



PARTICIPATION OF THE AMBASSADOR IN THE "INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ASEAN AWARDS"

On April 2nd, Ambassador Manuel Balaguer Salas participated in the prestigious "International Business ASEAN Awards", an annual event that honors Malaysian entrepreneurs, companies and public agencies who have achieved excellence in their respective fields. On this occasion, the group's main publication also included a special article by our Ambassador, which was distributed among the guests.



BUSINESS LUNCH WITH THE NEW MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINA

On April 1st, Ambassador Manuel Balaguer Salas attended a business lunch with the newly appointed Ambassador of Malaysia in Argentina, Nur Azman bin Abdul Rahim, in which they reviewed the status of the bilateral agenda and the different actions being carried out to enhance said agenda.



EXPANSION OF THE ARGENTINE BEEF SUPPLY IN THE LOCAL MARKET



The Cork & Cleaver restaurant in Kuala Lumpur became yet another place that added Argentine beef to its menu. The offer of one of our most emblematic products has not stopped growing since the reopening of the Malaysian market for Argentine beef in August 2020.

THE EMBASSY AND THE IOM MALAYSIA WORK TOGETHER TO REPATRIATE TWO ARGENTINE CITIZENS



During March, two female Argentine citizens, who were stranded in Malaysia in a situation of economic and medical vulnerability due to their lack of funds to purchase return flight tickets and to the fact that they were

both pregnant, were assisted by this Embassy and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Malaysia who worked together to make it possible for our two nationals to return to Argentina safe and sound.

The Embassy also assisted them in terms of accommodation, food and medical provisions, transportation and migratory procedures, thus developing one of its core functions which is the protection of our nationals in need abroad.

MARCH 11TH: CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF ARGENTINE TANGO COMPOSER ASTOR PIAZZOLLA

On March 11th, the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Argentine tango composer Astor Piazzolla was commemorated. He was pointed out as the great reformist of musical tango. The Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and this Embassy joined the celebrations with a [compilation](#) of more than a hundred performances by Argentine artists from various provinces of our country. We hope you enjoy these performances as much as we did!



MARCH 8TH: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The International Women's Day was commemorated on March 8th to highlight the essential role of all women in our society. This is also a priority in our foreign policy. Therefore, and for the first time, during the month of March all Argentine Embassies around the world undertook activities emphasizing the work of women, through cultural events, press conferences, training seminars, interviews and meetings.

In addition, on March 9th, a ceremony commemorating the date was held to honour all women working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at Argentina's diplomatic missions around the world.

The women who are part of the Argentine Embassy in Malaysia (photo) are responsible for such diverse and important tasks as providing consular assistance to our nationals; promoting trade and investment; managing the Embassy's budget; spreading our culture and coordinating the agenda and activities that are carried out regularly. They do all this by contributing with their individuality to the whole, with great commitment and passion. Happy International Women's Day!



Embassy of the
Argentine Republic
Malaysia



LAUNCH OF 2021 INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR RIGHT TO IDENTITY

During the National Day of Memory for Truth and Justice that takes place yearly on March 24, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched the International Campaign for the Right to Identity, which is aimed at promoting the search for granddaughters and grandsons who were abducted during the last civil-military dictatorship in Argentina and who may be living abroad.

The initiative was developed with the National Commission for the Right to Identity (CoNaDi) and Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo, which participated both in the preparation of the outreach material and in the training of the consular staff.

This is an outreach campaign to be conducted by the Foreign Ministry through all its offices during this year, so that people with doubts about their identity, or about someone else's identity, may contact Argentine consulates abroad for guidance (this Embassy may be contacted through emsia@mrecic.gov.ar or 03-2144-1451/61). Enquiries will be kept confidential.

This Campaign is one more step taken by the Argentine State towards the goal of guaranteeing the right to identity, strengthening its support for the long-standing efforts of Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo and of families to find those babies and children, now adults, who still live with a false identity.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF MERCOSUR AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

On last March 26, the Ambassadors of the Mercosur (Southern Common Market) Member and Associate States met with officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Palacio San Martín in Buenos Aires to watch the live broadcast of the Presidents' virtual meeting on the 30th anniversary of the bloc, currently composed by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela. The participants then attended a working lunch with the Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs Felipe Solá and the launching ceremony of the Southern Cone Regional Women Mediators' Network, a pioneering project in Latin America and the Caribbean promoted by the full members of Mercosur and by Chile, that seeks to showcase the intensive work undertaken by women to prevent conflicts in their communities and to enhance the social structure.

The Presidents' virtual meeting, chaired by Argentine President Alberto Fernández as Argentina is holding the Pro-Tempore Presidency of the bloc, was attended by the President of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro; the President of Paraguay, Mario Abdo Benítez; the President of Uruguay, Luis Lacalle Pou; the President of Bolivia, Luis Arce; and the President of Chile, Sebastián Piñera.

As he delivered the opening address, President Fernández assured that "it is better for all Member States, regardless of any partisan or ideological affiliations, if we build a more solid and united bloc with a stronger international presence and with a capacity to create long-term regional interests."

The day before the 30th anniversary of the creation of Mercosur, Minister Solá held a working meeting with executives from the Mercosur Industrial Council (CIM), made up of the business chambers of the region, in order to address the present and future challenges faced by the economies of the region.

At the meeting, Solá and the industrial representatives discussed the status of the external negotiations conducted by the bloc, as well as the problems to access new markets and the proposal to review the Common External Tariff (AEC).

Upon characterizing Mercosur as a platform for economic development and international integration, Solá highlighted the network of trade agreements signed by the bloc and Latin America, as well as the free trade agreements with Israel and Egypt, and the preferential agreements with the Southern African Customs Union and India. Moreover, he recalled that "we are conducting negotiations –which are at different stages– with eleven countries or groups of countries, including Canada, South Korea, Singapore, Israel and Lebanon".





45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL-MILITARY COUP: MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOOK PART IN 24 MARCH COMMEMORATION

On the day before the 45th anniversary of the civil-military coup, which took place on March 24, 1976, Minister of Foreign Affairs Felipe Solá held a commemorative ceremony at the Palacio San Martín in Buenos Aires along with other officials of the Ministry, union workers

and invitees, in the framework of the “We Plant Memory” Campaign.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs noted that this anniversary “helps us reflect not only on our tragic history and the tireless fight of human rights organizations against impunity, but also on our future prospects as a country. Peoples that forget are condemned to repeat history, but the Argentine people will not forget.”

Before the Minister’s speech, and as part of the “We Plant Memory” campaign promoted by Human Rights organizations, a tree was planted at the Palacio San Martín “to keep building memory in Argentina and in every corner in the world in which there is a compatriot.” The campaign is aimed at planting trees, bushes, aromatic plants, succulents, seedlings, and seedling nurseries in order to grow 30,000 plants in memory of the 30,000 Detained-Disappeared.

MALVINAS ISLANDS: THE UNITED KINGDOM MUST LISTEN TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

In response to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s Commons statement made on 16 March, in which he conducted an Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, the Argentine Republic states once again that the United Kingdom must listen to the international community, which advocates for the end of colonialism in the world and, through UN Resolution 2065 has stated, in relation to the Malvinas Question, that bilateral dialogue is the way to solve the sovereignty dispute.



The statements made by Prime Minister Boris Johnson reiterate the traditional colonialist ideology of the United Kingdom regarding the Malvinas Islands and the British territories around the world, and Argentina considers that this presents no novelty concerning Britain’s colonialist policy. By using the defence of the “right to self-determination” as an argument, which is not recognized by the United Nations in this case, the United Kingdom maintains its illegal presence in the South Atlantic, with the aim of appropriating its resources and controlling access to the Antarctic as well as to the passage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Argentina systematically denounces that one of the United Kingdom’s main aims is to maintain a military base in Malvinas, which South Atlantic Latin America countries and African countries that are part of the South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone (ZPCAS) have noted is a threat to the region. Argentina has repeatedly denounced that such a base violates UN Resolution 31/49, which prohibits unilateral actions within the disputed zone, of which this military base is an example.

This also happens in a context of deep concern for those who believe that Brexit has undermined Britain’s position in the world and particularly those affected by the exclusion of overseas territories such as the Malvinas, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas from the free trade agreement with the EU.

The Argentine Republic reiterates that, as provided for in its Constitution and as it has consistently stated since the restoration of democracy, it only recognizes dialogue, diplomacy, and peace as the way to recover exercise of sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. As our President Alberto Fernández said in his address to Congress on 1 March, we believe that this is the time to engage in bilateral dialogue to recover the exercise of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands as provided for in UN Resolution 2065, as there should be no more room for colonialism in the 21st century.

2021 GRAPE HARVEST FESTIVAL LAUNCHED AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



On March 3 an event was held at Palacio San Martín in Buenos Aires to launch the 2021 Grape Harvest Festival which was held virtually this year and featured shows and celebrations in 200 locations in Mendoza –the epicenter of the Argentine wine industry- other Argentine provinces and abroad, through the network of Argentine embassies and consulates.

The Governor of Mendoza, Rodolfo Suárez, highlighted “all the work done by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, despite the times we are going through, so that the virtual grape harvest can be showcased nationwide and internationally.”

The Director of Wines of Argentina (WofA), Jimena Molina, stated that “nowadays, Argentina is producing the best wines in its history, and we know that our wines have been praised in recent years by international journalists.” She also underscored the need to “take advantage of the great moment of Argentine wines and keep promoting them.”

Representatives of Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, Mexico, China, United States, Italy, Spain, Portugal and the United Kingdom were among the members of the foreign diplomatic corps present at the event.



G20: ARGENTINA ATTENDS FIRST TRADE AND INVESTMENT GROUP MEETING CHAIRED BY ITALY

Argentina attended in March the virtual meeting of the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group, under the Italian Presidency, during which very important issues were addressed, such as the resilience of the global value chains of pharmaceutical and medical products, the facilitation of services and investments for inclusive recovery, and increasing the presence of MSMEs in international markets.

During the meeting, Argentina highlighted its interest in advancing the agenda of a renewed WTO which meets current and new trade challenges -following the recent appointment of its new Director-General-, the importance of reaching agreements to remove subsidies for agricultural production and fishing, and the importance of discussing issues such as e-commerce, investment, and services.

Argentina highlighted the need to include the development dimension in the debates as developing countries are the ones hardest hit by the economic and social effects of the pandemic. In addition, further discussions with the other G20 members focused on the need to preserve the continued operation of global value chains for medical and pharmaceutical products and to guarantee equitable and affordable access to treatments and vaccines, especially for developing countries.



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