accuse the Cuban government of enslaving health professionals and getting rich with their work and talent, among other arguments that try to discredit the nature of the Cuban medical collaboration.

Against this, the voices of President Miguel Díaz-Canel; head of Parliament Esteban Lazo; Minister of Foreign Affairs Bruno Rodríguez, and other Cuban government and party leaders, resound in national and international forums.

Their voices are joined by the opinions and criteria of personalities and politicians from many countries and organizations, such as CARICOM, CELAC and ALBA-TCP



The Cuban medical collaboration is offered by purposes such as meeting the needs of recipient countries. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Fidel Castro's Historic Visit to Washington

By DeisyFRANCIS

WASHINGTON.- Sixty-six years after the historic visit leader of the Revolution Fidel Castro paid to the U.S. capital, a group of children and adolescents from the Cuban Embassy retraced his steps in this city.

The initiative of the Cuban diplomatic representation will allow having an in-depth knowledge of an important chapter of the national history and is part of the comprehensive program of activities for the celebrations of the centenary of Fidel's birthday, on August 13, 2026.

That day of April 15, 1959, dressed in his legendary olive-green uniform, Fidel arrived in a direct flight from Havana on-board the Britannia Libertad plane, a turboprop of the Cubana de Aviación Company and from the airport, he went to the Cuban Embassy in downtown 16th Street, in the Adams Morgan neighborhood.

The route started at the diplomatic representation, where photographs of that visit are kept, and continued along the very street up to the Meridian Hill Park (Malcolm X Park), the place that allowed the Commander in Chief to meet the residents of Washington DC on two occasions.

It is said that hundreds of supporters gathered on the other side of the street when he arrived at the Embassy that night. He was suggested to greet the people from a balcony but he said: I am not a balcony man, and decided to have direct contact with the people.

When refusing to follow the rules, he resolutely said: Enough protocols!...Of what I can and cannot do. It will happen

that landing in the United States is more difficult than the Granma landing.

Digital medias' reviews of the city indicate that "the Malcolm X Park welcomed the visit of numerous incredible historical personalities of the time, but one of the most amazing was no doubt Cuba's revolutionary leader Fidel Castro."

"Just a couple of months after heading a successful revolution in Cuba, in 1959, Castro

started his visit (...) to the United States. The American Society of Magazine Editors invited him to speak at the National Press Club and a crowd of supporters gathered at the airport," texts say. Precisely there, children made a stop. Fidel's trip (until April 20) included the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials, to lay down wreaths. Those sites were also toured by representatives of the younger generations. Then, they went to the Capitol, the seat of

the Congress, where Fidel met senators and vice-president Richard Nixon.

Fidel was in Washington DC. His spirit is still an inspiration. The date, more than ever, is still engraved in collective memory, because it endorses "the history of the right a small nation has to speak with its own voice," as the title of an article written by Ramón Sánchez Parodi, the first head of the Cuban Interest Section in the United States (1977-1989), reads.



In April 1959, a couple of months after heading a successful Revolution in Cuba, Fidel Castro started his visit to the United States. PHOTO: Archives.

Monstrosity of a Wrongly-Called Act

By DeisyFRANCIS



The jury's decision determined to impose a compensatory sum in the total amount of \$29.85 million. PHOTO: Internet.

WASHINGTON.- Under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, a U.S. federal court gave its first verdict in a jury trial on alleged properties nationalized in Cuba after January 1, 1959.

The ruling demands the Expedia Group corporation to pay 29.8 million dollars to U.S. citizen (since 1983) Mario Echeverría, who claims the ownership of Cayo Coco, the fourth largest island of the Cuban archipelago, with 370 square kilometers and 22 kilometers of beach.

According to the plaintiff, that site, located on the northern coast of the national geography that is part of the Jardines del Rey archipelago and the central province of Ciego de Ávila, and one of Cuba's tourist destinations, is the object of an alleged improper use of properties that belonged to his family.

The suit filed against the Expedia Group as head company of Hotel.com LP, Hotels.com GP and Orbitz LLC, argues that all four entities made bookings from their digital platforms in hotels built on a land nationalized by the revolutionary government during the Second Agrarian Reform Law, in 1963.

The jury's decision determined to impose a compensatory sum of \$9.95 million dollars on each entity for damages, resulting in the total amount of \$29.85 million.

According to the legal document, the entities involved in the alleged trafficking of properties are the Iberostar

Mojito, Iberostar Colonial and Pullman Cayo Coco hotels, for which compensation for damages was requested.

Federal Judge Federico Moreno, who presided over the case, wrote that "the defendant entities profited by offering bookings to customers at these hotels on their travel websites. The defendants admit that they failed to investigate whether the hotels were on confiscated land."

Expedia Group, which is headquartered in Seattle, Washington, is one of the world's largest online travel platforms, with offices in more than thirty countries. The extraterritorial Helms-Burton Act was enacted under the administration of William Clinton in 1996, but when it was signed, Title III was paused – which Donald Trump activated in May 2019 in his first term (2017-2021).

On January 14, six days before the end of his term, the then president Joe Biden chose to suspend Title III, which Trump reversed when he took up his post for his second term in the White House on January 20.

Since the activation of Title III, six years ago, 45 lawsuits have been filed, with six out-of-court settlements and a single jury verdict. Two cases are still pending at the Supreme Court.

Cuban lawyer Rodolfo Dávalos described that "as all that monstrosity which is wrongly called an Act (and nothing more and nothing less than 'For Freedom'), Title III of the Helms-Burton is absolutely illegal, not only in terms of the international law, but also in relation to constitutional, procedural and international judicial matters."

Data Science, Endless Paths Made by Women

By Claudia **DUPEIRÓN**

HAVANA.- Data is a passion for everyone in the world and knowing their exact uses and how to apply them in the future in the most varied spheres is the path chosen by six Cuban girls who are passionate about science, technology and information.

A few days after the holding of the International Girls in ICTs Day, the stories of these future scientists show that being a majority in the sector is no longer a challenge in Cuba.

Love for mathematics seems to be the common denominator of these six girls, who see in Data Science the opportunity to predict diseases, boost the growth of any company, develop Artificial Intelligence applications and take the digital future to other levels.

As Amalia González, a second-year student, told The Havana Reporter, when she entered the Mathematics career at the University of Havana she had researched the subject, but "here they make you fall in love much more with all the projects we do; and it's incredible because we can do data science in any sphere of life."

You have an idea and you wonder how you could get the data; it is not easy, it takes a lot of work and in the career, they teach us how to clean that data, to process it to make the analysis we want or they ask us to do, and to look for information.

When asked how she sees herself in the next five years, González said that in a world in which we have more and more information and everything is digitized, she visualizes herself working in the branch of business marketing or fashion.

This question was the main topic of the interviews and all the girls seem to put their data in different



These future scientists show that being a majority in the sector is no longer a challenge in Cuba. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

fields, which is good for science. This is the case of Cristina Hernández, who seems to be inclined towards medicine or the business area. Hernández, who is also a second-year student, came to Data Science in a very particular way: through a Korean entertainment series.

"Before I had vocational information, I watched a series in which the protagonist was a data scientist, and then I began to be very interested in what she did; but I didn't even know the name of the career. When this discipline was included in the university allocation plan, I had the option of applying to it, then I started to research more until I got here," she commented.

According to these young girls, Data Science has a large field of work, because from any information or based on the form this is stored and can be used to work, make analyses, predictions, statistics, behaviors of any cycle of something that has happened and even predict how it could happen in the future.

"Even in the area of medicine, with machine learning, we can apply it, for example, in image processing. We worked on a project linked to dermatology, in which we processed skin spots; and from all the data available, it is possible to train the computer to learn what type of disease it is and whether it is malignant or not," Hernández explained.

Sharing Know-How... from Italy to Cuba

By Esther **GARCÍA**

HAVANA.- Italian surgeon and professor Gabriele Antonini, an expert in penile prosthesis implants, shared his practical and theoretical experience in Cuba, where he made four operations of this type together with Cuban doctors.

Antonini presented the technique applied to the treatment of erectile dysfunction and Peyronie's disease at the Cira García Central Clinic Urology-Andrology Symposium and the theoretical event of the Advanced Course on the three-component hydraulic penile prosthesis implant.

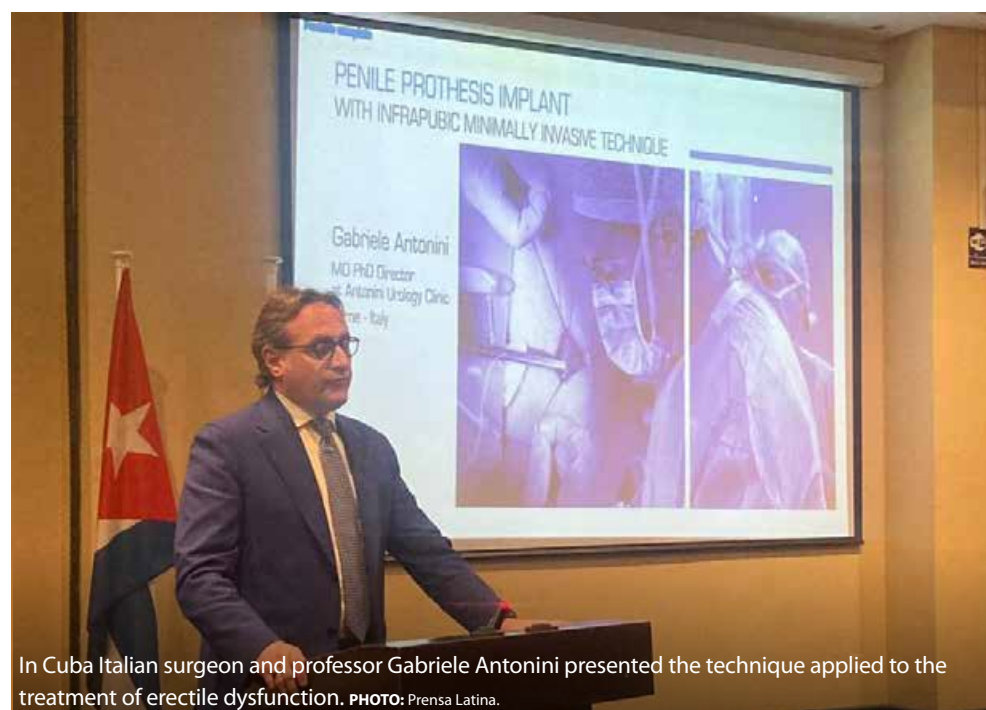
A leading surgeon in the Italian field of Andrology, Antonini arrived in this capital in March to participate in the event and perform the aforementioned operations on Cuban patients to whom penile prosthesis of three-component hydraulic system – two cylinders, a small tank and an activation mechanism – were placed.

"This system is completely invisible because it is inside the body and allows an erection whose texture and appearance cannot be distinguished from the natural one and replaces the erection system with

a mechanism that uses a physiological solution instead of blood," he said.

Penile prosthesis implants of this type also have two cylinders inserted into the penis' cavernous body, with a control device inside the scrotum and a fluid reservoir placed near the bladder.

All the elements of the prosthesis are placed inside the human body, as part of a minimally invasive surgical act through an incision at the base of the penis, no larger than two centimeters, through which the components are introduced.



In Cuba Italian surgeon and professor Gabriele Antonini presented the technique applied to the treatment of erectile dysfunction. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

This novel method allows for minimal risks of infection and a rapid recovery of the patient, approximately 15 days to resume their working life and 40 to resume their sex life.

Antonini spoke to **The Havana Reporter** about the high professional value of Cuban doctors and stressed the possibility of placing these Turkish-origin prostheses instead of those made in the United States, which allows carrying out operations in the face of the challenges imposed by the U.S. blockade on the island.

He also affirmed that the objective is to prepare young urologists from Cuba and other countries who study here to perform these procedures on more patients.

"We also want to begin expanding treatment to other patients from Latin America who can come to Cuba to be treated in prestigious medical institutions such as the Cira García international clinic, in which we already have several years of joint work," he said.

According to Antonini's previous explanations, prosthetic implantation stops a process of erectile dysfunction that causes a visible and irreversible shortening of the penis because of poor oxygenation of cavernous bodies.

History, Culture and Traditions

By: Daimarelys **PÉREZ**

HAVANA.- The Piña Colada Fusion Music Festival, held in the central Ciego de Ávila city, left the sweet flavor of an event that gathers history, culture and traditions.

Conducted from April 1 to 6, the festival stood out for its high level of organization and varied program of activities, with theoretical sessions and concerts that finished in the early morning of April 7.

The launch of the Honda magazine, an issue that was dedicated to the event and was presented by director of the Havana's Fragua Martiana Museum, Yusum Palacios, was one of the activities residents of this territory enjoyed.

Meanwhile, the lecture La trocha militar de Júcaro a Morón (The Júcaro-Morón military path) focused on the region's identity and culture, as part of a talk headed by local historian Ángel Cabrera, who highlighted the importance of the provincial history.

The Piña Colada Festival also included the El Águila de la Trocha International History, Culture and Tradition Meeting, a forum held in the Morón municipality that included the performances of Mexican singer Polo Efrén, Argentinean clown Patricio Azziani (Patricio de la Risa)

and Cuban folklore group La Cinta, from the Baraguá municipality and heir to the African roots.

Most popular concerts included the performances of the Failde, Arnaldo y su Talismán, and La Original de Mazanillo orchestras, in addition to the David Blanco band and the Buena Fe duet.

The 22nd edition of this festival also counted on the participation of Cuban soloists Ivette Cepeda, Adrián Berazaín and troubadour Raúl Torres, three

outstanding figures of the Cuban music.

An urban show, by the Habana Team Cuba project and Yankiel DJ, allowed the audience, mostly youngsters who lived strong emotions at the festival's main stage, to enjoy the night of April 5.

The day finished with the performance of urban music singer Mawell, who gave a rather provocative stage discourse.

DJ River Sound also invited the audience to dance at the seat of the Hermanos Saiz

Association with a mixture of music from the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s, until the present.

The Manolito Simonet y su Trabuco and Anacaona bands – the latter, the most famous women band in Cuba – closed the event in style.

The Piña Colada Festival will return in 2026 with its 23rd edition and will open its doors to other territories of this central Cuban province, as president and creator of the event and director of the Talismán band, Arnaldo Rodríguez, told **The Havana Reporter**.



The festival had a high level of organization and varied program of activities. PHOTO: Endrys Correa.

Famous Aragón Orchestra Launches CD in Cuba on Occasion of its 85th Anniversary

By Dalila **ALONSO**

HAVANA.- The CD 85 Años de la Orquesta Aragón (85 Years of the Aragón Orchestra) was recently launched in Havana by the emblematic brass band, directed by maestro Rafael Lay.

The album, launched at a press conference, was produced in 2024 and is composed of nine themes (some of which are classical pieces), with fresh arrangements.

Maestro Lay affirmed that the CD, conceived by the tour production office team, in Medellín, Colombia, includes themes the orchestra made popular in the 1970s and 1980s and were now recorded with fresh sounds. He also added that his son, Rafael Antonio Lay, was responsible for the production of the CD.

Aragón is in a constant search for development and evolution, but the elements that identify it in the world are always present, he stressed.

The CD includes themes such as Mi Bajo Con Tumbao, Pregúntame Como Estoy, Con Un Besito Mi Amor,

Rendez-Vous Chez Fatimata and Te Traigo Mi Son Cubano.

Rafael Antonio Lay commented that the album includes the performance of new members, like singers and instrument players.



This new CD produced by the Aragón Orchestra will compete this year at the Cubadisco Festival. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

He said that, as his father once did, it is an honor to be at the head the orchestra, which was founded in Cienfuegos province on September 1939 by Orestes Aragón and has followed Cuba's musical tradition for over 80 years.

This new CD produced by the Aragón Orchestra will compete this year at the Cubadisco Festival, Cuba's main recording event, they indicated at the press conference.

The Musical Recording and Editing Company (EGREM) praised the orchestra's performance in different spaces the entity has organized in the country, where the band has highlighted the Cuban identity.

It is also important to produce CDs in vinyl format, whose consumption has increased in the world, as well as to reach Colombia, a central place for many events, under the EGREM production and with launches and physical sales, the entity added.

The event was attended by friends, relatives and members of the Aragón Orchestra, which entertained the audience with a concert.



Is China Ready for the Tax War with the U.S.?

By Isaura**DIEZ**

BEIJING.- The trade war with the United States in 2018, during Donald Trump's first term, took China by surprise, but now that tariffs have reached 145 percent, what is the outlook for the Asian Giant?

Prime Minister Li Qiang stressed that Beijing is ready to face uncertainties, while acknowledging that external shocks have put some pressure on the smooth functioning of the national economy.

Escalation in the tax war unleashed by Trump has China in its sights, but the Asian Giant has responded with similar tariffs to the United States and has stressed that "China does not want confrontations, but it is not afraid to fight". Here's the current outlook: Chinese goods imported from the U.S. are subject to up to 145 percent tariffs (125 percent added in recent days and 20 percent under the fentanyl excuse), while all goods from the U.S. face 125 percent upon arrival here.

China's Trade Ministry added 12 additional U.S. companies to the export control list and filed a lawsuit under the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in relation to the latest tariff measures. "There are no winners in a trade war, protectionism has



The Asian Giant has responded that China does not want confrontations, but it is not afraid to fight. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

no future," the Chinese government said, while stressing that if Washington insists on its hegemonic approach and wishes to wage a tariff war "or any other type of war," China "will go on until the end."

According to President Xi Jinping, it is normal to have differences between two different systems; however, he pointed out that there is a high complementarity between

the two economies and that the successes of one should not be seen as a threat to the other one.

China's Trade Ministry affirmed that the door is open to dialogue, but if the United States really wants to negotiate, it must do so with respect and equal treatment.

WHILE NEGOTIATIONS ARRIVE...

In a meeting with business leaders and experts from the Asian Giant, the prime minister stressed the importance of strengthening trust, working in favor of unity and focusing on internal issues to turn crisis into opportunities.

He affirmed that this will allow promoting constant and long-term economic development in the country and stressed the need of implementing more active and effective macroeconomic policies to address external uncertainties.

Li stated that it is critical to expand and strengthen the domestic cycle and give priority to the domestic demand expansion as a long-term strategy, and proposed increasing efforts to stabilize employment, boost income growth and unleash the consumption potential of services.

He also referred to the importance of promoting the integration of scientific and technological innovation with industrial innovation to lead the demand with a high-quality offer.



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Multiple Ways to Access University Guaranteed

By Melissa **KING**

HAVANA.- The Ministry of Higher Education (MES) guarantees all Cuban students the opportunity to freely access a university career or a higher technical program through new proposals.

For the academic year that will start next September, over 100,000 positions will be offered in three academic modalities: fulltime course, part-time course and distance learning.

General director of MES undergraduate formation, Deysi Fraga, commented that the ministry makes stronger efforts and strengthens measures so that more and more youngsters who finish high school enroll the country's universities.

Fraga explained that all MES-attached institutions work in the comprehensive formation of professionals in different fields, so that these can in turn act as agents of change in the country's economic and social transformations, making progress towards sustainable development.

Meanwhile, MES national director for registration and job assignment, René Sánchez, affirmed that all those who want to access a university career can do so.

He added that at present, in addition to applying to a higher level through entrance examinations, students can also directly access a university place by academic

merits and through direct ways for talents. Another form of direct access is offered to students enrolled in the so-called university colleges, a modality in place in the country

for over 10 years now that has reached outstanding results.

Entrance examinations, in the subjects of Spanish, math and history, will be

conducted on May 6, 9 and 13, respectively (first summon), and 23, 25 and 27 (second summon) for those unable to attend the first summon.



Cuban students will be able to apply for more than 100,000 places for the next academic year. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Centenarian Railroad Building under Maintenance

By Neysa **MESA DEL TORO**



The repair of the roof is the main objective at present. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

CIEGO DE ÁVILA.-The Morón railroad station, an emblematic building that is over 100 years old and was granted the National Conservation Award in 2010, is undergoing general maintenance.

Located at the north of this central Cuban province and considered the second largest railroad building founded in Cuba at the beginning of the 20th century, is included among the identity symbols of the Morón municipality, in Ciego de Ávila, for its majestic features and architectural beauty.

Transportation representative at the province, Olga Gener, explained that several parts of the building are in a very poor state because of the effects of weather phenomena, the invasion of migratory birds and the absence of maintenance.

The official commented that the main restoration actions are headed by a specialized brigade from the Camagüey province, as this is an old building and needs very specific details.

At present, work is conducted on the repair of the roof, which is one of the most damaged areas and whose tiles are removed, as well as the most rotten wood pieces.

The Morón railroad station has an important national patrimonial value, since its original design was conceived under the influence of the architecture from the south of the United States, including elements of French carpentry and majestic columns, among others.

The building has a smooth clay tile hip roof and two levels with openings framed in semicircular arches, which support the original structure of the construction time, including the carpentry.

It also has historical value for being the stage of one of the largest strikes that occurred in 1925 against the Gerardo Machado dictatorship and which was led by trade union leader and head of the Cuban National Workers Confederation Enrique Varona.

Young Talents Take Havana by Storm

By Dai**LAFÁ**

HAVANA.- The XXX International Gathering of Academies for Ballet Teaching officially began in Havana on April 12, with over 300 participants from about 20 countries with a beautiful opening parade along the Paseo del Prado.

Until April 20, the Cuban capital became the world epicenter of pointe dance and a place for exchange through conferences, workshops, galas, the Havana's International Ballet Competition and other activities.

As part of the program of activities, the Covarrubias Hall of the Teatro Nacional de Cuba hosted the 2025 International Competition for Ballet Students, a contest that brought together young dance promises in four categories: little kids, children, youth and advanced.

The venues of the performances were the Teatro Nacional and the Fernando Alonso National Ballet School, whose director, Dani Miguel Hernández Acosta, leading dancer of the Cuban National, headed the jury.

The event, which included an extensive academic program, was dedicated to teacher Ramona de Saá Bello and Cuban filmmaker Alfredo Guevara.

Students from Colombia, Peru, Mexico, the Netherlands, South Africa, the United States, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Venezuela, Ecuador and Cuba attended this edition. As every year, this event was an opportunity and space for exchange between students, teachers, specialists, critics and prestigious ballet figures.

This edition's main international guest artist was Joseph Gatti, Artistic Director of the United Ballet Theatre & Academy, and member of the event's jury.

Collateral proposals included the appending of the "30th Anniversary" Postage Stamp and the launch of Roberto Mendéz Martínez's book *El ballet, su mundo* (The ballet, its world), by Ahmed Piñeiro Fernández.

A highlight of the event was the meeting with international institutions that apply the Cuban teaching method.

Young talents and teachers from different latitudes arrived in Havana, where art becomes a legacy and dance is celebrated as a universal language and bridge between cultures, to share their knowledge, styles and dreams.

According to cultural authorities, this event strengthens Cuba's role as the world epicenter of ballet teaching, promoting the exchange between academies that apply the Cuban method – worldwide famous – and other technical traditions.

This prestigious event is organized by the Fernando Alonso National Ballet School and the National Center of Art Schools (CNEArt).



The academic program of the international competition was dedicated to teacher Ramona de Saá and filmmaker Alfredo Guevara.

PHOTO: Bohemia.

Romance with Architecture under the Lens

By Adis**MORERA**

HAVANA.- The photographic exhibition *Ver a imaginar* (See to imagine), by Cuban lens artist Jesús Martínez León (Chuchi), is one of the

main attractions to be enjoyed at the Oswaldo Guayasamín House-Museum, in Old Havana.

Over a dozen photographs take the audience to a universe where architectonic elements from different cities and countries come together.

In the case of Cuba, visitors can appreciate the details of Havana, Matanzas and Santiago de Cuba buildings, while the architecture of countries such as Spain, the Netherlands and Canada also find a space in this visual proposal.

In this work, the author combines architecture, urban geometry, abstraction and photograph to get amazing effects that are able to catch the audience's attention, he said.

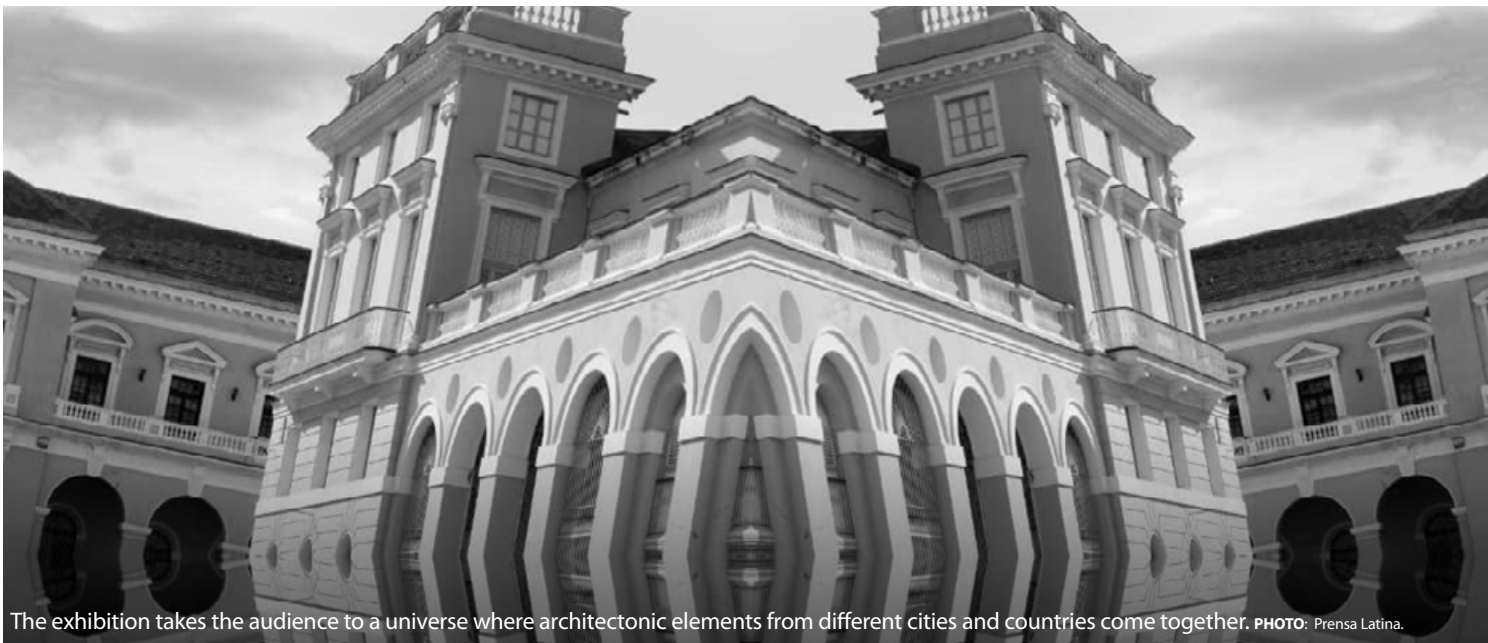
The exhibition is open to discovery, experimentation and space analysis, the artist said.

It is a visual game with which I have the intention of creating my own universe, using black and white and kaleidoscope symmetry, in order to inspire and encourage the audience through optic effects, he added.

Through photography, the exhibition tries to show how human beings, in different latitudes, have found constructive ways that allow them to get adapted to the environment, from the physical and emotional points of view.

Until the present, Jesús Martínez León, a native of the Matanzas province, has conducted over 25 personal exhibits and has shown his creations in galleries in Cuba, Canada and Spain.

His works have been awarded on several occasions and his photographs have been published in books, magazines and newspapers. His images have been given to several personalities, including Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, as well as to religious institutions and bodies from Latin America, Europe and Asia.



The exhibition takes the audience to a universe where architectonic elements from different cities and countries come together. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Cuba and Russia Strengthen Ties in Different Areas

By Ernesto **VERA**

HAVANA.- Cuba and Russia strengthened ties during the XXII binational Intergovernmental Commission Meeting for Economic-Commercial and Scientific-Technical Collaboration held in April in this capital.

Cuban Prime Minister Manuel Marrero and Russian Vice-President Dmitry Chernyshenko headed the signing of 13 legal instruments that establish commitments for cooperation, mostly in the health, educational and scientific-technical sectors.

Such documents include the development of a joint Artificial Intelligence Lab as part of relations between Cuban and Russian universities and institutions, in addition to agreements for technical training of specialists and exchange in the geodesy and cartography fields.

The meeting, described by Cuban deputy Prime Minister Ricardo Cabrisas as productive, frank and transparent, confirmed the huge potential to strengthen and diversify collaboration for mutual benefit.

For his part, Chernyshenko stated that his country would continue supporting Cuba's development efforts.

In that sense, he stressed present ties in the field of investment and energy projects; transportation; electronics; tourism; educational exchange, and agribusiness, among other sectors.

Chernyshenko started his official visit to the island in the Santiago de Cuba city, a visit that took place when both nations celebrate the 65th anniversary of the restart of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the then Soviet Union.

In that eastern Cuba city, the Russian leader was welcomed by member of the Communist Party Central Committee and first Secretary in the province, Beatriz Johnson; Santiago de Cuba governor Manuel Falcón; minister of Foreign Trade and Investment Oscar Pérez-Oliva, and Russian ambassador to Cuba Víctor V. Koronelli. In this city, Chernyshenko and his delegation visited

historical sites and places of interest, including the Santa Ifigenia Cemetery, where the mortal remains of several heroes and famous personalities of the Cuban culture and history lie, such as National Hero José Martí and leader of the Cuban Revolution Fidel Castro.

During his stay in Cuba, the Russian Vice-President was welcomed by Cuban president Miguel Díaz-Canel. Official sources indicated that dialogue between both leaders showed the intensity of strategic ties between both nations and highlighted opportunities to continue consolidating relations in all field.



At the end were signed 13 legal instruments that establish commitments for cooperation. PHOTO: Cubadebate.

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Latin American Academic Network Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Text and Photo Yugdanis **VICET**

SANTIAGO DE CUBA.- The Latin American Center for Pedagogical Epistemology Studies (CESPE) celebrated its 10th anniversary with an exchange between international academicians, local institutions and journalists.

The Floro Pérez Pedagogical School, in this eastern Cuban city, welcomed representatives of territorial entities linked to the international academic network, including the general departments for Education, Sports and Culture; the Oriente University; the Cuban Teachers Association, and the Hermanos Marañón Party Faculty. The exchange, held in hybrid modality, allowed the participation of academicians from Panama, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Brazil, Italy, Equatorial Guinea, Mexico and Peru.

Educators shared their personal experiences and that of their countries as CESPE members, as well as the popular scope the network has as a champion of "Open Science," which allows extending research results to all sectors of the society.

CESPE general president, PhD Carlos Viltre, explained that the network is composed of 28 countries from Latin America, Africa, Europe and Asia, and includes 46 universities and 69 institutions, associations and organizations.

The work this body conducts has allowed the professional upgrading of over 1,200,000 people.

The academician commented that some of the center's facilities include the possibility their members have to access a publication system that guarantees visibility and internationalization of research results. With this purpose in mind, the center publishes eight international magazines and books in seven collections, thanks to its Nova Educare publishing house.

Spaces that CESPE generates include the International Studies Center; the Academic and Knowledge Management Network; the Academic Association Platform; the Academic Ecosystem; the Academic and Professional Relations Network; the Professional and Personal Growth Framework, and a Context for strategic international alliances. Context that tormented the author.



The exchange allowed the academicians from several countries shared their personal experiences as CESPE members.

Key Jutías, a blue-green landscape with starfish

By TeyunéDÍAZ

KEY JUTÍAS.- 14 kilometers from the municipality of Minas de Matahambre, in the western province of Pinar del Río, lies a nearly virgin territory with beautiful turquoise beaches, coral reefs, mangroves protecting the coastline, pirate stories, and even a lighthouse built in 1902.

The trip is 96 kilometers from the city of Pinar del Río and 56 kilometers from the tourist town of Viñales. Access is via a winding, uphill road to a 14-km causeway from the municipality of Santa Lucía, but the journey is worth it.

Among its main attractions are the four-kilometer stretch of beach with crystal-clear

waters and fine sand; excursions to the coral reef and to Key Mégano; boat tour around the key; and scuba diving.

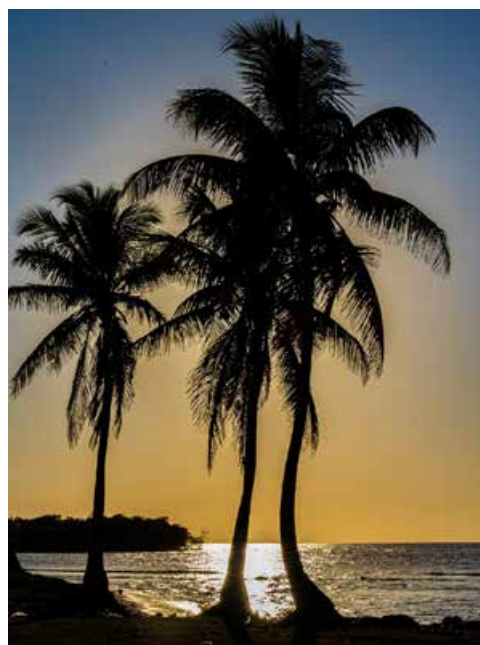
There are also beach services, including boat and water sports equipment rentals such as bicycles and kayaks, and a gastronomy featuring seafood and fish as the main dishes of the house.

One of Key Jutía's captivating landscapes is Starfish Beach (about two nautical miles from the resort), which is accessed by boat. Upon arrival, from the shore, you can enjoy looking at a starfish on the seabed, walk alongside them, and some curious guests can even pick them up and then release them.

Experts consider it one of the most beautiful and virgin beaches in western Cuba.



PHOTOS: Panchito González.



Latin America Collective Challenges

By Eduardo **RODRÍGUEZ**

TEGUCIGALPA.- The IX presidential Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), recently held in Honduras, showed its leaders' strong commitment to the region's unity and the defense of multilateralism.

Under the leadership, for the past year, of president Xiomara Castro, the region's largest integration bloc emerged stronger from the Tegucigalpa meeting, determined

to face the complex international scenario with common actions.

In her capacity as CELAC pro-tempore president, Castro managed to make the body stand out with stronger force in light of the difficult dynamics of today's global economic and geopolitical reordering.

At the opening of the event, that gathered 11 presidents, 20 foreign affairs ministers and representatives of the Community's 33 member nations, Honduras's first woman president urged to discuss the new

international order the United States is imposing, as she denounced.

In this sense, she also urged the bloc to put the new world order the administration of Donald Trump tries to impose with its tax measures and its policy of mass deportations of Latin American and Caribbean immigrants at the center of the discussions.

We cannot continue walking separately when the world is reorganizing itself without us, but we cannot come together either by repeating failed recipes of the past, said the head of State, who passed the pro-tempore presidency of the CELAC to his Colombian peer, Gustavo Petro.

When evaluating the work conducted during the year she was at the head of this intergovernmental mechanism, born 15 years ago, Castro affirmed that the bloc grew stronger with numerous initiatives, for the wellbeing of our peoples.

"CELAC is not a perfect organization, but it is ours; it is born from a dream, an ideal and a utopia of our liberators and heroes," she stressed.

In her speech, the president denounced "the cruel and inhumane blockade the United States has imposed on the heroic people of Cuba for over 64 years" and demanded the international community

to stop aggression against the Palestinian people.

"Cuba does not export terrorists; it exports teachers, scientists, doctors and the dignity our peoples demand," she said.

The IX Summit concluded with the approval of the Tegucigalpa Declaration, the main document emanating from these annual meetings.

In its resolution, adopted by "enough consensus," 30 of the 33 member states endorsed their commitment to the strengthening of CELAC as the continent's main mechanism of political association.

At the closing of the event, Honduran foreign affairs minister Enrique Reina highlighted the consensus reached in key topics such as full validity of the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Peace Zone, 11 years after the signing of that text in Havana, Cuba. He also made reference to protection and promotion of all human rights; respect to self-determination; non-interference in domestic issues; sovereignty and territorial integrity, the document reads.

Participants categorically challenged the imposition of unilateral coercive measures that contravene the international right, particularly those that affect developing countries' trade and economy.



The Summit determined to face the complex international scenario with common actions. PHOTO: Internet.

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Energy, Climate Crisis and Digital Colonialism

By MaríaMAYORAL

HAVANA.- Experts affirm that the world makes rapid progress towards the era of electricity and artificial intelligence (AI), while 680 million people live without electricity in their homes.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) confirmed that energy demand in the world rose by 2.2 percent in 2024, lower than the gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 3.2 percent but above the average annual demand increase of 1.3 percent from 2013 to 2023.

Acceleration in energy demand was led by electricity consumption, with nearly 1,100 additional terawatt-hours, which represented an increase of over 4.3 percent in comparison to the previous year, according to a study published in March 2025.

Such rise was mainly driven by high temperatures that boosted demand for cooling in many countries, as well as by the growth of digital data centers and AI, industrial consumption and electrification of transport.

In spite of opposing opinions and uncertainties, there is one clear fact: "electricity use is growing rapidly, pulling overall energy demand along with it," said IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol.

Meanwhile, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) estimated that the use of clean sources guaranteed over 90 percent of the electricity capacity



The world is rapidly moving toward the era of electricity and artificial intelligence, but 680 million people live without it in their homes. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

expansion in 2024, although notable geographical asymmetries and failures to meet climate agreements remained in place.

With 585 gigawatts (GW) of capacity additions, the sub-sector reached 4,448 GW last year, which was another global benchmark, although progress still falls

short of the 11.2 terawatts needed to align with the global goal to triple installed renewable energy capacity by 2030.

Most of the increase occurred in Asia, with the greatest share being contributed by China, with almost 64 percent of the global added capacity.

According to IRENA director general, Francesco La Camera, evidence shows that renewable energies are economically viable and "readily deployable."

Each year, they keep breaking their own expansion records, "but we also face the same challenges of great regional disparities and the ticking clock as the 2030 deadline is imminent," he regretted.

Energy burning represents over three quarters of the greenhouse gas emissions; thus, financing energy efficient initiatives and applying large scale renewable energies are essential, in spite of the ups and downs of climate.

Humanity is heading towards a future in which electricity, especially from renewable sources, will be essential, as according to estimates, AI and cryptocurrencies could double energy consumption in data centers by 2026 – which will exceed one thousand terawatt-hours.

As industrialized powers discuss how to regulate AI or how to avoid algorithms to be biased, priority in many parts of the world continues lying in access to basic infrastructures, including those that provide energy, to take millions of human beings out of physical and intellectual darkness.

ExpoCaribe International Fair to be held in June



The Heredia Cultural Complex, in the city of Santiago de Cuba will host the event, PHOTO: Internet.

By The Havana ReporterEditorialStaff

SANTIAGO DE CUBA.- Cuba announced the holding of the XX ExpoCaribe International Fair, from June 23 to 27, in this eastern city.

The Heredia Cultural Complex will again host the event, organized by the territorial government, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment (MINCEX) and the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Cuba.

According to a MINCEX official communiqué, national and foreign entities will be able to launch their supply and demand portfolios – including products, services and technologies – that allow identifying interests, as well as economic and commercial association between the countries of the region and other parts of the world.

ExpoCaribe is considered a space to favor the increase of foreign investment, particularly in the eastern provinces, and to promote export funds and substitute imports.

Cuban public and private actors will attend the event, at a time in which the world faces huge economic challenges, as well as Cuba, in this case because of the strengthening of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the government of the United States, sources indicated.

ExpoCaribe is a platform recognized by the International Association of Fairs of America (AFIDA) whose commercial brand is registered at the Cuban Patent Rights Office, the text recalled.

MINCEX minister Oscar Pérez-Oliva and Foreign Trade, Foreign Investment and International Cooperation director in Santiago de Cuba, Madelaine Cortés, announced the event summon in the presence of the diplomatic corps accredited to Havana, and invited interested people to participate.

Pérez-Oliva told the press that the fair should become a new opportunity to strengthen not only regional integration but also economic and commercial association between the Greater Caribbean and other countries of the world, such as Russia, as the event's program of activities foresees a forum with that Eurasian nation.

Companies and agencies that promote trade, investment and cooperation between Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, are invited to participate, in addition to representations of the United Nations bodies in Cuba and other multilateral institutions, the text added.

Important Presence

Text and Photo Moisés PÉREZ



Cuba participated for the first time in a decade in the 34th edition of Vietnam Expo 2025. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

HANOI.- The presence, for the first time in more than 10 years, of a large Cuban delegation at the 34th edition of the Vietnam Expo 2025 Trade Fair was not only significant but very beneficial too.

The delegation met the objectives proposed and there is a clear atmosphere of understanding about the existence of a potential for opportunities, which will allow improving business relations between the two countries, president of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce Antonio Carricarte told **The Havana Reporter** (THR).

Being here is essential to meet new economic actors, diversify our relations and expand ties not only with the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, but also with the diverse associative world of this Southeast Asian nation, he said.

The Cuban delegation included seven entities from the agricultural and food industries, the Mariel Special Development Zone and the Ministry of Foreign Trade, who also attended a bilateral Business Forum and the X session of the Vietnam-Cuba Business Committee.

Precisely at the end of the Business Committee, the 2025-2026 Action Plan was signed, a document that according to Carricarte "is close to the objectives and interests of the Cuban business community."

The program takes into consideration the main projects of the sectors that are given priority in the bilateral relationship, while showing both parties' commitment to accompany the implementation of such plans, as complexities of the current

situation mean that these are not exempt from obstacles for their materialization, he said.

On the other hand, the participation of Cuban entities in the Vietnam Expo 2025 Trade Fair resulted in visits to production centers, which already implies deeper work, as well as proposals to continue dialogues at the entrepreneurial level in Cuba, Carricarte stressed.

The official also made reference to what he described as an important meeting with director of the Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency (VIETRADE), Vu Ba Phu, "because on the occasion of the celebrations, this year, of the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, we want to highlight Vietnam's participation in the Havana's International Fair (FIHAV)." We have identified sectors of highest interest and we are going to work to exchange information and hold virtual meetings that allow an adequate preparation, so that FIHAV is not only a space for Vietnam's participation in-situ but also for the signing of agreements resulting from the work conducted, he affirmed.

Attracting investments that allow boosting food production in the country was the fundamental purpose that encouraged Cuban agricultural and food companies to participate in Vietnam Expo 2025.

The above was corroborated in dialogue with THR by vice president of the Food and Poultry Entrepreneurial Group (GEALAV), Doriel González, and Development director at the Pork Production and Marketing Entrepreneurial Group, Edelkys Núñez – both entities, attached to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Transportation Fair Closes with Important Agreements

By Teyuné DÍAZ

HAVANA.- The III edition of the Cuban International Transportation and Logistics Fair (FITL 2025) concluded with the signing of over 130 business documents, Transportation minister Eduardo Rodríguez announced. Companies from different countries met from April 1 – 3 at the PABEXPO fairground to show their products, projects and experiences, a sign of the global interest in strengthening our logistics capacities, Rodríguez affirmed at the closing of the event, in the presence of Cuban president Miguel Díaz-Canel.

Among the documents signed, contracts, memorandums and agreements are included, which will foster export and will endorse the recovery, development and gradual growth of the Cuban transportation system, the minister added.

Progress is made on the first electric busses terminal project for public transportation in Havana, as well as the acquisition of 20 new electric busses for the transportation of the aviation staff, which will also support public transport, Rodríguez commented.

These days, "we have had the pleasure of seeing how projects developed in previous editions have come true, and we are convinced that in the IV edition these will be higher," the minister said.

We know that we need to do a lot more, to make faster progress, stressed Rodríguez, who acknowledged the

pressing need for solutions to challenges, for which new ideas, paths that lead to the recovery of the transportation system in Cuba, are considered.

The minister appreciated the participants for contributing and believing in the potential of the transportation and logistics system amidst the difficult situation the country faces.

At the conclusion of his speech, the head of the Transportation ministry convened the IV edition of the International Transportation and Logistics Fair, to be held in 2027.

At the present edition, whose purpose was to foster development and alliances between different actors of the economy, promote direct foreign investment and boost international cooperation, exhibitors from 16 countries presented their goods and services in 86 stands.

As part of the event, president of the Cuban Aviation Corporation Joel Beltrán presented the projections of the sector and talked about the efforts conducted to modernize the country's airport infrastructure, as well as projects to increase the José Martí International Airport capacity to 10 million passengers annually.

However, those goals are not free from challenges such as limited financing because of the economic blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba, he affirmed.

Other activities conducted as part of the Transportation Fair included the 1st Cubans for Transportation and Logistics Forum, attended by about 70 Cubans resident in over 20 countries.

A new technological platform, Cárgate, designed to optimize logistics systems through the rental of vehicles for cargo transportation, was also launched at the fair.



Companies from different countries attended the FITL 2025 in Havana. PHOTO: Panchito González.

For Higher Dreams in Zimbabwe's Track and Field

Text and Photo Enrique **PÉREZ**

HARARE.- With relevant results, Cuban professor Carlos Manuel Isidoria works for Zimbabwe's track and field in his capacity as collaborator at the Bindura University of Science Education, 90 kilometers south of this capital.

Isidoria, a PhD in Physical Culture Sciences – a degree he obtained online from the Martha Abreu University, in the central Villa Clara province – tries to enroll youngsters to get bigger dreams, with tangible results in several track and field disciplines.

The coach's work in Bindura, which is also the seat of the Zimbabwe Sports Academy, consists of coaching high school athletes at the New Site School, in addition to the Chipindura High School's comprehensive center.

One of his pupils, promising David Nyamufarira, won a scholarship for higher education in the United States and became the champion of the 60 meters race at the recent national university games.

His work is endorsed by the outstanding results his pupils have reached in national and regional tournaments, although doing his PhD studies and applying science in teaching based on the Cuban experience and methods are his greatest achievements, he says.

The University also requested him to give classes at the Department of Sports Sciences, in the track and field discipline, while joining the project of former Minister of Education Dr Lazarus Dokora, which brings physical activity to children and youngsters from several regions.

A professor at the José Martí Center for Higher Studies, in the central Cuban province of Sancti Spiritus, the coach advises Olympic athletes such as Cubert Nyasango in the preparation of talents, with theoretical-practical lessons and the hope of contributing to Zimbabwe's

future sports results, which he considers to be part of Cuba's results too.

Bindura, a city in the province of Mashonaland Central in the Mazowe Valley, has been a regular and prestigious space for Cuban collaborators in this African nation since the 1980s.



Cuban professor Carlos Manuel Isidoria tries to enroll youngsters to get bigger dreams in several track and field disciplines.

“Time Out” after Fiasco in Brasilia

By Julio César **MEJÍAS**

HAVANA.- Cuba's main beach volleyball couple, Jorge Luis Alayo and Noslén Díaz, need a short break before fully going back to the World and Continental ProTour circuits, after the setback suffered in the Elite 16 tournament in Brasilia.

After winning the title in the Elite 16 in Quintana Roo, Mexico, the first of the high rank ProTour competitions – the rest include the Challenge and Futures tournaments – Alayo and Díaz finished fifth in the tournament of the same category in Saquarema, Brazil, where they also suffered a major setback by finishing in 19th position after losing the matches of their initial pool against the Canadian couple Samuel Schachter-Jonathan Pickett and the Swedish Jacob Holting Nilsson and Elmer Andersson.

Schachter-Pickett swept the Cubans 2-0 (21-14, 21-15), with a remarkable balance in all game areas: 22 points in attack, seven in blocks, five in serve, just 7 unforced errors and 12 saves. Alayo and Díaz's balance was totally different; they were almost invisible along the net and made eight mistakes in the match.

The Cuban players' fiasco in this event was materialized against the Nordics, who won by a narrow 2-1 (19-21, 25-23, 15-11) in a match the Cubans had in their hands in the second

set, which they led by 19-17. However, an unusual poor defense (only 10 balls saved by 16 their rivals), lack of concentration at crucial moments and poor performance at the net, once again, made them lose a set that seemed to be theirs – which prevented them not only from winning but also from advancing to the next round – and to finally lose in the tie break. Their performance in Brasilia leaves them several lessons, as they now have

several weeks to recover and resume their physical and tactical preparation, after guaranteeing at least their inclusion among the top 10 in the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) ranking – they currently occupy the eighth position with 5,820 points – which is led by Swedish Olympic champions David Ahman and Jonatan Hellvig (8,420), followed by Norwegians Anders Mol and Christian

Sorum (7,600), bronze medalists in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The next stop the Cubans will have on the calendar is at home, at the opening of the NORCECA Continental Tour in the Varadero resort, held every year at the Solymar Arenas Blancas Complex. Strangely enough, this is an event they have never been able to win and will now serve as their main challenge.



Volley couple, Jorge Luis Alayo and Noslén Díaz, had a setback in the Elite 16 tournament in Brasilia. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

About 100 Countries Confirm Participation in SPIEF 2025

By Germán **FERRÁS**

MOSCOW.- About 100 countries and territories of the world, including Latin America, have confirmed their participation in the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) 2025, to be held next June.

In a press release issued at the end of April, Roscongress informed that when there were two months to go for the start of SPIEF 2025, the number of nations and territories that have confirmed their attendance is five percent higher to that of last year.

Advisor of the Russian president and executive secretary of the forum's organizing committee, Anton Kabiakov, highlighted that this year "the role of the Global South is particularly evident," while stressing the "great interest the Asian, African and Latin American countries have in the forum's agenda." He also added that the Kingdom of Bahrain, Russia's important partner in the Near East, will be the guest country at SPIEF 2025.

According to Kabiakov, the large participation of nations and the diversity of topics create unique conditions to develop practical solutions based on shared values and mutual respect.

The increase of interest and attendance to the event clearly show the forum's rising global importance as a leading platform for the forging of new economic ties in a multipolar world, he said.

The release also added that 15 bilateral business dialogues have already been arranged with partners from Armenia, Africa, Bahrain, Vietnam, the European Union, India, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, China, Latin America, Moldavia, Mongolia, Thailand, Uzbekistan, the Eurasian Economic Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

SPIEF, an event held in the Russian city of Saint Petersburg that this year will take place from June 18 to 21, offers a space for dialogue and business development.

The forum, whose first edition was held in 1997, is organized since 2006 under the sponsorship and with the



participation of Russian president Vladimir Putin.

Throughout its history of more than 25 years, SPIEF has become the main international platform of contact between representatives of the business community and a space for debate about essential economic topics for Russia, the

developing markets and the world as a whole.

The 2024 edition of the forum was attended by 21,800 participants from 139 countries, and over 980 agreements were signed for a total amount of 6.4 trillion rubles (about 74 trillion dollars).



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