



Young on all fronts

Page. 3



Tourism

Festival in Havana
Page. 2

Science

AI Medicine
Page. 5

Culture

New Film
Page. 6

Economy

Government Programs
Page. 13



International Tourism Fair Raises Expectations

By Benjamín **MICERINOS**

HAVANA.- The 43rd edition of the Cuban International Tourism Fair (FitCuba 2025), to start next April 30, attracts the attention of tour operators and travel agents from 100 countries. Interest grew after Cuban minister of Tourism Juan Carlos García announced official plans to recover the travel industry and launched the program of this event, to take place until May 3. At a recent meeting with ambassadors of western Europe and Canada at the Taganana Hall of the Hotel Nacional de Cuba, the minister launched the official program of this event, which gathers the highest number of companies and professionals of the sector involved with Cuba.

FitCuba 2025 will be hosted on this occasion at the Morro-Cabaña Military Historic Park fairground, a well-kept system of colonial fortresses that is one of Havana's tourist postcards.

The present edition is dedicated to China as guest country of honor and the Cuban

Traditions as a Product, while Cubatur will be the recipient agency and Transtur the transportation agency.

The first day will include the traditional opening ceremony and the minister's tour of the fairground, accompanied by invited authorities and the diplomatic corps, in addition to the night gala with presentations of the Cuban and Chinese cultures at the Karl Marx Theater, as well as a gathering in the gardens of the Hotel Nacional de Cuba. The Cuban minister of Tourism stated that they foresee the participation of the invited guests in the May 1st parade, on occasion of the International Workers Day, at the José Martí Revolution Square.

Other activities include a meeting with representatives of airlines at the Meliá Habana Hotel, negotiations at the fairground and the closing ceremony, at the Havana's Tropicana Cabaret.

In addition, a meeting of ministers of Tourism of the ALBA-TCP member countries will be held on May 3 at the Grand Muthu Habana Hotel.

The aforementioned integration platform of Latin American and Caribbean nations is composed of Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Dominica, Ecuador, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Antigua & Barbuda and Saint Lucia.

The final day, the fairground will be opened to the audience and for exchanges with exhibitors, and it will mark the Postur trip for a group of delegates and invited journalists, with tours of the western Viñales region,

the Varadero resort and the central city of Trinidad.

Official data indicate that at present, Cuba has 84,164 hotel rooms, 10 international airport and the same number of marinas, with three cruise ships terminals.

In addition, 19 foreign management offices are operational in the country, for 571,291 rooms in 153 facilities, with Spain at the head and Meliá Hotels International managing 36 establishments.



The tourism fair returns to the Morro-Cabaña Military Historic Park fairground. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Six Meliá Cuba Hotels Bid for the World Travel Awards

By Francisco **MENÉNDEZ**

HAVANA.- The Meliá Hotels International branch in Cuba informed that six of its lodgings are bidding for the 2025 World Travel Awards, whose winners will be announced in Cancun next September 27.

A press release of the Spanish company states that these are famous international awards.

Meliá Cohiba and Meliá Cayo Coco – both, five-star hotels – are nominated to the 2025 World Travel Awards in its 32nd edition.

Meliá Cohiba, a hotel that stands out for its privileged location in the Havana Malecón (seawall) and the facilities that turn it into a perfect lodging for businesspeople, event-related participants and gastronomy lovers, celebrated last February 28 its 30th anniversary.

Meliá Cayo Coco, for its part, is an All-Inclusive resort for people over the age of 18 that is located in the northern keys of the Ciego de Ávila province, in Cuba's

central region. Recently renovated, it bets for weddings, romantic trips and honeymoons.

In the Cuban Leading Hotel Suite category, the Master Suite The Level of the Meliá Cohiba hotel stands out for its exquisite design, matchless sea view and personalized service that offers guests a unique experience.

The Cuban Leading Resort category includes two jewels of the Caribbean: Paradus Varadero and Paradus Princesa del Mar, both located by the crystal-clear waters of one of Cuba's most emblematic beaches.

Both resorts offer exclusive lodgings, from comfortable Junior Suites to large Suites, in addition to high-quality gastronomic proposals, YHI Spa programs and a calendar of activities designed to foster wellbeing and personal development.

The abovementioned list includes Paradus Río de Oro, an adult-only, intimate and private eco-resort ideal for relaxing, which is located at the beautiful Esmeralda beach, in the eastern Holguín province and Meliá Las Dunas, a cozy and dynamic hotel that welcomes families, couples and groups of friends willing to enjoy the greatest vacations amidst the natural beauty of Cayo Santa María.

The World Travel Awards, acknowledged as the Tourism Oscars, award the world's best destinations and establishments based on the review of experts, travelers and professionals of the sector.



Six hotels of the Meliá Hotels International branch in Cuba compete for the the 2025 World Travel Awards. PHOTO: Meliá.

The Havana Reporter
YOUR SOURCE OF NEWS & MORE

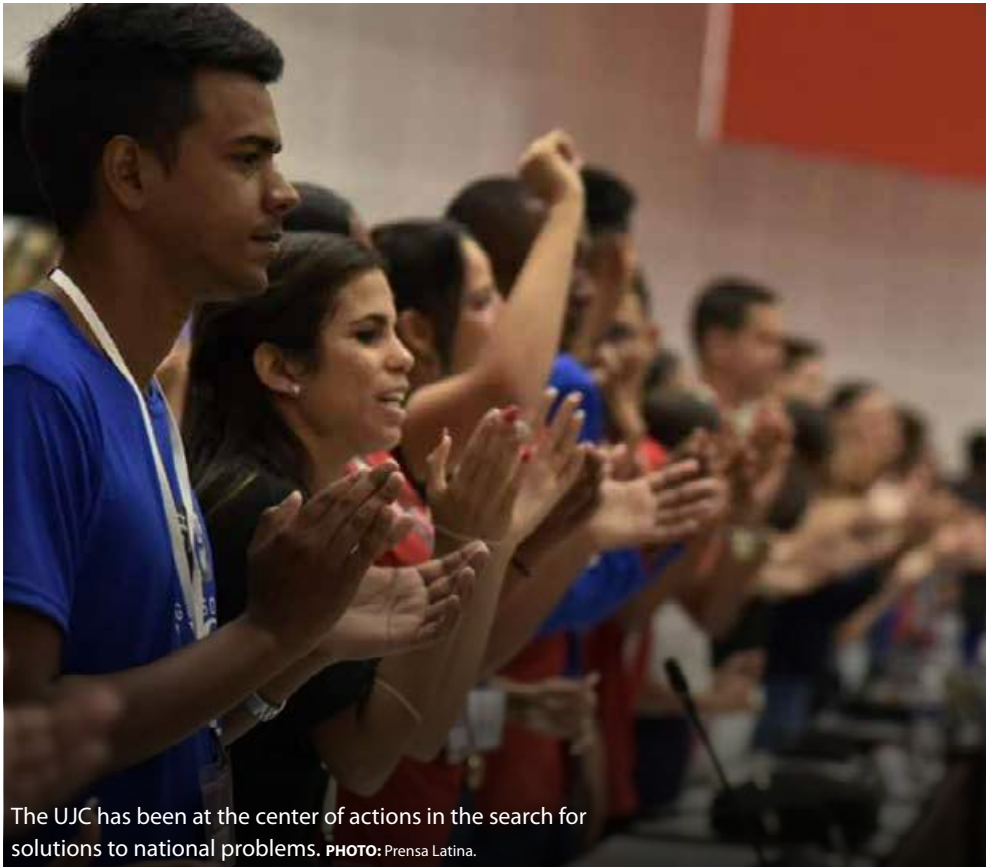
SOCIETY • HEALTH & SCIENCE • POLITICS • CULTURE
ENTERTAINMENT • PHOTO FEATURE • ECONOMY
SPORTS • AND MORE

Editorial Director: 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
Circulation: Commercial Department
Printing: Prensa Latina

Publisher: Agencia Informativa Latinoamericana Prensa Latina, S.A.
Calle E, esq. 19 No. 454, Vedado, La Habana-4, Cuba
Telephone: (53)7838-3496 / 7832-3578
Fax: (53)7833-3068 E-mail: thr@prensa-latina.cu

The Youth at the Core of Cuba's Work



The UJC has been at the center of actions in the search for solutions to national problems. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

By Rafael **ARZUAGA**

HAVANA.- Since its creation, on April 4, 1962, the Young Communist League (UJC) – originally, the Young Rebel Association – has played an important role in efforts to promote Cuba's development.

Beyond accompanying the country's economic and social transformation, the organization's work has been at the center of actions in the search for solutions to national problems, based on dialogue with previous generations, in order to catalyze comprehensive growth.

The UJC, whose leadership goes beyond its affiliation, has been the face of endless programs addressed to productive growth in the energy, biopharmaceutical and food and agricultural sectors, in addition to projects to optimize services.

The organization also stands out in the defense of national integrity and sovereignty, environmental protection, sport and cultural events, protection to vulnerable people and processes directed at vindicating and reinserting Cubans.

Humanism, internationalism, solidarity, diligence and sacrifice, science, health, education and computerization, mobilization, battle, gatherings and fight, are some of the words that are tattooed in the skin of the nation with youngsters' blood, sweat and tears, laughs and satisfaction.

All this, and in most of the cases, amidst a complex scenario; however, this does not stop their commitment to work,

make changes and progress, multiply and undertake actions... as part of their pledge to history and their generation.

On top of that, they also have the responsibility of being the tutors of the José Martí Students Organizations, which also celebrates their anniversary on April 4. The UJC has been like that: essential, protagonist. They celebrate another anniversary consciously and directly involved in everyday works, including governance processes, explanation and implementation of legal norms, facilitating equity and inclusion, food sovereignty and attention to children.

The organization celebrates its 63 anniversary with strength and dynamism, working closely with ministries, other government organizations and institutions, to plan policies, establish decisions that foster opportunity of fulfillment and empowerment to the youth.

The organization is, above all, at the center of macro-economic challenges, hoping to promote prosperity by boosting the harmonic interrelationship of all economic actors.

Very mature and considered by authorities as continuity and not a relay, the UJC is one of the forces – perhaps the main force – that guarantees the present and builds the future. It is the leader of actions and know-how dedicated to respond to the challenges of the Cuban State, determined to pave the way to sustainable and inclusive development.

Girón, A Victory that Set a New Course

By Melissa **KING**

HAVANA.- An attack on three Cuban airports in the month of April, 64 years ago, was the prelude to the invasion that strengthened support to the Cuban Revolution and marked U.S. imperialism's first defeat in Latin America.

In the first hours of April 15, 1961, airplanes camouflaged under the emblem of the Revolutionary Armed Forces simultaneously attacked the Ciudad Libertad airport (in the capital), the San Antonio de los Baños airbase (southeast Havana) and the Santiago de Cuba airfield (in the east).

Eight B-26 airplanes departed the Cabezas Port, in Nicaragua, with objective of destroying the modest Cuban aviation in land and thus guarantee the impunity of other enemy raids by land.

The actions, executed without any previous war declaration and orchestrated by the Central Intelligence Agency under the name of Operarion Pluto, pretended to make international public opinion believe that a domestic uprising was taking place in the island. The Rebel Army and the National Revolutionary Militias faced the attacks with anti-aircraft fire, but the event caused the death of seven persons and hundreds of wounded, including militiaman Eduardo García Delgado, who wrote the name of Fidel with his blood, before passing away.

At his murdered compatriots' funeral rites, Fidel Castro announced to the world the socialist course of the Cuban process, surrounded by a crowd that supported the decision of defending the "Revolution of the humble, by the

humble and for the humble," raising their rifles.

"What the imperialists cannot forgive is that we are here, what the imperialists cannot forgive is the dignity, the integrity, the courage, the firmness of ideas, the spirit of sacrifice and the revolutionary spirit of the Cuban people," the historical leader stated at the mass event held near the cemetery. The attack on the Cuban airports was the prelude of the mercenary invasion that took place in the early morning of April 17 in the Bay of Pigs (Playa Girón and Playa Larga), in the western province of Matanzas.

Bloody combats and criminal bombings by the B-26 deployed against Cuba, that even used Napalm bombs, occurred.

The cost was high: over 150 dead and hundreds of wounded, as witnesses and protagonists of such fights with the enemy recalled.

Washington's plans failed in their attempt to establish a beachhead, with a government designated and trained by them, as the invaders were defeated in less than three days by the militia forces, the Rebel Army and the National Revolutionary Police.

The mercenaries, who surrendered in Playa Girón at the sunset of April 19, and this action, represented the first major defeat the imperialism suffered in Latin America.

When over six decades have passed, the United States continues trying to asphyxiate Cuba, now with economic sanctions, the intensification of the blockade and the inclusion of the island in the unilateral list of countries that allegedly sponsor terrorism.



The invaders were defeated in less than three days by the militia forces, the Rebel Army and the National Revolutionary Police. PHOTO: Archives.

A Pack of Subversion

By DeisyFRANCIS

WASHINGTON.-The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has served to promote fictitious opposition, create dissent and encourage protest acts in certain countries, including Cuba.

The above was the statement deputy minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Fernández de Cossío made in an interview with **The Havana Reporter** in this capital, where he spoke about the eventual dismantling of that agency as a result of the crusade president Donald Trump and Elon Musk have undertaken at present to reduce federal expenses. USAID was created as a machinery of the United States foreign policy, which was formally conceived as a way to channel the United States' direct assistance to other countries, in theory for development programs, he affirmed. That was the purpose of its creation (in 1961) "and we cannot question that some of these programs have had benefits for some of these countries in terms of resources and technology transference," he added.

However, USAID has also been used by the Government of the United States to channel funds with subversive objectives, with the purpose to attack Third World countries whose governments they disagree with, the deputy minister indicated.

The diplomat affirmed that those funds have been used to promote fictitious opposition, create dissent, encourage protest acts, acts of dissent in certain countries, which has been, of course, the case of Cuba.

He added that there are dozens of organizations and groups that oppose Cuba whose counterrevolutionary and subversive objectives have been financed by USAID either directly or through other ways that finish in the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and other facades of the United States' special services.

When talking about up to what point an agency that for years has been considered the CIA's branch will disappear,



USAID Funds have been used to promote fictitious opposition and encourage protest acts in certain countries like Cuba.

Fernández de Cossío commented that one could think that with the end of USAID those funds could also disappear for these counterrevolutionary organizations, although the U.S. aggressive purpose against Cuba has not stopped, he stressed.

"Hence, it is logic to think that the Department of State, its secretary of State, will guarantee that funds of this type can be channeled for the same purposes," he said.

In this sense, he highlighted that it would be naïve to think that the Government of the United States will orphan those organizations that have only existed because of the constant financing of the Government of the United States.

He also recalled that many personal and collectives fortunes have been created in the United States as a result of U.S. taxpayers' financing, with the funds channeled through USAID.

Filmmaker Gloria Rolando Weaves Threads and Makes Stories



Cuban filmmaker and scriptwriter Gloria Rolando.

Text and photo DeisyFRANCIS

NEWYORK.- From anecdotes and memories, Cuban filmmaker and scriptwriter Gloria Rolando untied the memory knot at a recent meeting with representatives of the field of culture in this U.S. city.

The friendly talk, held at the Cuban Mission to the UN, took Rolando (April 4, 1953) back to the first trip she made to this country, in 1991, when she came to promote her documentary *Oggun: un eterno presente* (*Oggun: an endless present*). Since then, "my life changed," she said.

A long time has passed and she still maintains the same determination to continue making a contribution through her work, as she stated at an auditorium in which ambassadors Ernesto Soberón, Cuba's permanent representative to the United Nations and Yuri Gala, acting permanent representative, were present.

Rolando came to the United States in October. "This is a special visit, because I was obliged to see the Oblate Sisters

of Providence and show them the film *Hermanas de Corazón* (Sisters of the Heart), a three-chapter trilogy that includes *El Colegio San José* (The San José College), *Las Novias de Dios* (God's girlfriends), and *Ángeles de la Memoria* (Angels of Memory)," the author told **The Havana Reporter**.

The three-part documentary "is dedicated to the work the black nuns of the Oblate of Providence foundation made in 1829 in Baltimore and in the colleges they opened later on."

Rolando commented that she knew about this story "because of the family album, because of my mom in that photo she always kept, with her Oblate uniform, and she told me that those nuns were in Baltimore."

"I came to Baltimore in 2014 and brought a plan to screen my film on the Haitian people in Cuba and asked about those black nuns thinking about the past, and to my surprise, I was told that I could still find them there."

That's how I was taken to the Oblate Sisters of Providence convent and found the last black nuns from Cuba who had made their novitiate in Baltimore, added the documentary maker.

Then, I knew that there were still some women living in Cuba who had studied with them and I reached them. It was beautiful, because they thought they were going to die and that chapter would not be narrated anywhere, she commented.

"I contacted some of the former pupils of the Oblate Sisters of Providence; we are talking about women over the age of 80, and more photos, medals and memories started to appear on the way they were educated by those black nuns," Rolando stressed.

They founded colleges in Havana; Matanzas, particularly Cárdenas; Santa Clara, Camagüey, and Santiago de Cuba, the filmmaker said.

She explained that that led her to the story of Mother Mary Lange, who founded the Oblates, and through research and the interviews made and all the documents consulted, she knew that Mary Lange was apparently born in Santiago de Cuba.

Although Rolando is already retired, she affirms that a new project always appears and she is now involved in a research on the participation of black soldiers of the United States Army in the Spanish-Cuban-American war.

Use of Artificial Intelligence in Health

By Claudia DUPEIRÓN



Doctor Iván Hernández (PHD), one of the heads of the project that received the Cuban Academy of Sciences National Award in 2024. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

HAVANA.- In recent times, Artificial Intelligence (AI) seems to be present in every aspect of human being's life: telephones, cars, watches, homes... However, in spite of its endless world of applications, its use in the health sector starts to become more prominent, and Cuba also bets for its use for people's wellbeing.

Through the path in which AI and health meet, Cuban scientists have left impressive imprints, a sign of which is the work entitled "Artificial Intelligence and numerical modeling oriented to the improvement of vision in the Cuban population," which was granted the Cuban Academy of Sciences National Award in its 2024 edition.

The Havana Reporter got an exclusive interview with one of the heads of this project, PhD Iván Hernández, of the Cuban Ramón Pando Ferrer Institute of Ophthalmology, to know the details of this research.

It is an initiative that started to develop in 2015 as part of a collaboration agreement between the aforementioned entity and the University of Havana Higher Institute of Technologies and Applied Sciences (INTEC).

According to Hernández, to get to the present project, INTEC researchers designed several neural networks (NNs) with a multilayer perceptron architecture, characterized by multiple neurons (computer algorithm) organized in layers and interconnected.

Such NNs were trained with over 15,000 patients operated at the Cuban Institute of Ophthalmology from 2012 to 2018, so that they "learn" to calculate the intraocular lens (IOL) that is implanted in cataract surgery with the minimum error of prediction possible, the ophthalmologist explained.

Results are very encouraging as those networks predicted lens' power with barely five percent of prediction error over the interval accepted as a satisfactory postoperative result. That effect is higher than the one reported in literature with the use of traditional formulas, Hernández commented.

The interviewee highlighted that the impacts of the initial stage of the research are limited, until now, to the scientific field and include the first ocular biometric characterization of a big sample of the Cuban population.

With this AI tool, optimization of the five IOL model constants used the most in the country and the demonstration of these neural networks – designed for the first time in Cuba to calculate IOL – can predict up to 95 percent of emmetropic cases, the doctor added.

Hernández also explained that it has not been used in the Cuban population yet, but it will be effective once the second research stage is done, when the effectiveness of a multilayer perceptron to calculate IOL in clinical practice, in comparison to other international methods that use Artificial Intelligence, will be determined.

Immunoessay Center, a Pillar for Technological Sovereignty

By Esther GARCÍA

HAVANA.- The Cuban Immunoessay Center reached important achievements last year in the development of tools for the diagnosis of different diseases, which strengthens technological sovereignty in the country.

The scientific institution made a contribution to the health register with the creation of the UMTEST MSUD kit for neonatal diagnosis of maple syrup urine disease, a device already included in the national neonatal program, stated the center's deputy director for research and development, Ariel Palenzuela.

The institution also presented a real-time PCR trial, Sumasignal APOE, to detect late Alzheimer, which will be soon introduced in the national health system, sources indicated at the 2024 Balance Assembly held last February in this capital.

During the meeting, information was also provided about alliances forged with China last year, which include the memorandum of understanding signed with the Beijing Technological Institute in September for the joint development of a micro-fluid platform.

The Immunoessay Center, created 37 years ago, is a biotechnological company whose mission is to conduct research and develop strategies, technologies and products for the sustainable detection of metabolic diseases, both communicable and non-communicable.

The deputy director for research affirmed that the center continues to conduct studies and work to search a tool for the diagnosis of Oropouche, which would allow being better prepared for future pandemics or diseases.



The Center is a biotechnological company whose mission is to conduct research for the detection of metabolic diseases. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Estrés, Marilyn Solaya's New Film Proposal

By Marcelo **GARCÍA**

HAVANA.- Estrés (Stress), a film by Cuban producer Marilyn Solaya that portrays a part of the country's reality in five stories full of symbolism and excellent performances, is about to be released, its director said.

"It is a responsible, honest film made for Cuba and on Cuba that deals with topics that affect us but are universal, such as family conflicts linked to migration, care of senior adults, impact of poverty in some sectors of the society," added Solaya, who is also the film scriptwriter.

In an exclusive interview with **The Havana Reporter**, she explained that it is a film "in which I am also reflected, which was shot by a guajira (as people from rural areas are called here) from Camagüey, committed to her country," and "it is a love story in which, as in life itself, new problems appear, new truths."

The film's cast includes renowned Cuban actors Verónica Lynn, Mario Limonta, Aramis

Delgado, Isabel Santos, Luis Alberto García, Héctor Noa, Patricio Wood, María Isabel Díaz, Clarita García, Iyaima Martínez and singer and songwriter Elain Morales.

Everyday life's dramas and extreme situations, such as nostalgia, separation, population aging and gender violence, are part of the two-hour long film, which is also a love and hope ode.

Each narration is touching, as well as its leading actors' performances, Solaya affirmed, highly pleased with the shooting and convinced that it will be a film the Cubans will love.

Estrés is the result of a project presented to the Cuban Film Institute (ICAIC) in 2016 on a script the artist wrote and outstanding Cuban filmmaker Enrique Barnet kept – which was granted the Thematic Exhibition award at the Gíbara 2009 International Poor Film Festival.

Produced by ICAIC, the feature film included the collaboration of the International Invisible Cinema Festival "Film Sozialak" Bilbao-KCD ONGD.

The work's photography was produced by Rafael Solís; the sound, by Irina Carballosa;

art direction, Maykel Martínez; music, Juan Antonio Leyva and Magda Rosa Galbán, and editing, Octavio Crespo.

Estrés is currently undergoing the final sound design stage, by Angie Hernández, and credits and posters design, by Pepe Menéndez, the producer commented.

Solaya, a Bachelor of Arts in Audiovisual Communication Media from the Cuban University of Arts, started her career in the world of cinema as an actress, with the multiple-time prizewinning film *Fresa y Chocolate* (Strawberry and chocolate) (1993), by Tomás Gutiérrez Alea and Juan Carlos Tabío.



Cuban producer Marilyn Solaya said that the film is a love story in which new problems and truths appear. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Festival Highlights Women's Art and Entrepreneurial Spirit

By Verónica **NÚÑEZ**

HAVANA.- The Women by Eyeife Festival, held for two days, arrived this 2025 with workshops and concerts that endorse the figure of women in all cultural expressions.

Enjoy a night full of incredible concerts, inspiring performances and an atmosphere of sorority; come to vibrate with us and support women's talent, the festival announced in all its social media.

The event was hosted at the Fábrica de Arte Cubano (FAC) cultural center, where businesswomen and artists met to talk about entrepreneurship, photography, musical industry and other topics.

Seven workshops were held the first day: Effective, conscious and transformative communication; Women inclusion in the tres (instrument); Entrepreneurial women; Female artists, challenges in the contemporary musical scene; Women who create the future, entrepreneurial women's potential in the cultural and creative industries.

Photography and responsible approach, by Mexican filmmaker and photographer Camila Pargo; Breaking invisible walls, by Cuban singer Camila Guevara, and Spanish marketing expert Rafa Fergom, were the other academic proposals.

Liana Milanés, Neida Peñalver, Sandra Camacho, Ana Lyem Lara, Mayvic Delgado and Rochy Ameneiro were some of the invited panelists, who shared their personal experiences with the audience that day.

Tres player Enid Rosales, for example, spoke about the lack of female presence in the history of the Cuban tres until the end of the 1960s, which she stressed by saying: Until now, how many women have I mentioned?

Even if you play "well," people say: you play like men, which is a way of playing this musical instrument, Rosales and her panel colleagues Jarima Blanco and Jany Quiñones said.

A varied program of concerts cheered up the night the International Women's Day was celebrated, which included famous artists of the industry, especially the electronic music. Dark Khali, Nevula, Felurian, Chicksoul, Enid Rosales, Yarima Blanco, Jany Quiñones, Thalai, Claudia Bacallao, Naye Rizos, Eli Salón, the Fanm Zetwal band and other talented women made the audience danced until the early morning.

In Women by Eyeife, we fight for a space where each woman can be heard and valued; let us continue breaking barriers in music and life together, the team said in the social media.



One of the workshop was Women inclusion in the tres (instrument). PHOTO: Prensa Latina.



Voces del Sur Global
Voices of the Global South



The Paintbrush and the Secret to Eternal Youth

By Mario MUÑOZ

HAVANA.- On January 28, famous Cuban visual artist Roberto Fabelo celebrated his 75th birthday with the same confidence in his muses and a control of the paintbrush that has taken his pieces to renowned museums, galleries and art collections in the world.

Although less frequent in Cuba, each of his exhibitions is a present to his followers; no wonder his work is part of the selection that embellishes the exhibition Cuarenta años de arte cubano en las bienales de La Habana (Forty years of Cuban art in the Havana Biennials).

As the 2004 National Visual Arts awardee told this journalist 20 years ago, he still has to do some works and to him, painting "is a delicious disease. A vice. I have painted all my life."

"Painting nurtured my spirituality, my vision of art. It has accompanied me until the present as an instrument to access other things, but I have also turned it into my own world; I still exercise it as daily gymnastics," he then said.

According to art critics, the excellent drawer, painter, engraver and illustrator is one of Cuba's most prominent contemporary visual artists. His work is a proof of that: 48 personal exhibitions and over 200 collective exhibits in more than 20 countries.

Fabelo has been a professor, a contest jury member, an illustrator of important books, including several works by Colombian novelist Gabriel García Márquez.

He has also won important prizes in national and international contests, including the Armando Reverón award at the First Havana Biennial; the first place at the Cleveland (United Kingdom) International Drawing Biennale; the Award of the Viña del Mar (Chile) Watercolor Biennial...

However, a lot of water has passed under the bridge since those first stokes and models he made in his native city of Guáimaro, in the Camagüey province.

The materials he used then were simply "the mud, honeycomb wax, pieces of wood he turned into imaginary animals or what he thought to be animals, which he tied up and kept into stockyards he built for them. He gave shape to the mud by making figurines of the animals of the surrounding area..."

When his family moved to Havana, in 1963, the 13-year-old boy discovered his habitat, linked to his passion for painting, and the world changed to him when he entered the National Arts School (ENA).

"It was a different atmosphere, an environment of total affinity. We were in a boarding school, conducted common activities with students from other artistic expressions, so, there was a constant feedback.

"In addition, adolescence had stayed behind. I was already a young man defining his interests in life and art; I was enjoying the prime of life, that moment of getting in touch with the world you like, in which you want to develop," he recalled.

In relation to his teachers, he said that "I had Antonia Eiriz as professor and many others such as Adigio (Benítez), Martínez

Pedro and others I unfortunately don't remember... Antonia had a powerful personality; she was also very cultured, with a curiosity in the search for knowledge in painting.

Fabelo added that Servando Cabrera Moreno had a strong influence on his generation and although he was not his student, he did meet him and visit him with Nelson Domínguez, Chocolate (Eduardo Roca Salazar) and other friends when Moreno was no longer an ENA professor.

"He always gave us his experience and knowledge about art. When we took him our first drawings, he gave us his guidance, told us what we should see, borrow his books from him. That helped us a lot."



Fabelo is an excellent drawer, painter, engraver and illustrator considered as one of Cuba's most prominent contemporary visual artists. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.



THE GETAWAY CAPITAL
MODERN AND EXCLUSIVE

For the enjoyment of all customer segments, **38** hotel products with more than **11,000** rooms in the country's most important tourist destinations.

www.bluediamondresorts.com

PL
PRENSA
LATINA

La mayor casa editorial
de publicaciones seriadas de Cuba

The largest publishing house
of continuous publications in Cuba

www.prensa-latina.cu

[@PrensaLatina_cu](https://twitter.com/PrensaLatina_cu) [PrensaLatinaTV](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) [@AgenciaPrensaLatinaOficial](https://www.facebook.com/AgenciaPrensaLatinaOficial)
[prensalatina.cu](https://www.instagram.com/prensalatina.cu) [@PrensaLatinaNoticias](https://www.facebook.com/PrensaLatinaNoticias) [TesoroLatino](https://www.facebook.com/TesoroLatino)



Challenges of the Media War

By Lisván **LESCAILLE**

HAVANA.- The fourth edition of the Patria International Colloquium reaffirmed the special contribution made to the world's progressive forces and revolutionary processes from Cuba, UPEC president Ricardo Ronquillo affirmed.

In statements to **The Havana Reporter**, the head of the Cuban Journalists Union (UPEC) stressed the importance of this international meeting, held in this capital from March 17 to 19 with the participation of different nations and with key topics on its agenda.

The experienced journalist recalled that Havana hosted the first edition of this event with the participation of a small group of specialists from nine countries, and at present, the forum is a space of debate and reflection for the world's left, in search of answers to the problems that affect humanity.

In order to articulate ideas and projects in defense of the peoples of the world, communicators, journalists, political activists and researchers, in addition to representatives of political forces and social movements that hope to change the world's present situation, annually come to this capital.

According to Ronquillo, there is understanding among the Cuban political and state leadership on the fact that the topic of communication is essential in the contemporary world, as the Internet and the concept of network society rapidly develop.

Cuba defined communication as a strategic pillar of the Government administration, which includes a program for the development of information and communication technologies, and recently approved a plan to foster artificial intelligence.

In that context, Patria is an additional contribution to the effort we make to modernize and transform the country's public media and communication system, Ronquillo added. What we learn in these colloquiums contribute to Cuba's defense, a country that as specialists say is living the severe

phase of a hybrid war, with emphasis on communication, which makes us give it a special attention, he said.

The official warned that sophisticated communication labs are being used against his country and a change in the subversion and manipulation strategies and tactics by the Government of the United States is foreseen. Such a change favors the most intensive

use of new technologies on traditional platforms, he stressed.

In this scenario, the Patria Colloquium tries to make a contribution for the left forces, movements and projects to modernize their political communication and articulate those platforms, which are facing an unfair and unbalanced world information and communication order, the UPEC president concluded.



The participants in the Patria Colloquium debated the unfair and unbalanced world information and communication order. PHOTO: Vladimir Molina.

Japanese Cooperation with Health System Grows Stronger

Text and Photo Yugdani **VICET**



Japanese Ambassador to Cuba, HE Nakamura Kazuhito. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA.-Cooperation in the field of Public Health between Japan and Cuba grew stronger after the inauguration of a new project through the Swiss Camaguito NGO, in this eastern city.

The ceremony, held at the Dr Juan Bruno Zayas Clinical-Surgical Hospital, was attended by Japanese Ambassador to Cuba, HE Nakamura Kazuhito; Camaguito NGO chairman, Mark Kuster, and government and Public Health authorities.

The opening of the project, "Installation of medical equipment for newborn babies, in two hospitals of the Santiago de Cuba province," was endorsed by the donation of a gasometer for the Juan de la Cruz Martínez Maceira Children Hospital and two incubators for the Juan Bruno Zayas Alfonso Clinical-Surgical Hospital.

Such donations are the result of the financing of the Japanese embassy and are made effective through the Swiss Camaguito NGO, which is involved in several projects in Santiago de Cuba.

Ambassador Kazuhito stated that they hope this project contributes to improve attention to newborn and breastfed babies and that the equipment is used in a safe and sustainable way. He also stressed that these donations are the result of the Japanese people's good will toward the Cuban people.

Chairman and founder of the Swiss NGO, Mark Kuster, said that being able to help improve medical attention in Cuba is a personal fulfillment and an acknowledgement to the effort the health staff makes. He also appreciated the Japanese government for trusting in this organization to donate these means to the Cuban health system.

International Documentary Festival's Fresh Returned

By DaiLIEM

HAVANA.- The 22nd edition of the Santiago Álvarez in Memoriam International Documentary Festival (FIDSA) was held this year in its foundational site, the city of Santiago de Cuba, from March 15 to 21, and for the first time, in Havana, with activities at the Charles Chaplin Theater.

According to the organizing committee, more than 160 works were received, 37 of which competed in the short, medium and full-length categories, in addition to animated documentary and docudrama, with a strong presence of female producers.

The festival welcomed over 30 foreign producers, who presented their experiences in theoretical spaces and other events dedicated to the formation and shooting of good-quality documentary films, following the example

of unforgettable Cuban producer Santiago Álvarez, an iconic national film figure to whom a tribute is paid this year on occasion of his 106th anniversary of birth.

Works in competition came from different countries, including Spain, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Canada, Russia, Qatar, Chile, Venezuela and South Africa.

Their main topics dealt with gender equality, violence, loss of human rights in some countries and recovery of these, in others.

In Santiago de Cuba, in addition to its official venue – the Rialto de Santiago theater – the event added other local institutions to its program of screenings.

Some of those places included the Oriente University, the seats of the provincial Union of Cuban Writers and Artists, the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, the French Alliance, the Caguayo Foundation and the Hotel Imperial.

The event's president, Lázara Herrera, stressed the evident evolution this forum has had since its creation.

For his part, Rodrigo Vázquez, member of the FIDSA 2025 Selection Jury, highlighted the quality of the works received and affirmed that the contest praised a diversity of approaches in a political and critical cinema such as the one Santiago Álvarez made, who left a latent and necessary legacy people must go back to more and more in times of global crisis and the re-emergence of fascism.

The festival also rendered tribute to recently deceased Cuban filmmakers Jorge Luis Sánchez and Daniel Diez, and National Music awardee Edesio Alejandro, author of many of the Cuban films' soundtracks.

The dedication also included Televisión Serrana and the Caguayo Foundation, on their 30th anniversary; the Cuban Film Institute (ICAIC), on its 65th anniversary, and the Santiago de Cuba city, on the 510th anniversary of its foundation.

In Havana, the theoretical event coordinated by prestigious documentary maker Lourdes de los Santos was broadcasted streaming from the Charles Chaplin theater.

Topics discussed included the figure of Argentinean filmmaker Fernando Birri; music in the documentary film, and the challenges women face in the production of this genre, as well as their accomplishments and screenings.

Exhibitions were also made on the Palestinian people fight and of some audiovisuals in competition.



The unforgettable Cuban producer is an iconic national film figure. PHOTO: Archives.

Francophonie Month, Closer to Cuba

By DaimarelysPÉREZ

HAVANA.-The Francophonie Month in Cuba returned this season to the capital and the eastern Santiago de Cuba city with exhibitions, concerts, literary activities, film screenings, visual arts and musical events.

The program of activities started on March 6 with the lecture The autobiographical temptation, by Belgian writer Jean-Philippe Toussaint, which was followed by the photographic exhibition Couronnes Éphémères, by French-Venezuelan artist Maya Dagnino, on the complexities of motherhood and the challenges of being a mother-artist.

Director of the French Alliance in Cuba, Alexandre Guillochon and Cooperation and Cultural Action Counselor at the French Embassy, Olivier Giron, announced the rich agenda, which was really successful.

Other exhibitions, with women as the protagonists, included Soliloquio de mujer (Women soliloquy), in which the author recalls

women figure through their representation in religion, with Virgin Mary and her different advocates as the center of its expressions.

The audience also enjoyed the presentation of the French company Bakhus, with a panel on the influence of hip hop in contemporary dance, in addition to a single performance of the work Gaia 2, on March 15.

Some of the shows the Cuban audience expected included the play Favez, staged from March 18 to 23, by actress and theater director Liliana Lam.

The actress played the role of Swiss Henriqueta Favez, the first woman who, dressed as a man, exercised medicine in Cuba and America in the 19th century.

Other important activities were also included in the program of the Francophonie Month in Cuba, such as the launch of the Les lettres françaises magazine, a clandestine literary publication created by Jacques Decour and Jean Paulhan in that European nation in 1941 - during the German occupation - that disappeared in 1972.

As of the 1990s, the L'Humanité daily newspaper occasionally publishes extraordinary supplements under the name of Les Lettres françaises.

The colloquium The Hatian Revolution through the Napoleonic Museum: analysis of Hatian weapons, was also highly expected by the audience of the capital, where the emblematic museum was the seat of a talk linked to that moment of the French history.

That event was a revolutionary movement in the French colonies that ended up with the

abolition of slavery in Saint-Domingue and the proclamation of the First Haitian Empire.

The Francophonie Month also celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Casa Victor Hugo Cultural Center, in Old Havana, a facility that promotes the Francophone culture and the work of the French poet and romantic novelist, considered one of the most important French language writers.

A popular and successful author, he wrote the works Notre-Dame de Paris (1831) the famous Les Misérables (1862) and The laughing man (1869).



The program of the Francophonie Month included lectures and exhibitions, among others activities. PHOTO: Cuba Ahora.

Cuban Farmers with National Congress on Sight

By Martin **HACTHOUN**

HAVANA.- The National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP) is getting ready for its 13th Congress, which is held every five years and whose delegates will discuss the main challenges Cuban agro-producers face today to increase the country's food production.

ANAP president Félix Duarte said that the meeting, to be held from May 15 to 17, will be a huge challenge because of the burning issues to be analyzed and proposals to overcome current problems.

At a meeting with the press at the Aristides Estevez Credit and Services Cooperative, in western Havana, Duarte affirmed that they expect to hold open, frank and constructive debates on the difficulties Cuban farmers and their productions face at present.

From these debates, "we will emerge more united and stronger," he stressed.

ANAP was created on May 17, 1961 as a result of the agrarian reforms (1959 and 1960) that

distributed land among the rural dispossessed. Close to celebrate its 64th anniversary, the Association concluded 2024 with 3,198 cooperatives – of which 807 are agricultural production cooperatives and 2,391 are credit and services cooperatives – and 403,942 members (320,299 of which are men and 83,643 women), in addition to their families.

This body does not include workers from farms managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Entrepreneurial Groups and the Azcuba Entrepreneurial Group.

ANAP's small producers and cooperative members cover 45 percent of Cuba's arable land; however, they generate from 70 to 80 percent of the production that has an impact on the Cuban economy, particularly on the population's food supply, the farmers' leader pointed out.

For example, they produce more than 95% of the country's tobacco, a sector in which the aim is to recover, by 2027, the production obtained prior to the pandemic and the hurricanes that affected the sector,

and to cultivate more than 20,000 hectares, he said.

Those areas will benefit from the Tabacuba Group investment policy and the application of renewable energies, he affirmed.

At present, the lack of inputs; the limited renovation of the machinery and the working tools; the almost total absence of fertilizers and pesticides due to the economic extortion policy of the government of the United States, and the non-payment persistence by receptive companies, are realities that affect farmers.

Added to this are fuel shortages, inadequate power generation and the impact of inadequate

infrastructure for the effective application of banking policies, in addition to restrictions on bank withdrawals.

These and other issues, such as concerns about the high prices of available inputs, greater rigor in the fight to counteract and eliminate the negative effects of illegality, theft, cattle slaughter and other crimes, will be topics under discussion at the Congress, Duarte anticipated. However, ANAP members have shown their willingness and readiness to strengthen their unity around the revolutionary government in the municipal and provincial assemblies held so far, the ANAP leader said.



The ANAP Congress will be a huge challenge because of the burning issues to be analyzed. PHOTO: Raúl García.

ALIMPORT
Empresa Comercializadora de Alimentos

"Alimentación Para Todos"
"Food For All"

ALIMPORT, is an integrating Company of the **Foreign Trade Business Group GECOMEX**, with over 50 years of experience in the Activity of Foreign Trade and it takes care of the execution of Operations of Importation of foodstuffs, Raw Materials and other Consumer Goods for the Wholesale Commercialization.

ALIMPORT commercializes a wide range of food products and raw materials that satisfy the demand of our national clients. To sign a contract with our company, you must be registered in our Suppliers Portfolio.

Empresa Comercializadora de Alimentos **GECOMEX**

CONTACTEMOS / CONTACT US

Dirección / Address:
Infanta # 16, 3er. Piso, a/ 23 y Humboldt, Vedado, Plaza de la Revolución, La Habana, Cuba.

Correo / Email:
alimport@alimport.com.cu

Sitio Web / Website:
www.alimport.com.cu

Gender Observatory, A Key Tool

By Melissa **KING**

HAVANA.- Cuba launched its Observatory on Gender Equality, a key tool to give visibility to the progress and persistent challenges on the field, in the presence of representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited to the island.

At the launch, in this capital, the diplomats knew about the genesis of the Observatory, created about two years ago with the purpose to analyze, evaluate and systematize information on women's situation in comparison to men at the national and institutional level.

Specialist of the National Statistics and Information Office (ONEI) Anays Montequín explained at the meeting all seven dimensions the mechanism includes, which are addressed at attaining equal rights and opportunities.

Each area includes a group of measures directed at attaining elimination of gender gap, in tune with the three cores of women's autonomy: economic, physical and decision-making, the specialist commented.

Montequín also presented the Observatory's website, whose data updating is annually done, on June 30, using administrative records, census, surveys, ONEI data and other statistic systems.

She acknowledged the influence the Observatory has in decision-making,

especially for the National Program for Women's Progress, and their use for school users and executive reports, although she admitted that there is still margin to improve indicators and information.

At the meeting, representatives of the diplomatic corps agreed on the use of the Observatory for statistics collection on gender violence and its contribution to legal processes.

They were also interested in the presence of statistics on women linked to the non-state sector and the drafting of surveys.

According to ambassador of the European Union in Cuba, Isabel Brillhante, the Observatory on Gender Equality is a useful tool that will help defining public policies in the field.

In this case, data are a key element to identify gaps and determine where to intervene to change the reality, she told the press.

The diplomat also stressed the utility of the Observatory to systematically compile different indicators, in line with the methodologies and criteria of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Brilhante added that although Cuba has made significant progress in its normative and legislative framework, and women hold important positions in different areas, "it is necessary to continue working in the interpretation of data to identify areas of improvement."

The Ever-Renovated Insular Tourism

Text and Photos Roberto F. CAMPOS

HAVANA.- Cuba has several wonders that visitors who come to the island today from different corners of the world, eager to enjoy its landscape and meet its people, cannot miss this 2025. The landscape of the Cuban archipelago includes 14 National Parks, six Biosphere Reserves, six Ramsar Sites, two World Natural Heritage Sites and 28 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs).

Of all these scenarios, experts highlight a highly interesting list based on the opinions of tour operators, travel agents and tour guides, which are endorsed by the Cuban Ministry of Tourism.

This ever-present proposal includes visits to Pinar del Rio; Magical Havana; the Zapata Swamp; Cayo Largo del Sur; the Escambray Mountain Range; Trinidad; Jardines del Rey and de La Reina; the Turquino Peak; Baracoa, and of course, the Varadero resort.



Chilean Government Enters Countdown

By Carmen **ESQUIVEL**

SANTIAGO DE CHILE.- The Chilean government enters its last year with a bittersweet balance, with achievements in some social and labor rights but also with huge challenges, especially in relation to security.

The executive headed by Gabriel Boric took power on March 11, 2022, with a transformational program that suffered setbacks in a National Congress dominated by the right and forces aligned with that trend.

As a result, major projects such as the tax reform through which resources were thought to be collected to finance different works were caught out in the Parliament.

It was not possible either to approve, at the referendum held on September 4, 2022, the proposal of a new Constitution to replace the one in force since the Augusto Pinochet dictatorship (1973-1990), nor a second project by the right that was also rejected the following year.

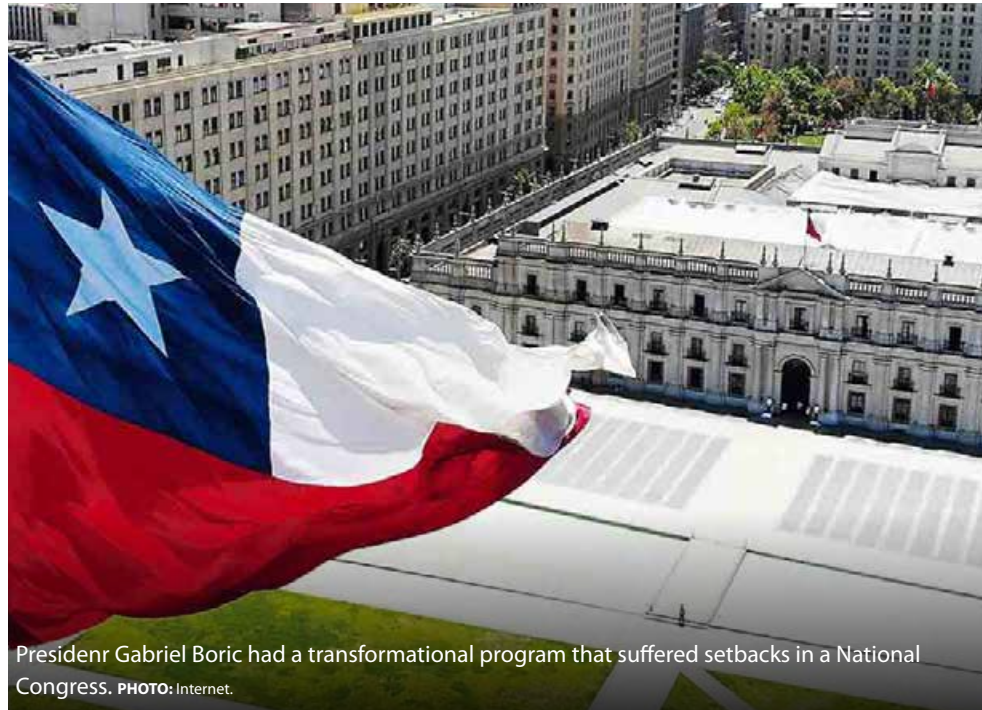
However, during these three years, progress has been made in the labor and social world,

director of the El Siglo newspaper, Hugo Guzmán, told **The Havana Reporter**.

Among such achievements, he mentioned the approval of the norm to reduce the working day from 45 to 40 hours a week and another one to increase

minimum salary to about 500,000 pesos (535 dollars).

The Karin Act, directed at preventing and punishing work and sexual harassment in both the public and private sector, was also adopted, in addition to a legislation that



President Gabriel Boric had a transformational program that suffered setbacks in a National Congress. PHOTO: Internet.

benefits caregivers, mostly women and a project for the legalization of abortion, he said. On the Government's management, Justice and Human Rights minister Jaime Gajardo recalled that the Executive assumed power at a difficult time, after the social uprising and the pandemic.

Meanwhile, in all surveys published here, Chileans point at violence and delinquency as the main problem, even over economic and health issues.

According to official data, 1,152 homicides were committed in the country last year, and although the figure is lower compared to that of 2023, the number is still high.

"It is evident today that security is the main concern of the Chilean people," Boric said.

The government's last term matches up with the electoral year, which many here define as the "lame duck," a term used for the first time in England in the XVIII century to define a government in its final term or when it loses support for decision-making.

"When we refer to the last year, it seems as if there is not much time. It is 25 percent of the government. It is a lot. Thus, all those typical phrases that start to appear here of lame duck need not to be heard," said the head of State. Boric warned that there are huge tasks, such as the implementation of welfare reform, economic consolidation, among other challenges, and urged his ministers to go to the field.

**INSURANCE
TRAVEL**

JUST TO CUBA

ESICUBA
Seguros Internacionales de Cuba, S.A.

www.esicuba.cu esicuba.diantes@esicuba.cu

Cuba Adapts its Government Program for 2025

By TeyunéDÍAZ



Manuel Marrero explained that the program foresees macroeconomic stabilization. PHOTO: Estudios Revolución.

Approved last February by the Council of Ministers, the program foresees macroeconomic stabilization, increase in incomes' diversification, resizing of the foreign exchange market, promotion of foreign investment, decentralization and territorial development, as its transversal objectives.

In addition, it makes emphasis on the recovery of the national electricity and energy system and other topics of social interest, such as the development of science and innovation; the battle against crimes; social communication, and digital transformation.

It is a detailed plan of actions that makes emphasis on the new mechanism for foreign currencies' management, control and allocation to all economic actors, including the implementation of the foreign exchange market and the partial dollarization of the economy, Marrero affirmed at the Council of Ministers meeting.

Such projections are essential to make progress in the rest of the Government Programs, especially because of their impact on two key objectives: increasing and diversifying the country's foreign incomes and

increasing national production, with emphasis on food, he stressed.

This strategy will allow facing the current economic challenges by promoting foreign currencies' generation through the production of exportable goods and services, in addition to reducing dependence on imports and substituting these by national products. These elements are essential to improve the balance of trade, increase incomes in foreign currencies and attract foreign investment.

The urgent need of guaranteeing food sovereignty, which includes the strengthening of the agricultural sector and municipal self-sufficiency, should not be forgotten.

TRANSVERSALIZATION OF THE PROGRAM

In short, increasing and diversifying incomes should be understood as a comprehensive process that foresees strengthening the national economy by combining domestic production, exports, foreign investment and development of the non-state sector.

This process faces important challenges, such as dependence on imports and the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba.

In this regards, the head of Government affirmed at the Fourth Ordinary Period of Sessions of the National Assembly of People's Power that the U.S. siege and its persecution and financial pressure measures are "the main challenge to be faced as part of the updating and improvement of the Cuban economic and social model of socialist development."

In that scenario, Marrero explained the main positive impacts on the macroeconomic stabilization – one of the main points of the Program – whose benefits are focused on the implementation of the fiscal, prices and monetary policies, which have a favorable effect on the execution of the State Budget.

HAVANA.- The Cuban Government Program for 2025 includes the essence and the policies of the country's economic and social life, a project focused on correcting distortions and boosting the economy with clear objectives and goals, Prime Minister Manuel Marrero explained.

Colombian Business Executives Evaluate Potentials of the Cuban Market

By IvetteFERNÁNDEZ

BOGOTA.- Cattle farmers and ranchers from the department of Magdalena, in northern Colombia, evaluate the potentials of commercial exchange between that territory and Cuba, according to reports issued in this capital.

In order to explore opportunities for the export of products from that region, governor of the Magdalena department Rafael Martínez and Cuban ambassador to this country, Javier Caamaño, met with representatives of the productive sector to present the possibilities the Cuban market offers.

According to a press report issued by the government of Magdalena, some of the areas that call attention are cattle raising, poultry products, oil, banana and coffee, among other items.

During his speech at this meeting, Martínez

stated that this territory promotes spaces to know about the opportunities different countries offer and added that these are a potential for the purchase of local products.

For his part, ambassador Caamaño affirmed that the region has all the characteristics to start businesses with the island, which has a market of enormous opportunities in relation to foreign trade.

He also stressed that it is important for Colombian business executives to know the potentials the Cuban market has to offer.

Authorities of the department of Magdalena are trying to generate opportunities of investment, trade and export as a way to revitalize the economy, close gaps and create jobs in the region, sources indicated.

Successful Participation

Text and Photo DionysANABIA

LISBON.- Cuba consolidated its position in the Portuguese market and strengthened ties with important actors of the sector during its participation in the Lisbon Tourism fair, where the island was the invited guest destination.

In statements to **The Havana Reporter**, Cuban tourism counselor to Spain and Portugal, Niurka Pérez, described the event as historical and added that the audience and professionals of the industry were highly interested in the island's offers. This market has always welcomed us with affection, said the official, who stressed that the commercialization of tourist packages from Portugal to Cuba showed an intense activity during this event, held at the middle of March.

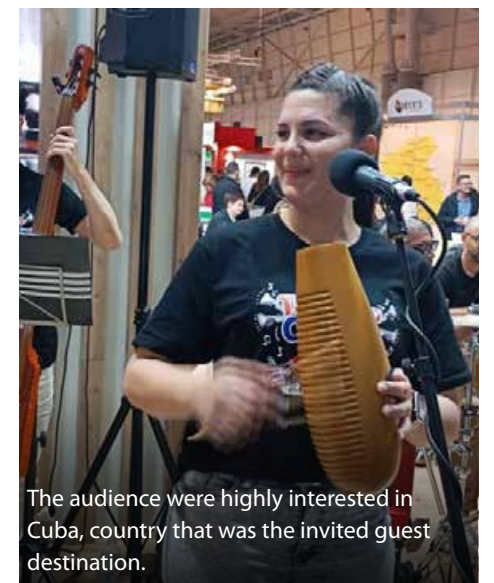
One of the main objectives the Cuban delegation had in this event, hosted at the Lisbon International Fair, in the Nations Park, was to foster a more direct connection between both countries, without exclusively relying on stopovers in Madrid, Pérez added.

We continue trying to look for alternatives to connect this market with Cuba, not only this summer but also for the rest of the year, she commented.

According to the counselor, the island not only made emphasis on promoting beaches and other tourist destinations but also its culture and heritage sites.

As we have always expected from this market, the people came to share with us the Mojito and Cuba Libre cocktails; our dances; Cuban songs, and that has been great, Pérez said.

The fair allowed the exchange of ideas and know-how, as well as the signing of agreements and the promotion of destinations.



The audience were highly interested in Cuba, country that was the invited guest destination.

Beneficial Alliance

By Livia **RODRÍGUEZ**

NEW DELHI.- The benefits of strengthening India's alliance with Latin America and the Caribbean were highlighted at the recent X India-LAC meeting by State minister for Foreign Affairs Prabitra Margherita.

At the X edition of the India-Latin American and Caribbean meeting (India-LAC), the diplomat stressed the huge market of that region of the world and the potentials and interests to increase trade volume between both regions, which at present is less than 50 billion dollars.

Margherita recalled that in the previous India-LAC meeting, Indian Foreign Affairs minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar mentioned a goal of 100 billion dollars of bilateral trade for the 2027-2028 period.

However, he said that the market's present volatility and the adoption of nationalist and protectionist economic policies have hindered progress in that direction.

In light of that scenario, objectives in the field of bilateral trade seem to be a challenge that requires special efforts from both parties, he affirmed.

The minister ratified the commitment of the South East Asian nation to face that challenge and stated his confidence of a similar position by the Latin American and Caribbean nations. Margherita also highlighted that more interactions are needed to speed up processes and eliminate obstacles, in addition to a higher role by the Government, as facilitator to promote exchanges between industries.

In this regard, he spoke about the possibility of extending to all the Latin American region the PartnerIndia website, initially created for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as the first response to opportunities in the fields of trade, technology, tourism, talent and tradition, and for the efficient and simple spread of information.

In his speech at the plenary session, Cuban Deputy Prime Minister Enrique Martínez said that India can collaborate with the Latin American and Caribbean nations in urgent goals such as energy transition and the search for food sustainability.

The Cuban official commented that in addition to fostering connectivity, those objectives are essential to continue making progress in those countries in the socio-economic

field, in tune with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

India, with its leadership, is a close friend for the region and an economic partner committed to the Latin American and Caribbean countries' development priorities, Martínez added.

The world faces a difficult situation, with challenges such as economies' contraction, food insecurity, which in the case of Cuba comes on top of the blockade imposed by the United States, whose difficult consequences for the Cuban people are aggravated by the inclusion of the island in the list of States that allegedly sponsor terrorism, he concluded.



The India-LAC meeting highlighted that more interactions are needed to eliminate obstacles and promote exchanges between industries.

PHOTO: Internet.

On the Path to Create a Joint Biopharmaceutical Venture

By Odette **DÍAZ**

MOSCOW.- Russia and Cuba are working to materialize this year the creation of the first joint venture in the biopharmaceutical field, first vice-president of the BioCubaFarma group, Eulogio Pimentel, told **The Havana Reporter**.

"We have found a solid ground for collaboration between our countries

in recent years; as a result of these ties, we foresee the creation of the first joint venture in the Cuban biopharmaceutical industry sector, the ambassador of our products in Russia," the official commented.

After a meeting with about twenty representatives of Russian companies linked to the production, distribution and commercialization of medications and medical supplies, Pimentel explained

that some of the main Cuban drugs are being used at present for the treatment of Russian patients.

The executive of the entrepreneurial group, responsible for producing, innovating, commercializing and supplying the famous drugs to the world, affirmed that as a result of exports to Russia, Heberprot-P and Hebermin are already available in this nation, while work is conducted on the sanitary registration of Nimotuzumab, a monoclonal antibody against several oncological diseases.

We are also undergoing the registration process of the VA-Mengoc-BC vaccine against meningococcal meningitis of the BC serogroup and are finishing the clinical development in Russia of CIMAvax, a therapeutic vaccine against lung cancer and Jusvinza, a medication used to treat autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, in addition to other projects on the oncological field, he stressed.

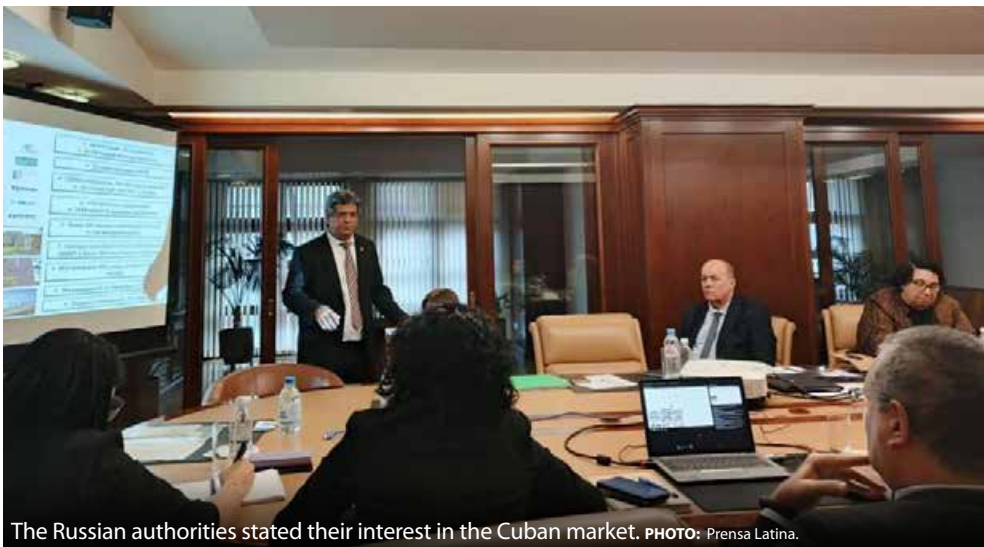
Pimentel compared the actions conducted between Moscow and Havana to a two-way highway through which Cuban technologies are transferred for the benefit of the Russian Federation

population, while Russian medications undergo registration for the benefit of the Cuban people.

The Russian authorities stated their interest in the Cuban market, and general manager of the Chemrar Pharmaceutical Group, Denis Vinokurov, described the increase of collaboration as positive, not only in the import and export fields, but also in the scientific area and the development of unique products in each country, with the consent of their specialists.

General manager of the National Committee for Economic Cooperation with Latin American Countries, Tatiana Mashkova, highlighted the importance of strengthening ties in the sector and acknowledged that "Cuba is an international strength in the innovation of treatments for humanity's main diseases."

The Cuban delegation, which was also composed of Medicuba director, Armando Garrido, and director of the Cuban Center for the State Control of Medication, Equipment and Medical Devices, Olga Lidia Jacobo, visited Russia after a tour of Belarus.



The Russian authorities stated their interest in the Cuban market. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

International Cuban Sports Fair

By LemayPADRÓN



Deputy Prime Minister Inés Matía Chapman and the President of Inder, Osvaldo Vento, toured the fair. PHOTO: Endrys Correa.

HAVANA.- The II International Cuban Sports Fair, held in this capital with the launch of products and collaboration opportunities, went beyond the edition conducted in August 2023, organizers affirmed. The four-day event, hosted at Havana's Ciudad Deportiva, was attended by 92 national companies and 10 foreign entities, 62 percent of which participated for the second time, sources indicated.

Foreign representations included entities from Canada, Colombia, China, France, Guatemala, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Sierra Leone and Spain.

The objectives of the Cuban Sport Fair were focused on promoting the domestic market in the commercialization of products and services that will strengthen the Cuban Sport System.

About a hundred collaboration agreements were signed during this commercial fair, especially one between the Sport minister of Sierra Leone, Augusta James-Teima and his Cuban peer, Osvaldo Vento.

This agreement emphasized the exchange of knowledge, advice, organization of training camps and participation in competitive events.

At the national level, ties were strengthened between the Cuban Institute of Sports and similar entities such as the Gran Caribe hotel group, the Sport Travel agency, the Coracán S.A. Joint Venture, the Immunoassay Center and the Palmares S.A. Extrahotel Company.

Cuban products were also launched at this event, including paddles for the practice of Basque pelota; bicycles; nutritional supplements, and other items made by representatives of the private sector specialized in the manufacture of uniforms and accessories for different sport disciplines.

The fair was enhanced by the presence of active athletes and sport legends such as Olympic boxing champion in Paris 2024, Erislandy Álvarez; high jump world record holder and Olympic champion in Barcelona 1992, Javier Sotomayor, and one of the outstanding members of the Morenas del Caribe volleyball team, Yumilka Ruiz, among others.

Sports Legends Receive Doctor Honoris Causa Award

By BorisCABRERA

HAVANA.- Three Cuban sport legends, Enrique Figuerola, Miriam Ferrer and Raúl Trujillo, received de Doctor Honoris Causa academic title of the Manuel Fajardo University of Physical Culture and Sport Sciences (UCCFD).

The honorary award was granted by UCCFD rector, PhD Silvano Merced Len, who stressed the imprint these three professionals have left throughout their lives as athletes and coaches.

"Honor to whom honor deserves. Our University is proud to render this fair tribute to these personalities of the Cuban sport," Merced told **The Havana Reporter**.

The track felt the fire of Ferrer's sprint, who represented Cuba in world athletics championships and regional games in 100 meters and relay races.

Her greatness did not stop at the finish line: with the same passion she used to run, she forged invincible spirits in the generations of athletes, leaving her higher imprint in the multiple time Paralympic champion Omara Durand, winner of 11 gold medals in the Paralympic games, three of them in Paris 2024.

"I want to praise the person who took me to glory," Durand said at the podium before reading Ferrer's biography.

The coach, for her part, stated that this award took her by surprise, while appreciating all those linked to her career, including her family.

However, if we talk about unforgettable deeds, Figuerola also shines in his own right for being a man who challenged the wind, a runner whose name has been etched in athletics for eternity.

Known as El Figaro, he was an Olympic runner-up in 100 meters in 1964 and short relay in 1968, in addition to Central American and Caribbean and Pan-American games champion. He also had the privilege of being Cuba's fastest man for a decade, owner of 29 national absolute records.

"Receiving this distinction is the greatest thing that has ever happened to me in my life," he said overcome by emotion at the conclusion of the solemn ceremony, in which he thanked Commander in Chief Fidel Castro "because he was the one who turned us into giants."

Figuerola was the first Cuban athlete to equal a world record in the track and the first to win a medal in the Olympic games in his discipline.

The Cuban wrestling, for its part, would not be understood without Trujillo's wisdom and dedication. As a wrestler (57 kg), he won the bronze medal in the Mexico 1975 Pan-American Games. However, he did not fight his main battle in the mat but as a shaper of champions.

His short stature hides the greatness of a coach who took five-time Olympic champion Mijaín López (present at the ceremony), the greatest Greco-Roman wrestler of all times, to the pinnacle.



Sport legend Enrique Figuerola (left) won silver medals at the 1964 and 1968 Olympics. PHOTO: Endrys Correa.

Trujillo not only coached an athlete but also shaped a legend, taking Cuba to the top of world wrestling.

The ceremony not only acknowledged the effort and excellence of these three Cuban sport giants, but also enshrined their legacy in the country's memory.

Jane Austen Still Captivates Readers

By Danay GALLETTI

HAVANA.- British Jane Austen is, for many people, one of the most famous writers of western literature, and hence, not a few admire her works, set in England at the beginning of the 19th century.

According to philologist Ruth Lelyen, the author still captivates contemporary readers for the universal topics of her works and the human impact of her characters. *Pride and Prejudice*, her most popular text, has been translated into 35 languages.

In her opinion, love, family relations, friendship, couples, marriage and social classes "are relevant realities in today's everyday life." In this sense, "Austen's characters face the same dilemmas we face every day."

In statements to **The Havana Reporter**, the specialist said that "many of our wishes and search are present in them, which makes us love them dearly." However, "after all that image of apparent flippancy, a strong and peculiar social criticism is made."

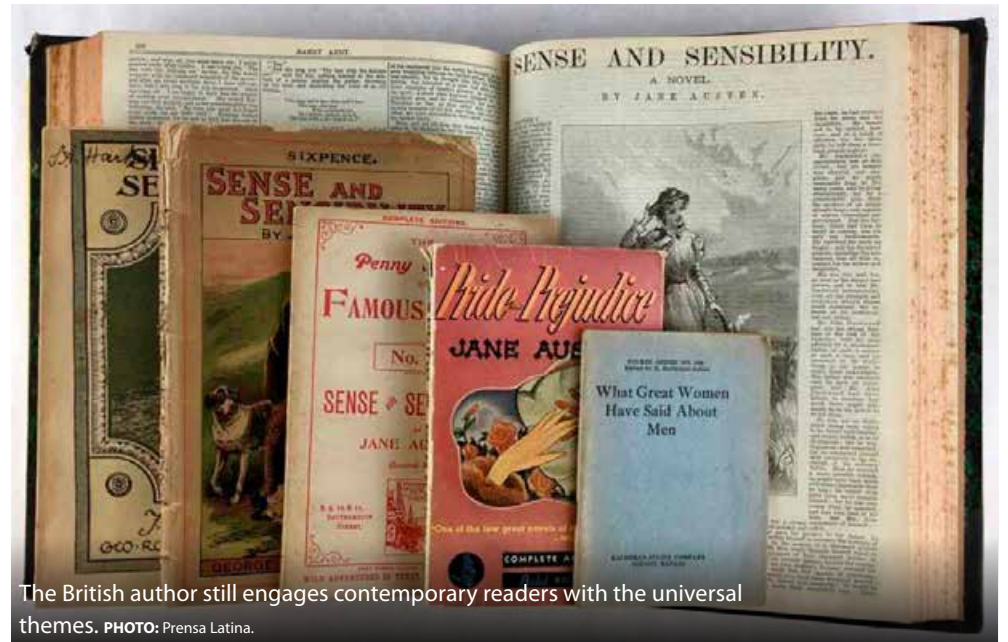
Philologist Yailemis García, for her part, considers that seduction of Austen's works also lies on "the openness, modesty and mastery with which she is able to explore her environment, and particularly to pass it on and make it be felt/lived in every line."

"When you read one of her novels, it seems as if you are being teleported nonstop and without masks to that English society of the beginning of the 19th century. I think that her charm has a lot to do with that aspect: her capacity to makes us feel that we are there, when we are actually here and right now," she affirmed.

HER NOVELS' VALIDITY

Austen, born on December 16, 1775, transcends as one of the founders of modern novel, and although she only published four texts of this genre, the two first had a great success and had an influence on others of the genre, in addition to having film versions.

She was born in Steventon, in southern England, which was the stage her texts were inspired of, and although her prose



The British author still engages contemporary readers with the universal themes. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

refers to transcendental love stories, she was never officially married, at a time in which it was impossible to advance without marriage.

Under her signature, the novel *Sense and Sensibility* was published, in which she portrays with certain subtlety and irony the options women had in a rigorous society, where success or failure depended on men's choice.

After its publication, in 1811, Austen wrote *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), initially anonymously. This, which is her most popular work, gives visibility to the life of

the 19th-century English bourgeoisie from the perspective of two different families.

Then, she published *Mansfield Park* (1814) – considered as her most complex novel – and *Emma* (1815), which were followed by other two texts – *Persuasion* and *The Northanger Abbey* – that were published after her death, on July 18, 1817.

According to Lelyen, by particularly criticizing restrictions imposed on women, Austen uses "ingenious dialogues, funny situations and accurate descriptions that take readers to their contexts."



FITSaludCuba

II International Medical Tourism and Welfare Fair

II INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL
TOURISM AND WELFARE SEMINAR

III INTERNATIONAL FOREIGN
INVESTMENT FORUM

