

# CUBA

## Current Affairs

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### Embassy of Cuba in Cambodia

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#### Facts on Cuba 2018:

##### January 28th:

**Anniversary 165th of José Martí birthday.**

## 165th Anniversary of José Martí

### With the light of Martí



Author: Lissy Rodríguez Guerrero | [informacion@granma.cu](mailto:informacion@granma.cu)

The Cuban people will come out en masse across the country's 168 municipalities this January 27 to pay tribute to the island's National Hero, José Martí, on the 165th anniversary of his birth.

The traditional march of the torches will see women, men, children and adolescents honor Martí under the slogan "With the light of his ideas," reflecting the intention of the new generations to continue his thought and

legacy, according to Jorge Misas Hernández, a member of the Federation of University Students National Secretariat, speaking to Granma.

Hernández noted that next Saturday the people of the capital will march from the University of Havana's Grand Stairway to the Fragua Martiana.

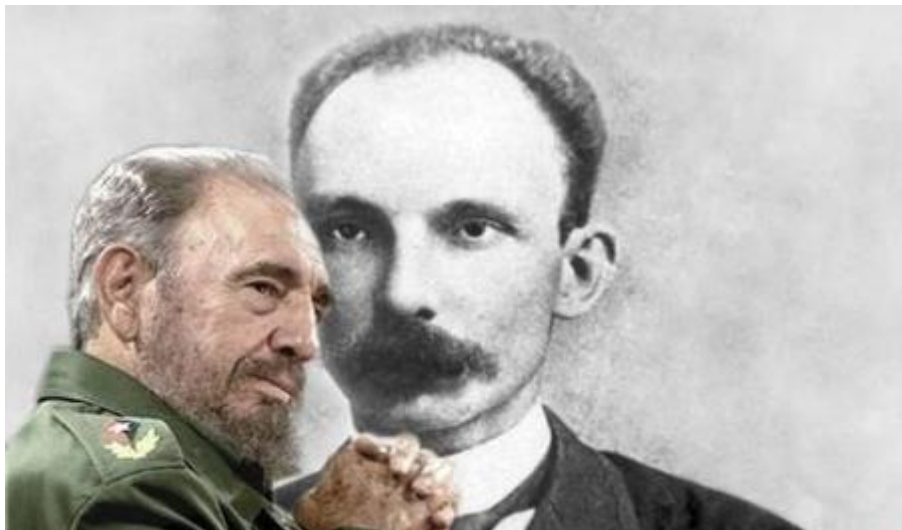
Meanwhile, also honored during the tribute will be Comandante en Jefe Fidel Castro Ruz and the centenary generation, as well as those who, 65 years ago, led the first march of the torches.

Likewise, the activity will also serve to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, 150 years since the start of the country's Independence wars, and 65 since the assaults on the Moncada and Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Garrisons, as well as the 115th and 90th anniversaries of the birth of student leader Julio Antonio Mella and the Heroic Guerilla Ernesto Che Guevara, respectively. Following the march, according to Diosvany Acosta Abrahante, a member of the Young Communist League National Bureau, a massive concert will be held on the Malecon.

Other activities taking place to commemorate the date include the First Intentional Encounter of Young Martianos which will see delegates from Latin America gather in Cuba from January 26-28, to discuss the universality and continued relevance of José Martí's ideas; as well as the arrival, on January 27, of outstanding youth traveling from the Santa Ifigenia Cemetery in Santiago de Cuba in the east of the island to the capital, visiting historic and socially important sites on their way.

**"On January 27, the Cuban people will march from the University of Havana's Grand Stairway to the Fragua Martiana to mark the 165th anniversary of José Martí's birth."**

## Two men, the same dream



When we begin to talk about Martí and Fidel, the commonalities are clearly evident. Looking at the work of each one and the ideas that marked their lives, we see how much the two men separated in time shared.

Men die, at least physically, but ideas remain and pass from one generation to another, feeding that historical heritage. There may be other coincidences, other names, but when talking about Martí and Fidel it is almost impossible not to find that link, the guiding thread that shows how Martí's preaching exerted a great influence on the moral, human and revolutionary formation of Fidel Castro.

Even from his student years, the his-

torical leader of the Cuban Revolution supported his ideals and criteria of sovereignty by appealing to the doctrines of the Apostle, and not a few times he recalled those Martian words that assured that freedom was very expensive, and was necessary, or resign themselves to living without it, or decide to buy it for its price. It was at the University itself, as Fidel mentioned several times in his speeches, where he became a revolutionary, because he also became a Martian there.

### A SOCIETY WITH ALL AND FOR ALL

The total surrender, without ambitions, to the revolutionary cause; the yearning to conquer justice for his people and for all the peoples of the world; the conjugation in his person of heroism with the simplicity and naturalness of the human being; the immense capacity as a political statesman; the opportune thing of knowing how to do in each moment and place what corresponds; the conviction and praxis that the trenches of ideas are worth more than trenches of stones ... all this, as in Martí, we knew true in Fidel.

And if we feel the presence of Martí in the Moncada, on the yacht Granma, in the Sierra, it was after the revolutionary triumph of 1959 that that dream of the Apostle of a Republic would begin to materialize where the first law was the cult of Cubans to the full dignity of man.

With the guidance of Fidel, the Revolution built a society of the humble and for the humble, with everyone and for the good of all. The Homeland became sovereign, independent, democratic, just. The work of transformations, of creation, of improvement in all fields and sectors would also begin. «At last, Master, your Cuba that you dreamed, is being converted into reality!», Announced the Commander in Chief in a speech delivered in 1960 in the Plaza de la Revolución, because our revolutionary process abolished privileges and exploitation, elevated the living conditions of man and allowed Cubans to dream of a better tomorrow.

### UNITY

José Martí: Unity of thought, which in no way means servitude to opinion, is without a doubt an indispensable condition to success in all political projects.

Fidel: One of the factors that gave our revolutionary process extraordinary strength was unity.

### PATRIOTISM

José Martí: The homeland requires sacrifices. It is an altar not a pedestal. The homeland is to be served, but this is assumed to make use of her.

Fidel: The homeland, brothers and sister, is a labor of all those who are disposed to sacrifice for her.

### SOLIDARITY:

José Martí: We seek solidarity not as an end in itself, but rather as a means to ensure that our America fulfills its universal mission.

Fidel: Awareness of the duty of international solidarity was established from the beginning and has become one of the essential questions, one of the essential elements of education and the revolutionary consciousness of our people.

### ANTI-IMPERIALISM

José Martí: These days, I am in danger of giving my life for my country and for my duty ... to prevent on time, with Cuba's independence, that the United States extend itself throughout the Antilles, and fall, with this added power, upon the lands of our America.

Fidel: How well we the yankees! If we had conceded just once to the demands of the imperialists, the Cuban Revolution would not exist. What has stopped the imperialists is the heroism of our people ...

## To be a follower of Martí is to be a patriot



Author: Yisel Martínez | [informacion@granma.cu](mailto:informacion@granma.cu)

Those who speak of Martí today only know him through his writings and life's work, but have nevertheless made him part of their daily lives. We return to these intellectuals, political leaders, men and women, on the 165th anniversary of the Apostle's birth, above all because the relevance of his thought is undeniable.

"Martí has left no loose ends in the history of Cuba," said Cintio Vitier, eminent Cuban intellectual who has studied Martí's work. In his vast legacy, to be found are the complex, varied issues that remain important today. Therein lies the greatness of his thought, his immortality.

Armando Hart Dávalos, who directed the Martí Program Office and served as president of the José Martí Cultural Society, said, "Martí did politics as an art, and it was definitely the art of unifying men for a given end. In essence, his originality consisted in getting beyond the reactionary maxim of divide and

conquer, to the watchwords of unite to win."

Unity was a concept he always advocated and emphasized as indispensable to reaching independence. Adhering to this principle, when the War of 1895 broke out the Cuban Revolutionary Party was created; the Centenary Generation assaulted the Moncada; the Revolution triumphed; and not only our country, but the Latin American left, continues to forge ahead.

As a visionary, he defended a united America and the idea of "homeland is humanity." A thought that lives today in the solidarity and internationalism of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), in the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (Alba), and all revolutionary processes underway in the region, which have allowed us to live, in action, in an America that is more our own.

### A HERO OF THE REVOLUTION

"Martí's thought is the cornerstone of the prophecy and triumph of the Cuban Revolution," wrote Eusebio Leal Spengler ten years ago, in the pages of this publication, adding, "If we are here today it is because Fidel, with his generosity and broad view, was aware that the Apostle embodied the intellectual acumen and ethical values of the Cuban culture and nation."

In his youth, Fidel came across Martí's writing and studied it, re-read it, and became convinced that it was, as he would say, his guide. In that era, Martí was a paradigm for his generation.

The Revolution of the 30s, that condemned the neo-colonial system; the struggle for the Constitution of 1940; protests at the university; all of the period's uprisings, had the figure of Martí behind them. Fidel made all of this his own, to move forward with actions that bore Martí's mark. As the intellectual author of the Moncada assault, Martí guided this generation of young Cubans with his grand, timely thinking.

**"On the 165th anniversary of his birth, José Martí continues to embody the human being to which Cubans aspire."**

### THE APOSTLE IS MY LIFE'S GUIDE

Fidel Castro was a man of Martí's ideas and patriotic sentiments. In one of his many statements regarding the legacy of José Martí, he said, "The audacity, the beauty, the value, and the morality of his thought helped me to become what I believe I am today: a revolutionary."

A revolutionary who went from young rebel to leader of a country, who made good use of Martí's ideas to do so, and promote among the people the necessity of making Martí's ideas a reality. More than 20 years ago, the Comandante en Jefe stated, "We can say to Martí that, today more than ever, we need his thinking; that today more than ever we need his ideas; that today more than ever we need his virtues."

Over almost 60 years of Revolution, José Martí has been, according to Eusebio Leal, "the saving grace," and thus "a legitimate cult has found a place in the souls of Cubans of a man who was not only of his time, but of all times; a man not only of Cuba, but of the entire world."

### MARTÍ'S HUMANISM

Cuban singer-songwriter and poet Silvio Rodríguez said, some years ago, that the essence of José Martí's personality was "above all, kindness, the Martí ethic, which gives meaning to life and this meaning is for the wellbeing of humankind. This great generosity that Martí had - this desire that everyone be happy, this interest in and investigation of human sentiments."



## To be a follower of Martí is to be a patriot



His writings and actions offer evidence of a man committed to good, to humanity, to freedom, and peace. That is why, Armando Hart asserts, in a 2003 interview, Martí "felt the pain, the anguish, and the evil that permeates the world, but also the need to transform it, to enrich and beautify it."

Given this interest, apart from individuality, he was such a great man, Hart continued, saying, "He was blessed with great sensibility; he was an illustrious poet and man of letters, and was even able to organize a war. He was an exceptional man! And was, moreover, profoundly radical but never extremist. His radicalism was directed toward achieving justice and the full dignity of man. "In Martí, kindness, intelligence, and happiness came together, and this is the new man to which Che referred," Hart concluded. A new man, not yet a reality, who will evidently need to be a fo-

llower of Martí, as well.

### MARTÍ TODAY

As we reach his 165th anniversary, many continue to uphold Martí's example. His vision of the future continues to be needed today, and not only as a guide in the creation of a better country, but as a reference for future generations. Musicians like Israel Rojas, singer in the duo Buena Fe, have included him in their songs, insisting, "The truly grounded, marvelous, timeless Martí, must accompany us today more than ever."

Many treasure him. Silvio Rodríguez insists on making him eternal. In a 2012 interview published in the newspaper **Juventud Rebelde**, he affirmed, "Martí is such a huge, vast universe; he talked about so many things; his mind was in so many places, that I believe he is particularly necessary at this time. Martí is the point of support that underlies our cohesion as a nation." He unifies the past... he spoke of the people who fought the War of 1868, putting them to the service of a present that was uncertain at that time, but he saw the importance of basing ourselves on these roots. And he moreover connected these roots to the future. Toward this future we contemplate today, Martí will undoubtedly accompany us, as René González Schwerert, one of the Cuban Five and now vice president of the José Martí Cultural Society, said, "Let us make of every Cuban a follower of Martí in his heart, and the Revolution will live forever."

José Martí is not only Cuba's national hero, but rather an element of Cuban nationality: No one is a patriot without being a partisan of Martí.

**" José Martí is Cuba's national hero, an element of Cuban nationality"**

## Over 40 Countries to Participate in International Book Fair



The 27th International Book Fair to be held from February 1st to the 11th in Havana and extended until May 13th in the rest of the country will have the participation of over 40 countries and 400 foreign guests.

The Director of the Cuban Book Chamber, Sonia Almaguer told the press on Wednesday that there will be 122 exhibitors, 60 Cubans and the rest from 22 countries, among them Peru, Spain and Panama.

The event will be, dedicated this year to City Historian, Eusebio Leal and

China as guest country.

The Director of the Literary Program and Vice President of the Book Institute, Edel Morales said that over 400 writers will be on hand at the Morro-Cabana Complex, main venue of the Book Fair and the 22 sub sites will also have important activities like the University of Havana and Pabellón Cuba. He commented that a colloquium on the environment will be held on February 2nd at the Cuban Association of the United Nations; another on Social Sciences at the Casa del ALBA, on the 2nd and 3rd; and Historians on the 5th and 6th.

Regarding the activity at the University of Havana, professor Mayda Goite informed that on the 3rd they will hold the traditional Science Fair dedicated to children and every afternoon books will be presented at the university.

The Director of the Bolona Publishing House, Mario Cremata said that the

editorial has a broad range of activities in honor of Eusebio Leal; they will also have book presentations, tributes and conferences.

The Political Advisor of the Chinese embassy in Cuba Yau Fei said close to 7 million books translated into English and Spanish will be presented and some written by President Xi Jinping. He announced that a high level government delegation will be at the book fair to sign important cooperation agreements; in addition to offering a cultural gala at the Alicia Alonso Grand Theater of Havana on February 2nd and 3rd entitled: Happy Chinese Spring Fiesta.

The president of the Organizing Committee and the Cuban Book Institute, Juan Rodríguez said that Cuba will present over 600 new books with over 2 thousand samples; and a total of 4 thousand titles with 4 million prints.

## Washington creates Internet Task Force to promote subversion in Cuba



The United States government announced yesterday, January 23, the creation of a new Internet Task Force, aimed at subverting Cuba's internal order. "The Department of State is convening a Cuba Internet Task Force composed of U.S. government and non-governmental representatives to promote the free and unregulated flow of information in Cuba. The task force will examine the technological challenges and opportunities for expanding internet access and independent media in Cuba," according to the body's official website. In the past phrases like promoting "freedom of speech" and "expanding access to the internet in Cuba" have been used by Washington as a pretext for schemes to destabilize the country using new technologies. One of the most well-known examples of this was the ZunZuneo plan, exposed in 2014 by **Associated Press**. Advertised as a messaging platform similar to Twitter and

aimed at Cuban youth, the real intention behind ZunZuneo was to promote actions to subvert the country's internal order.

This new initiative by the U.S. State Department, according to the press release, comes in response to President Trump's June 16, 2017 National Security Presidential Memorandum "Strengthening the Policy of the United States Toward Cuba." Speaking before right wing sectors of the Cuban American community in Miami at that time, Trump announced a change to the United States government's Cuba policy aimed at tightening the blockade and making travel between the two countries more difficult.

According to the January 23 press release, "The task force will examine the technological challenges and opportunities for expanding internet access and independent media in Cuba."

Meanwhile, following the sovereign decision taken by the island's government and to the degree its economic situation allows, Cuba has gradually been expanding access to the internet for its citizens. According to information provided by expert Rosa Miriam Elizalde, "2017 will be remembered as the boom year for the expansion of internet access in our country - with 40% of Cubans now online, 37% more than in 2010 - and the establishment of internet hot spots in urban areas across the island."

Official statistics from the Cuban Telecommunication Enterprise (ETECSA), indicate that 600,000 new cell phone lines were activated last year, bringing the total number to 4.5 million. Around 250,000 connections at 500 public wi-fi hotspots were registered daily across the country, which also saw the highest growth rates in two categories linked to digital connectivity, according to the report **Digital in 2017: Global Overview**, with over 2.7 million new users, a 365% increased as compared to 2016; and an increase in the use of cell phones to access social networks, with 2.6 million new users, up 385%.

## Cuba Motivates Solidarity Feelings in the World



Havana, Jan 25 (Prensa Latina) The international solidarity movement with Cuba is constantly growing and is now made up of more than 2,000 organizations from 154 countries, stated the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP).

During an activity with the 25th South American Brigade of Volunteer Work and Solidarity with Cuba in the Julio Antonio Mella International Camp (in the western province of Artemisa), the first vice president of ICAP, Elio Gámez, told Prensa Latina about the pride of the island for having so much support.

It is always exciting to receive friends, especially from our Latin American region, he expressed about the presence of

the brigade in the camp, a center founded in January 1972 at the initiative of the historical leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro.

Gámez pointed out that the international solidarity movement is very active in denouncing the economic, financial and commercial blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba for more than 55 years, as well as on the island's claims for the return of the territory illegally occupied by the northern nation in Guantánamo (province of the southeast).

In addition, he added, it divulges the Cuban reality and faces the campaigns of distortion and misinformation about Cuba executed by mass media.



## Cuba Highlighted Strategic Validity of CELAC



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba **Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla**

HAVANA, Cuba, Jan 23 (ACN) Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez highlighted on Wednesday in Santiago de Chile the strategic validity of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in achieving regional consensus.

The top Cuban diplomat traveled to the South American nation to participate in the 2nd Meeting of the Celac-China Cooperation Forum in the Foreign Ministers meeting which he characterized as "very useful and beneficial, despite existing differences", reported Prensa Latina News Agency.

He said that one of the advantages of the Community is its support to economic and political integration and the development of unity, within a friendship and constructive spirit, dialog and cooperation.

Regarding CELAC's next pro tempore presidency, Bruno Rodríguez explained that there were tangible progress, the effort of El Salvador was recognized and they were commended that until an arrangement is reached, they will continue in its current functions.

He explained that there was also a majority inclination to call on the coming months for a Summit of the Community and resume the agenda with the European Union with a Foreign Ministry level encounter.

Regarding the Celac-China Forum, in which 25 Foreign Ministers will participate together with their Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, he valued its outcome as successful and pointed out the will of the two parties in working together for development.

China, said Rodríguez, has a vigorous development; they are entering in a special phase in its process constituting a factor for world balance and stability, in defense of international peace and security at the same time that it constitutes as a window for the countries to the South.

**"Cuba mantiene su firme compromiso con la unidad e integración latinoamericana y caribeña, para alcanzar el desarrollo y el bienestar de nuestros pueblos"**

## What is CELAC?



The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) is an intergovernmental mechanism for dialogue and political consensus. Its membership includes the thirty-three (33) countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

It arises with the commitment to advance in the gradual process of integration of the region, making a wise balance between the unity and political, economic, social and cultural diversity of the 600 million inhabitants of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Since its launching in December 2011, CELAC has contributed to deepen the respectful dialogue among all the countries of the region, on issues such as social development, education, nuclear disarmament, family farming, culture, finance, energy and the environment. Likewise, CELAC has promoted that Latin America and the

Caribbean assume itself as a community of nations, capable of dialogue and of seeking consensus on issues of common interest. By mandate of the Heads of State and Government, CELAC becomes the unified voice of the region on issues of consensus; It is the only interlocutor that can promote and project a concerted voice from Latin America and the Caribbean in the discussion of major global issues, with the aim of seeking a better insertion and projection of the region in the international arena.

As a representative mechanism of Latin America and the Caribbean, CELAC assumes, among its attributions, the interlocution of the Community with other countries and regional groups. Among them, the CELAC Dialogue with the European Union, the CELAC-China Forum, the Dialogue Mechanism with the Russian Federation, as well as the rapprochement with the Republic of Korea, the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, among others. Turkey and Japan.

CELAC seeks to complement the existing regional architecture on the basis of non-duplication of efforts, in order to enhance common elements and promote complementarity.

The CELAC can be summarized as follows:

- It is a mechanism of dialogue and political concertation.
- It is an articulating mechanism, which works on the basis of consensus.
- It is a forum that advances on the convergence of common actions and interests.
- It is a platform that facilitates a greater presence of our region in the world.
- It is a space to face common challenges.



## New Cuban vaccine to be released next year



Author: Redacción Digital | [internet@granma.cu](mailto:internet@granma.cu)

Photo: Radioreloj

Hospital, breastfeeding infants aged between two and three months were also included in the trials.

Such efforts are evidence of the product's safety and the importance of its use within the country, as an example of effective collaboration between the Cuban biotechnology sector and national healthcare system, explained Darielys Santana, general coordinator of the project.

Quimi-Vio will therefore be added to Cuba's catalogue of infant vaccines, which already features 10 inoculations against 13 diseases, including diphtheria; mumps, measles, and rubella; and whooping cough; some of which are produced on the island, such as those against Tuberculosis; Hepatitis B, and a pentavalent vaccine.

The results of trials were presented to the scientific community during the 28th Pediatrics Congress, held on January 23, in Havana's International Convention Center.

A new and effective Pneumococcal with conjugates against the seven most common serotypes, will be available next year, project leaders announced, January 24. Developed by the Finlay Institute, the vaccine will be registered under the trademark: Quimi-Vio and be available nationwide, explained Dagmar García, the center's director of Research, speaking to Prensa Latina. Pneumococcal is the main cause of pneumonia and meningitis in infants. Although medicines to protect against this disease are available worldwide, Cuba has not been able to access them due to their high cost, he explained. According to García, after the effectiveness and safety of the vaccine had been established in extensive preclinical studies, clinical trials on humans began in 2014, in the central province of Cienfuegos, where over 5,000 children between one and five years of age have been immunized. Havana's Juan Manuel Márquez Pediatric

**" A new and effective  
Pneumococcal vaccine developed  
by the Finlay Institute, with  
conjugates against the seven most  
common serotypes, will be  
available next year ."**

## Finlay Institute at Humanity Service



*Medical biotechnology*  
**AT HUMANITY SERVICE**

The Finlay Institute is a scientific organization created in honor of Dr. Carlos Juan Finlay, a renowned Cuban epidemiologist, who discovered that yellow fever was transmitted through an intermediate biological agent, capable of spreading the disease from a sick subject to a healthy one. This finding was fundamental to fighting the disease, but more importantly, it served as a basis for research into what is known today as "vector-borne diseases."

The Finlay Institute was created in 1991 with the aim of further expanding the achievement of a group of Cuban scientists who investigated, produced and presented a vaccine against *Neisseria meningitidis*, composed of a complex of purified vesicles of the outer membrane of meningococcus serogroup B and purified capsular polysaccharide of meningococcus serogroup C, whose trade name is VA-MENGOC-BC®. The introduction of the vaccine in Cuba had a great impact by eliminating the epidemic that affected mainly children and adolescents. After more than 20 years of work in the Cuban biotechnology sector, the Finlay Institute was recently renovated with the addition of the Center for Biomolecular Chemistry (CQB), a chemical institution also dedicated to the research and development of vaccines. A team of

CQB scientists were the discoverers of Quimi-Hib, a conjugate vaccine against *Haemophilus influenzae* type B on a fully synthetic antigen. This is how the Finlay Institute of Vaccines was born.



## Cuba with one of the Lowest Infant Mortality Rate in the World



HAVANA, Cuba, Jan 24 (ACN) Cuba is among the first 19 countries in the world with the lowest infant mortality rate with 4.0 for every one thousand live births in 2017. This is the 10th consecutive year that the infant mortality has been under five, reported during the opening of the 28th Cuban Pediatrician Congress.

The Head of the Infant Maternal and Adolescent Department of the Health Ministry, Dr. Roberto Alvarez Fumero highlighted that this has been possible thanks to the effort, sacrifice, dedication and commitment of the thousands of health professionals that work in the field.

In front of over 400 Cuban, Latin American and European representatives present at the Convention Center in Havana, the health professional offered a conference on the achievements and challenges of infant health in Cu-

ba where compared to 1970 the infant mortality rate was reduced five times.

Alvarez Fumero added that the national vaccination program has 11 vaccines against 13 preventable diseases, there is an increase in the attention of retinopathy prematurity, growth in looking for any possible disabilities and 22 chronic infant diseases are treated. The specialist pointed out that these achievements have been possible despite the limitations imposed by the US economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba for over 55 years.

The specialist pointed out that Minsap's challenges are the consolidation of prevention actions in the maternal-infant transmission of HIV to maintain the international validity; in addition to reducing prevalence in anemia, obesity and fertility in teenagers.

Dr. Carmen Rosa Martinez Fernandez, Director of Medical Assistance at the Health Ministry, recognized the work of pediatricians and other health professionals that have made the results obtained in the country possible. She explained that the neonatal mortality was reduced in 2017 (less than 28 days of birth) from 2.4 to 2.1 per one thousand live births also the causes of deaths by perinatal affections from 1.5 to 1.3.

The infant mortality rate for congenital malformations remained at 0.8 per one thousand live births and recalled that the previous year for every one death, 231.6 under one year of age survived and 180.8 children up to five years of age.

## HeberFERON is ratified for the treatment of the skin cancer



Last year in Cuba more than 460 patients were benefited with the HeberFERON, which is a medicine used for the treatment of the basal cell skin cancer, it was informed in the annual meeting of the National Extension Program of the drug use that took place in the province of Camagüey.

According to what was said by the Cuban Agency of News, in Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus, Camagüey and Villa Clara more than the 50 percent of the benefited people had a total response after the use of the medicine.

Developed by the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, the therapeutic alternative, resulting of a combination of two interferons, delays the tumor growth and reduces or eliminates the basal cell carcinomas of any subtype, size and location.

In 2017 the HeberFERON was applied in 47 health

facilities of the entire country, from which 17 are polyclinics, and this year it is hoped to reach a 40 percent of the coverage in each one of the territories and in the especial municipality Isla de la Juventud it is expected to reach the total of the care units. The benefits of the bio-technologic product were ratified by the coordinators and promoters of the program, which is unique in its type all over the world, has a great impact in the quality of the patients' life and favors the surgical procedure.

the [Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center](#) of Cuba, is a dynamic development institution that has allowed it to reach a high level in the research, development, production and commercialization of biological products obtained through the methods of modern biotechnology.





## Cuban cook books win three Gourmand World



Author: Digital news staff | [informacion@granma.cu](mailto:informacion@granma.cu)

Three books from the Federation of Culinary Associations of the Republic of Cuba's Artechef publishing house, won *Gourmand* World Cookbook Awards, considered the "Oscars" of the cooking world.

The international awards will be presented next May in Beijing, China, according to **Juventud Rebelde**.

Eddy Fernández and Miriam Rubiel's book, in English, covering traditional "campesina" rural meals, won the Gourmand World Cookbook Award in the Local Cuisine category.

Meanwhile, **Qué cocinaré hoy**, by Luis Ramón Batlle, won the Award for Easy Home Recipes, and **El donaire de los vinos**, by Martha Señan, was awarded in the food and drinks category.

The news was announced in the national plenary session of the Cuban Federation of Culinary Associations, a space to assess the work of the organization. Chef Eddy Fernández Monte, president of the Federation, stressed the im-

portance of training processes, which must be strengthened across the island, with the participation of the most outstanding specialists.

This culinary At a time when international and national tourism in Cuba is not only growing, but becoming more demanding, Monte highlighted the importance of rescuing and developing our culinary art. As an example of what is being done, he noted the Sabor movement, active in the seven oldest settlements of Cuba, which began two years ago in order to rescue traditional dishes. project also contributes to publicizing the existence on the island not only of a typical national cuisine, but of regional variants.

## Habanos Hit Headlines



Havana, Jan 25 (Prensa Latina) One month before the 20th Habano Festival, the event of Premium cigars hit the headlines of the main media specialized in cigars.

Some reports published in the website of International Habanos S.A. Corporation ([www.habanos.com](http://www.habanos.com)) announced the first month of this year was hectic for the island's cigar industry, besides preparing the best way possible the February feast.

The website says the cigar aficionados worldwide will take their stand in the world challenge organized by Habanos S.A. under the name of Habanos World Challenge. This is a contest to be carried out for the first time during the 20th edition of the Habano Festival.

In that test, participants will confront through eliminatory rounds in their countries of residence throughout the world where they will represent their territories in the final phase

in Habana, during the event in this capital (February 26 thru March 2). During this intense battle, participants will have as their base the information of the Book of Habanos, important tool which will help in the preparation of contestants and a App World Challenge of Habanos. All participants will be put to the test in their general knowledge of Habanos in its diverse phases, agroindustrial, industrial, practical and demonstrative aspects, starting a series of challenges in several stages.

The electronic application Habanos World Challenge is a test with a great amount of questions to put aficionados to the test, and turn them into authentic experts (all this in one application available to any user of iOS and with only one click).

On its part, company The Pacific Cigar Co. LTD, celebrated its 25th anniversary last December 2017, in charge of distributing Cuban cigars to aficionados of the Asia-Pacific region. On December 7, the event was hosted by the hotel Grand Hyatt, with over 180 guests who enjoyed a welcoming cocktail accompanied by the new Habanos Brand Quai D'Orsay. Also last December 20 the new Cohiba Atmosphere (luxury establishment) was inaugurated in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Cohiba Atmosphere, under the license of Habanos S.A. has a singular conception offering an exclusive experience in a distinguished atmosphere, with works of art of highest quality Habanos. Worldwide until the year 2017, the inauguration of the Club in Sofia is the 13th representation of the chain and third in Europe. These reports predict that the 20th Habano Festival will have the success it usually attracts at the beginning of the year, meeting attended by over one thousand persons of some 70 nations.