

# CUBA

## Current Affairs

Year I / No.6



### Embassy of Cuba in Cambodia

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#### Cuba protests US attempt to use internet for subversion



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illegal programs for political purposes and subversion, as part of their actions aimed at altering or changing the constitutional order of the Republic of Cuba. The same note was sent by the Embassy of Cuba in Washington to the Department of State.

The protest was motivated by the announcement by the Department of State, on 23 January, of the decision to convene an "Internet Task Force", composed of officials of the United States Government and representatives of non-governmental organizations, with the stated objective of promoting in Cuba the "free and unregulated flow of information". According to the announcement, this task force will "examine the technological challenges and opportunities to expand Internet access and independent media" in Cuba.

The MINREX note again demands that the Government of the United States cease its subversive, interfering and illegal actions against Cuba, which undermine Cuban constitutional stability and order, and urges it to respect Cuban sovereignty, international laws and the purposes of and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. In its message, the Cuban Foreign Ministry reiterates the determination of the Government of Cuba not to tolerate any type of subversive activity or interference in its internal affairs and, as a sovereign country, to continue defending itself and denouncing the interfering nature of this type of action.

Cuba will continue to regulate the flow of information as is its sovereign right and as is practice in all countries, including the United States. Cuba will also continue advancing in the computerization of its society, as part of the development of the country and in terms of the social justice objectives that characterize its Revolution.

#### Facts on Cuba 2018

**February 24th, 1895:**

The Baure Calls, initiates the Necessary War, as José Martí called the re-launching of our struggle for independency against Spain colonialism in Cuba.

**"Cuba will not tolerate any type of subversive activity or interference in its internal affairs"**

## Internet wars: U.S. plans to overthrow the Cuban Government



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In this modern era of cell phones, the internet, and social networks, it is easy to forget that the U.S. has been using communications technologies to attack Cuba ever since the age of shortwave radios and the emergence of television.

The U.S. State Department's announcement this past January, of the creation of a Cuba Internet Task Force is, therefore, just another scheme in a long saga of Washington's subversive plans to overthrow the Cuban Revolution.

From psychological warfare propagated by the mass media to unconventional warfare, which has been adapted to the internet age, Cuba has been a test site for U.S. schemes designed to overthrow governments which do not respond to its interests. However, the competence of Cuban authorities and support of the entire population for the Revolution has meant that these plans were doomed to failure.

### - March 17, 1960:

Then U.S. President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, approved the so-called Program of Covert Action, designed to destroy the Cuban Revolution. Among other aspects, the CIA was tasked with setting up a radio station broadcasting political propaganda. On May 17, 1960, 1160 khz frequency Radio Cuba Libre (Radio Swan) was picked up for the first time on the island.

### - September 22, 1981:

President Ronald Reagan signed executive order 12323, establishing the "Presidential Commission on Broadcasting to Cuba," tasked with developing a recommended plan for radio broadcasting intended for transmission to Cuba, such as Radio Martí.

### - May 20, 1985:

Radio Martí hits the airwaves for the first time, as part of a plan by the staunchly anti-Cuban Ronald Reagan administration, to launch an illegal radio station able to reach the island and incite a popular uprising against the Revolution.

### - March 27, 1990:

Following the failure of subversive radio schemes, TV Martí was launched, costing the U.S. taxpayer millions of dollars and violating international norms. Dubbed "the TV no one watches," the signal was effectively blocked by Cuban authorities across the entire island.

### - 2004:

The Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba or Plan Bush is created by the George W. Bush administration to identify additional ways to hasten an overthrow of the "Cuban regime."

Regarding technology, the plan proposes, among other things to "Encourage willing third-country governments to create public access Internet facilities in their missions in Cuba."

Other initiatives included expanding "the distribution of information and facilitate pro-democracy activities," and "Greater access to these types of equipment" in order to do so.

### - July 2007:

President Bush announces the creation of a fourth 'cyberspace' army at the Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, designed to maintain the U.S. military's competitive advantage in this new theater of operations.

### - December 2009:

U.S. citizen Alan Phillip Gross arrested for bringing illegal communication devices into Cuba as part of a USAID program. In March 2011 Gross was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for "Acts Against the Independence or the Territorial Integrity of the State," in the Courtroom for Crimes Against State Security of the People's Provincial Court of Havana. Gross returned to the United States following the announcement of a process of rapprochement between the two countries on December 17, 2014.

### - March 2011:

Operation Surf, unmasked by State Security agent Raúl - Dalexí González Madruga – consisted of smuggling equipment and software into the country to install illegal antennas to access the internet.

### - 2011:

At the request of Senator Richard Lugar, the most prominent Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Carl Meacham, director of Latin America on the Senator's political team, met with staff from the State Department, senior foreign diplomats and industry representatives over several months to investigate how social media and technologies could be used to promote and strengthen what they consider to be democracy in Latin America. In his report Meacham shamelessly praises subversive actions and plan by the U.S. government against Cuba.

### - March 21, 2012:

The ultra conservative Heritage Foundation attended an event sponsored by Google Ideas, and entitled "How the

**" Cuba is committed to the safe, democratic, responsible use and full access to internet for all its citizens "**

## Internet wars: U.S. plans to overthrow the Cuban



- April 20144:

The ZunZuneo initiative, financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is launched. The platform was designed as a messaging network similar to Twitter through which thousands of Cubans would receive "non-controversial content" like news messages on soccer, music, weather reports and announcements. However, later subscribers would begin to receive political content aimed at inspiring Cubans to organize mass demonstrations akin to "smart mobs" to destabilize the country.

The Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) which oversees Radio and TV Martí, launched a service similar to ZunZuneo called Piramideo, an SMS-based social network that would offer the possibility of sending a massive message to members of a "pyramid" at the cost of a single SMS. The objective was to prepare a platform for subversion.

Commotion: A tool developed by the Washington-based New America Foundation's Open Technology Institute (OTI), which was originally intended for military use, to create independent wireless networks. Although there is little to no information on its functioning in Cuba, U.S. government sources speaking to the **New York Times** noted that millions of dollars had been dedicated to the project.

- September 12-13, 2016:

The U.S. government organized the "First Cuba Internet Freedom Conference" headed by the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) which oversees illegal anti-Cuban radio and television broadcasts. The event brought together "independent" journalists from the island and digital innovators and activists who support the use of new technologies to bring about a regime change in Cuba.

- January 2018:

The Trump administration announces the creation of a new Internet Task Force designed to subvert Cuba's internal order. Composed of government and independent officials tasked with promoting the free flow in information on the island, the initiative is Washington's most recent attempt to disguise its plans to destabilize Cuba through the use of new technologies.

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## General Prosecutor's Office: guarantor of the legal security



Translated by: Aylene Lesmes Bonachea

The team of the Hacienda Radio program discussed with Reinaldo Cruz Rivera, the chief fiscal specialist of General Prosecutor of the Republic, about legal security and the legality.

According to Cruz Rivera the legal security is a fundamental topic for the country and the world; a subject matter with a great modernity; it is one of the axis of the XIV International Meeting of Criminal Science and the II Legality, Law and Society Event, which will take place the next March from 14th to 16th.

The specialist added that the legal security fits itself with the "security that the citizen reaches given by the State, in which the non violence of his rights, his properties and his own human integrity could be guaranteed".

Likewise, in the first place the norms have to exist, which have to protect and regulate the social relations produced among the citizens between them, and

between the citizens and the State.

Afterwards, those norms have to be published, that establishes what can be done, what is forbidden and what is ordered. In third place, the legal security presents the correct application and fulfillment of the norms as a component.

Cruz Rivera emphasized that all the citizens have their legal security guaranteed since they are born.

In the other hand, the legality becomes one of the mechanisms that guarantee the legal security; it is not possible to ensure the rights, the properties and the integrity of the people if each people that have to fulfill a norm, does not do it in that way.

The employee also said that, the Prosecutor's Office has several edges as a guarantor of the legal security, by means of the attention offered to the citizen from dissimilar manners.

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## Cuba's anti human trafficking policy



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Experts define human trafficking as a crime in which victims are exploited through forced labor or services, slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. However, one of the most common forms of human trafficking is sexual exploitation, with countless women forced to prostitute themselves for fear of their lives or that of their family members.

Cuba's 2015 report on combating human trafficking and related crimes outlines the forms of deception and manipulation used to entrap victims: *"In the process of capturing victims, mainly young people, traffickers from the country of origin but based abroad or foreigners, directly or through their contacts in the country, advertise false offers of well-paid employment, such as manicurist, waitress or dancer, and arrange all migration documents including letters of invitation. In order to recover expenses for the victim's travel, lodging and food, traffickers force*

*them to prostitute themselves by threatening to kill them or their family members in Cuba if they refuse, lock them up and take away all their identity documents. Once the victim's debt has been repaid traffickers raise fees, causing some victims to continue working as prostitutes or promote trafficking in Cuba from abroad to avoid abuse."*

### OVER 20 MILLION VICTIMS WORLDWIDE

According to estimates, human trafficking is the third most lucrative crime in the world, after drug and arms trafficking. During a Security Council debate on trafficking in persons in conflict situations, held in March 2017, Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations, highlighted that the issue continues to be a problem in the 21st century.

In his opening remarks Guterres noted, "Trafficking networks have gone global. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, victims can be found in 106 countries. The International Labour Organization reports that 21 million people around the world are victims of forced labour and extreme exploitation."

Figures from the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons reveal that around 70% of human trafficking victims are women and girls, while boys make up 30%. Human trafficking is both a domestic and international crime which violates an individual's human rights and integrity, and involves traffickers who frequently use deceit, violence, and coercion to entrap victims, who are then exploited for money. What is more, even if the victim initially agrees, this consent is negated if it is obtained through improper means.

**" According to estimates, human trafficking is the third most lucrative crime in the world, after drug and arms trafficking"**

### PREVENTION & PROTECTION IN CUBA

According to the country's 2015 report on combating human trafficking and its related crimes, Cuban law defines trafficking in persons as the promotion, organization or coercion of persons to enter or leave the country for the purpose of prostitution or any other form of sexual trade.

The protection offered by the Cuban state to all citizens as part of their human rights as recognized in the Constitution of the Republic and upheld for almost 60 years of Revolution, means that this crime poses little risk to the population. None the less Cuba has drawn up a national action plan for preventing and combating human trafficking and protecting victims for the period 2017-2020.

The document notes that "The Cuban government maintains a 'zero tolerance' policy toward this crime based on three fundamental pillars: prevention, enforcement, and protection of victims."

Meanwhile, in line with the government's policy, the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) is working to educate communities on the issue, increase risk awareness among the population and offer individualized assistance to victims.

"We believe that the best way to prevent human trafficking is to empower women," according to Dr. Isabel Moya Richard, director of the FMC's Mujer publishing house and the magazine **Mujeres**. "People trafficking isn't a big problem for us. However, this issue is becoming more important as the country begins to open, which is why we must continue talking about it. For every 10 female victims of sexual exploitation worldwide, there are two male which is why we classify human trafficking as a form of gender violence."

The Cuban state will continue to work hard, together with civil society organizations, to ensure this phenomenon which continually finds new ways to revive the old chains of slavery, does not find space in a society committed to socialism and the full dignity of human beings.

## Cuba's anti human trafficking policy

### WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?



According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime "Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines Trafficking in Persons as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery,

servitude or the removal of organs."

### ZERO TOLERANCE

The Cuban state has signed various legal instruments related to people trafficking including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children; The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; Convention on the Rights of the Child; and Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

Meanwhile, after the triumph of the Revolution programs to protect vulnerable persons - above all women, children and adolescents - were drawn up, with legislation including harsh sentences established for people traffickers and support mechanisms created for victims.

## The Cornerstone of Community Participation



People's Councils are the true, absolutely democratic authority in Cuban neighborhoods, the essential level of the socialist state's People's Power system, an idea Fidel outlined, describing these bodies as the cornerstone of community participation in the resolution of problems.

This concept was highlighted by Esteban Lazo Hernández, president of the National Assembly of People's Power, during a recent meeting held in the province, to evaluate a training seminar for presidents of these bodies, with a view toward improving their effectiveness.

Omayda Gómez, president of the Luisa People's Council in the municipality of Jovellanos, said she considered the training sessions excellent, with much information shared, noting that the exchange of experiences was very useful, especially for those who are taking on the responsibility for the first time.

Also emphasized was the importance of accountability reports presented regularly to the population in neighborhood meetings.

<http://en.cubadebate.cu>

the main problems in every community and their causes. He noted that the coming period will be an extraordinary one, given the international situation and the number of changes underway in the country at this time, emphasizing the importance of staying informed and maintaining unity.

He stressed that the coming general elections must serve as a demonstration of the people's unity and the Revolution's strength, in the face of attempts by the U.S. government to undermine Cuba's sovereignty.





## Cuba Updates Data on the Effects of Climate Change For 2020



<http://www.radioreloj.cu>

Havana, Cuba.- Cuban scientists prepare a new report with updated data on the inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, in view of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for 2020.

This was announced at a press conference by Eduardo Planos, one of the leaders of this project. These results, compiled in the Third National Communication, will be presented to the UNFCCC by the end of the decade.

These are Cuba's commitments to face this global phenomenon. It also includes mitigation and adaptation measures; as well as others associated with education, awareness and technology transfer, he said.

Vulnerable due to its geographical situation to the effects of climate change, Cuba has identified its main threats: increase in air temperature and the average level of the sea, the increase of hydro-meteorological extremes; along with the decrease in rainfall.

At the same time, Cuba implements several adaptation measures in some socioeconomic sectors, natural sources and strategic ecosystems that involve climatic, hydrological, coastal marine resources, agriculture, human settlements and the use of land, agriculture, biodiversity and health.

Parallel to the report, Planos explained, experts work on the first biennial update report to the Convention, executed with funds from the GEF and UNDP as the implementing agency.

## Cuba Makes Progress in Implementation of Sustainable Development



by Pavel Jacomino // <http://www.radiohc.cu>

New York, Feb 8 (RHC)-- Juan Miguel Gonzalez Peña, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, said: "Despite the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States on my country, Cuba continues to make progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, where children and young people have a crucial role."

Speaking at the first regular session of the UNICEF Executive Board, the Cuban diplomat pointed out that one of the main achievements of the island in the social sphere was having reached, at the end of 2017, the lowest infant mortality rate in its history -- 4.0 per 1,000 live births.

The head of Cuba's Mission to the United Nations also said that 99.5% of more than 855,000 children from childbirth to 6 years old attend an early childhood education program or institution, which has been highlighted by the regional representation of UNICEF for Latin America and the Caribbean.

He also stressed that this result is in keeping with the humanistic and social justice essence of the Cuban system and it is the product of the daily efforts of health professionals and of the commitment and political will of the Cuban Government to guarantee the right to free health care to all its population, without discrimination.

González Peña took the opportunity to congratulate Ms. Henrietta H. Fore on her appointment as UNICEF Executive Director. He reiterated the island's commitment to the organization and its willingness to work jointly for the well-being of girls and boys.

unicef



## Fidel honored at Book Fair



Author: Amelia Duarte de la Rosa/[informacion@granma.cu](mailto:informacion@granma.cu)

There is a pain felt deep in the hearts of all Cubans. A pain that spreads. An unbearable sadness. There are situations that bring it to the fore, which despite being natural are disconcerting. But this is a reality that unites an entire people. And there is now a book that captures their heartfelt tribute, minute by minute, hour by hour, beginning at 10:29 pm, November 25, 2016, and continuing over the next nine days, as all of Cuba bid farewell to our Comandante.

**Hasta siempre Fidel**, is the book. A volume about death and life, light and shadows, pain and patriotism. Tributes offered by the Cuban people and friends around the world to Fidel after his death are collected in the new work, presented by the Council of State Office, during the 27th International Book Fair held at Havana's San Carlos de la Cabaña Fortress. "In this book, we relive all those hours, beginning with Raúl's message to the immense tribute by Santiago's people in Santa Ifigenia (Cemetery), commented Minister of Culture Abel Prieto, who

was responsible for the book's introduction.

The images in its pages, he added, play a leading role, describing the collection as tremendously moving. Following a chronological sequence, **Hasta siempre Fidel** includes more than 500 photographs by 41 individuals and 17 testimonies from the press. Published in the book's 447 pages are poems by 20 Cuban authors such as Pablo Armando Fernández, Virgilio López Lemus, Nancy Morejón, Ángel Augier, and those from around the world like Juan Gelman, Pablo Neruda, and Mario Benedetti, as well as excerpts from comments by Presidents, ministers, and authorities from different parts of the world. The book is distinguished by the quality of its somber design and the use of the latest graphic arts techniques.

"This book is the work of many. It is a homage meant to perpetuate the tribute which the people offered the historic leader of the Revolution. Toward this end, recognized professionals were involved, including Dr. Rosa Miriam Elizalde, responsible for the selection and notes; Ernesto Niebla, design; and Juan José Valdés, who carefully led the editing and production," explained Alberto Alvarino, second in charge at the Ideological Department. Speaking at the book launch in the Fortress' Nicolás Guillén Hall, he added that work on the collection began November 28, 2016, and both the initial outline and the mock-up were completed in record time.

Printed in a four-color process, with a polished finish, the volume has a cover with relief, made possible with a technique that produces the perception of three dimensions, along with the combined use of a shiny and matte ultraviolet coating. The edition comes accompanied by a digital support produced by the University of Computer Sciences. The multimedia offers two menus: the principal one in the form of a timeline, and a complementary one that presents videos and materials published in the press, invaluable testimonies to the essence of sentiments expressed by the people.

## The best writers of the American continent and the Caribbean Revealed



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The juries have announced their verdicts and we can now reveal the latest writers of the American continent and the Caribbean to have been awarded the Casa de las Américas Literary Prize, in its 59th edition. The winners represented the countries of Cuba, Argentina, Barbados and Brazil, which has its own special category.

The awards ceremony took place in the spacious Che Guevara Hall of Havana's Casa de las Américas, with its formidable **Tree of Life**, and was introduced by Jorge Fonet, director of the institution's Literary Research Center, who first gave the floor to Puerto Rican judge Myrna García Calderón to announce the artistic-literary Essay Prize, awarded to the book **Óyeme con los ojos: Cine, mujeres, visiones y voces**, by Ana Forcinito (Argentina).

The judges emphasized that this is a text in which the author centers her analysis "on a solid theoretical base (feminist, philosophical, cinematographic) to reveal, in a historic context, the works of María Luisa Bemberg, Lucrecia Martel, and Albertina Carri."

The Prize in the Brazilian Literature category was presented by Cristian Santos Brayner (Brazil) and was awarded to **Erico Veríssimo, escritor do mundo**, by Carlos Cortez Minchillo as "a profound study focused on the cosmopolitan dimension of the life and work of Érico Veríssimo, skillfully articulating the literary corpus with the professional and political career of the writer."



## The best writers of the American continent and the Caribbean Revealed



Casa de las Américas, Cuba

Peruvian judge Teresa Zúñiga revealed that the jury in the Theater category had opted for **Paraje Luna**, by Fernando José Crespi (Argentina), on considering that this was “a piece of accomplished drama, in which the quality and suggestion of its plot have been valued.” Jacob Ross, from Grenada, read the jury’s decision in the Caribbean Literature in English or Creole category, with the Casa Prize going to **Tracing Jaja**, by Anthony Kellman (Barbados), “an extraordinary novel about human experience, our ability to find beauty and love in the darkest circumstances.” The Women’s Studies Prize went to Cuba’s Yanetsy Pino Reina for **Hilando y deshilando la resistencia (pactos no catastróficos entre identidad femenina y poesía)**, an essay in which the jury appreciated “a creative and rigorous reading of Cuban women’s poetry from the end of the 20th century to the beginning of the 21st century, among whose contributions she proposes her own literary criticism research model.”

Following the ceremony, we took advantage of the occasion to speak with the Doctor in Literary Sciences, and discovered that the award-winning book spans all the Cuban women authors of the twentieth century, including those residing outside of the island. Pino Reina dedicated the Prize “first to my country that makes dreams possible, especially those of women, and to all the women of the world, that after a long struggle finally, at least in Cuba, we can have some peace and personal fulfillment.” The Short Story genre secured the second win for Cuba, with **Todas las patas en el aire**, by Rafael de Águila. According to the jury’s notes, as read by

Ariel Urquiza, of Argentina, “with a dense and enveloping prose the author develops captivating stories framed in different periods and geographies.”

We were also able to converse with De Águila, who specified that the book features ten stories which combine themes of love, couples and others, and where the history of Cuba is very present. The writer has won three other awards with short story books: in 1998, the Pinos Nuevos Prize for **El último viaje con Adriana**; the 2010 Alejo Carpentier Prize for **Del otro lado** and in 2017 the Julio Cortázar Prize for **Viento del Neva**. Questioned as to what attracts him to this genre, the author explained: “My own personality is tied to the short story. The novel is the persistence of time. The story is quick, personal, it starts and ends, and that is how I am.” Regarding what winning the Prize meant to him, he noted: “On occasion I have said that I don’t believe in prizes. They are not important in the life of a narrator, but in some way they make you visible, it makes you feel more secure and in this case receiving the Casa de las Américas Prize is an honor, an enormous responsibility and an incentive to continue writing.”

Poet and essayist Roberto Fernández Retamar, Casa president, announced the special prizes and this year the José Lezama Lima Poetry Prize went to **El zorro y la luna, poemas reunidos (1981-2016)**, by José Antonio Mazzotti (Peru); the José María Arguedas Narrative Prize was received by Uruguayan Milton Fornaro for **La madriguera**, and the Ezequiel Martínez Estrada Essay Prize was awarded to Argentine Saúl Sosnowski for his book **Cartografía de las letras hispanoamericanas: tejidos de la memoria**.

A standing ovation ensued when this final award was announced, as Sosnowski happened to be in the Hall, having served as a member of the artistic-literary Essay jury. The prestigious essayist and researcher, author of titles such as **Julio Cortázar: una búsqueda mítica** and **Lectura Crítica de la Literatura Latinoamericana**, stated that “to receive a prize with the name of Ezequiel Martínez Estrada, one of the most illustrious Argentines, who has educated us not only through an essay like **Biografía de la pampa**, but through his conduct, his analysis of Cuban literature, I can only describe as intense, that is the word. Very moving.” The 2018 Casa Prize has concluded and as noted in a press release: “Within a year, when the Prize reaches six decades of existence, it will be worthwhile to take stock of what has been done... rethink it in the face of a different future, but all this without renouncing what has been achieved, this ambitious work that seems unrepeatable in any moment or place.”





## Juan Carlos Roque dissects the Buena Vista Social Club



The Buena Vista Social Club was a very popular Havana dance hall in the 1940s and 50s, but that name is now known throughout the world as a Cuban musical phenomenon.

It was a project born 20 years ago, under the direction of Juan de Marcos González, former director of the Sierra Maestra group, with renowned U.S. guitarist Ry Cooder as producer.

The original album was recorded, as Cuban journalist Juan Carlos Roque recalled, by World Circuit Records, over “seven intense days in Havana in 1996.”

From its launch, the Buena Vista Social Club became an extraordinary success, with concerts held in the main capitals of the world, millions in album sales, and even famous German film director, Win Wenders, made a documentary on the group, which includes the second concert at New York’s Carnegie Hall.

Last year, Roque published in Argentina the book *Cómo*

Cuba puso a bailar al mundo (How Cuba Made the World Dance), with Libros en Red publishing house. The text has now been republished by Cuba’s Ediciones UNIÓN, and will be presented in Havana’s San Carlos de la Cabaña Fortress, the main venue of this year’s International Book Fair.

The book features a series of interviews Roque conducted in 1999 and 2000, with all the members of the initial project, as part of the series *The Road to Success*, in which he recreates the life and work of the founder members.

In a brief conversation at the headquarters of the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC), the author explained that he decided to compile the interviews after the announcement of the group’s *Adiós Tour* of farewell concerts, which he later enriched and contextualized as result of further encounters with some of the musicians.

“The book begins when they appear in the White House in 2015, and play for President Obama, given what that represented for cultural exchange between Cuba and the United States. It then recreates those original interviews, almost one chapter per musician. I go on like this, revealing the development of the group.”

Among the 14 interviews included in the book, some of the most interesting are those with Buena Vista greats Juan de Marcos; Francisco Repilado, known as “Compay Segundo”; Omara Portuondo; Ibrahim Ferrer; Rubén González; Eliades Ochoa; and Alberto Virgilio Valdés.

Readers can appreciate the relaxed tone of the dialogues on the lives of these musicians, who were mostly retired, and their surprise on making a comeback to the stage.

In addition to the testimonies of the protagonists, Roque includes notes, including one dedicated to the *Adiós Tour*, with reference to the album *Lost and Found*, including original songs and photos of his encounters with the interviewees.

In reference to the title, the author noted: “Well, actually I think it should be called “How Cuba made the world dance once again,” but that’s another book. At that stage, the phenomenon of Buena Vista revitalized Cuban music.”

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In addition to the testimonies of the protagonists, Roque includes notes, including one dedicated to the *Adiós Tour*, with reference to the album *Lost and Found*, including original songs and photos of his encounters with the interviewees.

In reference to the title, the author noted: “Well, actually I think it should be called “How Cuba made the world dance once again,” but that’s another book. At that stage, the phenomenon of Buena Vista revitalized Cuban music.”

## Five unique-in-the-world "Made in Cuba" Medicines



The BioCubaFarma Business Group, one of the most economically powerful in the country, is responsible for leading the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. This organization has registered products and exports to more than 50 countries, has 1.800 patents abroad and its annual income exceeds 2 billion dollars. Among the institutions attached to the huge Group, which employs more than 22.000 workers, are the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CGEB), the Center for the Production of Laboratory Animals (CENPLA), the National Center for Biopreparations (BIOCEN), the Center of Immunoassay and the Center for Molecular Immunology (CMI).

What are the medications, made in Cuba, with the most inter-

national prestige?

### **HEBERPROT-P, THE BEST TREATMENT FOR DIABETIC FOOT ULCERS**

According to the [World Health Organization](#), about 300 million people suffer from diabetes, and of these, between 15% and 35% may suffer amputation of one of their limbs. The Cuban drug Heberprot-P, the only one of its kind in the world, has been able to reduce amputations by diabetic foot ulcer in Cuban patients more than four times. Born from the creative genius of a scientists team, led by Dr. Jorge Berlanga, at the CIGB, the drug is used in more than 20 countries. The treatment includes injection into the person's affected area and accelerates the skin's healing process, so the wound would be closed in a period of approximately three months..

### **VACCINE CIMAVAX-EGF, A HOPE AGAINST LUNG CANCER**

The survival chances for people diagnosed with lung cancer at an advanced stage are very low; however, with CIMAvax-EGF a new hope has appeared. Researchers from the CMI who took 25 years to develop the product created this vaccine. The treatment slows down the growth of cancer cells and, therefore, prevents the disease from spreading throughout the body and thereby prolongs people's lives. The scientists clarify that it's not a preventive vaccine, but therapeutic, although it has also been used in those with higher risks of suffering from the disease. The CIM also developed the VAXIRA vaccine (known as Racotumomab) that works on a molecule found in all cancer cells. Scientists hope that, in the future, the drug may be effective against leukemia and other tumors that accompany lung, colon, prostate and breast cancers. CIMAvax-EGF caught the attention of scientists from the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in New York who continue to evaluate the possibility of taking this medication to the United States, which would be a milestone, because the Washington Blockade has prevented access to Cuban inventions.

### **POLICOSANOL (PPG), A NATURAL PRODUCT TO LOWER CHOLESTEROL**

This drug, made from the wax of sugar cane, is used mainly to lower cholesterol, although the product also has other applications, since its antiplatelet, anti-ischemic and antithrombotic effects have been proved; in addition, some take the medication because they consider that it invigorates the male genital apparatus. The PPG, being natural, has few contraindications, unlike what happens with other drugs on the international market for cholesterol. Venezuela is one of the PPG's biggest consumers and Cuba also markets it in Serbia, Slovakia and Spain, among other nations.

### **VA-MENGOC-BC, VERY EFFECTIVE VACCINE AGAINST MENINGOCOCCI B AND C**

During the 80s of the last century, Cuba suffered an outbreak of meningococcal disease. The scientists worked intensely to find a solution and Havana's Finlay Institute created VA-MENGOC-BC, a bivalent vaccine composed of meningococcal B outer membrane vesicles and meningococcal C capsular polysaccharide. It's currently the only commercially available drug in the world that attacks meningococci B and C. In Cuba, more than 60 million doses of the vaccine have already been applied. The drug has proven to be very effective and with a high safety profile, as recognized by the World Health Organization.

### **NEUROEPO, A MEDICATION TO SLOW THE PROGRESSION OF ALZHEIMER'S**

Population aging is one of the biggest problems facing Cuba. Currently, Alzheimer's is the sixth cause of death in the country, among people over 60 years and, by 2040, this disease could affect 2.7% of Cubans. Today, over than 35 million people in the world have Alzheimer's and there is no medication that is able to cure or stop its progression. In this context, the CMI's scientists created a drug, called NeuroEpo, that delays the expansion of this disease. "It would be the first time it's used on people and we have to wait for the results. This compound doesn't prevent Alzheimer's disease, nor does it eliminate it, but the preclinical results are encouraging in that it could help to change the course of the disease, i.e., slow down the deterioration that the patient inevitably suffers. Alzheimer's is a neurodegenerative disease without regression, it will move forward. What we want is to help delay this degenerative process and improve the person's and the family's life quality", acknowledged CMI researcher Leslie Pérez Ruiz.

### **UPCOMING CREATIONS**

Cuban scientists are working on a clinical trial with Heberferon, which acts on renal carcinoma and in patients with malignant brain tumors; in addition, trials also continue with the therapeutic vaccine, TERA-VAC-HIV, which proposes to reduce the viral load of HIV carriers.

## Canada Remains a top Market for Cuba



Written by PAX News | <http://cubasi.com>

The results are in: in a year marked by a record hurricane season in the Caribbean, Cuba welcomed approximately 4.7 million foreign visitors in 2017, representing a 16.2 per cent increase over 2016.

Of that total number of arrivals, Cuba welcomed more than 1.1 million Canadian visitors. The Cuba Tourism Board presented the following statistics about Canadian arrivals in 2017: 44 per cent of Canadian visitors in 2017 had previously visited Cuba

For the seventh year in a row, Cuba has received more than 1 million Canadian tourists. Cuba receives more visitors from Canada than from any other country. Cuba remains the number one destination for Canadians in the Caribbean. There are more direct flights from Canada (from 30 Canadian cities) including Halifax, St. John, Moncton, Montreal, Quebec City, Hamilton, London, Windsor,

Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton, Kelowna and Vancouver.

**"Peace, health and safety remain the pillars of Cuban Tourism and, ultimately, the factors that explain our incredible growth,"** explains Eloy Govea, Director for Canada for the Cuba Tourism Board. "The unique environment allows everyone to thoroughly experience the Auténtica Cuba: our spectacular beaches, incredible people, vibrant culture, fascinating history and unspoiled nature; all of which is particularly accessible and affordable for Canadians."

Cuba also welcomed an increased number of cruise ships, with the number of tourists participating in excursions significantly increased as well. Looking ahead, the Cuban government aims to have 224 new hotels complete by 2030, which will add 103,000 new rooms, increasing the number of rooms from 68,000 to 171,000 over the next 12 years. These new development projects will occur in virtually all regions of Cuba including the main tourists spots such as Varadero and Havana.

With a growth rate of 16.2 per cent in 2017, the tourism board said that Cuba expects to meet its 2018 goal of welcoming 5 million foreign visitors.

## The Habanos Festival in Cuba will Host Novel Contest



The first edition of the Habanos World Challenge will take place in the context of the largest event dedicated to the most famous premium cigars in the world, that it shall come to pass in this capital of 26 February to 2 March 2018. According to a note by the Organizing Committee, participants will test your knowledge on the basis of a series of challenges, which include demonstration and practical aspects about the world of cigar. The text points out that in order to obtain more information about the topic, interested parties may access the site digital [www.habanos.com](http://www.habanos.com)

In the 20th edition of the Festival del Habano shall, in addition, visits to tobacco plantations in Vuelta Abajo, in the

province of Pinar del Rio, and to the production of the main releases of 2018. Another of the activities envisaged is the traditional Habanosommelier Contest, in which outstanding specialists will demonstrate their knowledge and skills on the art of the Cuban cigar. Also there will be a seminar in which experts from the Habano classes and lectures about the origin and development of some of the major exportable items in the country.

According to the communiqué, the marks that will have a special role in the contest will be Cohiba, with the presentation Robust Reserve 2014 harvest, and Partagas with its mature, which will be on display in the new vitolas. Also, it was learned that the inauguration of the Trade Fair, the 26 February, will be the point of meeting and exchanges between professionals in the tobacco sector from all over the world, which includes manufacturers, craftsmen, artists and gourmet products.

With the delivery of the Habanos 2017 Awards, and the Traditional Humidor Auction, made by experienced artisans Cubans and whose collection is intended to the Cuban Public Health System, will be the most important event in the world of tobacco.



[Habanos World Challenge App \(iOS\)](#)



## Fifteen years of a new school for a new society



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The idea for the University of Computer Sciences (UCI) was originally conceived by Comandante en Jefe, Fidel Castro Ruz, who proposed a different kind of university, with a new approach to teaching, dedicated to research and development of telecommunication technologies. Today, all the UCI's academic programs are accredited while staff and students prepare to celebrate the institution's 15th anniversary, proud to be representing an innovative institution which has managed to successfully combine both teaching and software production. The UCI's contribution to the computerization of Cuban society

- The UCI provides computing services and applications for over 130 national institutions
- Developed the Nova Operating System, an important achievement which has made a marked contribution to the country's efforts to achieve technological independence

- Developed software to facilitate data analysis of clinical trials
- Computerization of hospital information and management systems
- Designed the model for distance learning courses such as the Agro-industrial processes degree offered by Havana's University of Agriculture. The UCI's Distance Learning Center played a key role in the development of this tool.

### Students, professors & graduates

- 559 professors.
- 1,020 software developers distributed across 14 production centers
- 3,400 students
- 14,458 Computer Sciences graduates (52% of whom have completed their degree in Cuba)

### Teaching

- Degrees: Computer Science Engineering, Bioinformatics Engineering
- Short course (two and a half years): Network management and Computer security
- Specialties: Postgraduate specialization in Computer Security (beginning 2018)
- Distance learning Masters: Project Management (the first of its kind in the country, being launched in February 2018)

### Quality accreditation

- 2012: The university's productive processes are certified for the first time
- 2014: Masters degree course in Software Project Management receives certificate of excellence
- 2016: Computer Science Engineering degree certified by the National Accreditation Board
- 2017: Software Quality Masters degree and Computer Science PhD receive certificate of excellence

### Collaboration

- 107 collaboration agreements with universities and companies abroad
- More research and strategic alliances with different institutions from across the world

### International distinctions

- The number one university in Latin America to have undertaken the most collaboration projects with international and national entities related to free software (2016)
- Third most committed university in Latin America to the development of free software (2016)

### Infrastructure



- CISCO Academy: trains professors to use infrastructure developed by CISCO one of the leading technology entities, dedicated to developing both software and hardware for telecommunications devices
- Technological and "smart" classrooms to boost learning among students and professors
- Computer Mathematics Center: facilitates research on high-performance computers

**"Over 50% Computer Science professionals in the country graduated from the UCI "**