

CUBA

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Embassy of Cuba in Cambodia

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How is the President elected in Cuba?



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There is no need to dig through Cuba's Election Law no.72, dated October 29, 1992, to find the answer. It is explicit, and Dr. José Luis Toledo Santander, president of the National Assembly of People's Power Constitutional and Legal Affairs Commission, gets right to the point.

"The President of Cuba's Council of State is elected in second order elections, that is, deputies elected by the people, in representation of the people, approve the candidature and then vote, in a direct and secret fashion, for those who will make up the Council of State - that is the President, First Vice President, the Vice Presidents, the Secretary, and other members."

At times we hear opinions, not always offered with the best of intentions, that question, according to Dr. Toledo, "whether the election of the President reflects a direct expression by the people.

But they are unaware that for someone to be elected to this position in Cuba, several electoral steps are required, in which the people or their elected representatives participate directly."

During his conversation with Granma, Toledo, also a professor at the University of Havana, outlined the particularities of each stage in the process, so that we can visualize the path that begins, he explains, when the person "is proposed as a pre-candidate for deputy to the National Assembly, in a mass organization leadership plenum." On this occasion, the 605 candidates for national deputy, to be elected this coming March 11 - and from amongst whom the President will emerge - were chosen from 12,000 proposals made in 970 plenums held across the entire country. And among these candidates, 47.7% are constituency delegates, elected by their neighbors in the first stage of the general elections, in October of 2017. Next, Toledo continues, "The National Assembly nominations are the responsibility of the Municipal Assembly of People's Power," a process that is in no way a formality. "This is where the candidature commissions at this level present the pre-candidates, and these are the assemblies that decide, via a direct, public vote, if they approve of someone or not." In fact, to be approved every one of the proposals must have more than half of the yes votes, cast by the delegates present.

In the event that the candidature slate, or one of the proposed candidates, is not approved, the commission is required to present another proposal, which will be subjected to the same procedure.

Facts on Cuba 2018

March 11:

General Elections to be Held.

How is the President elected in Cuba?

"Once nominated as a candidate for deputy, we see another electoral episode take place, that is the people exercising their free, direct, secret vote, be it within a constituency or district, where the deputies are elected."

This moment described by Toledo is scheduled for this coming March 11, when Cuban men and women will also elect delegates to Provincial Assemblies. It should be emphasized, he said, that in accordance with law, "a deputy is elected for every 20,000 residents or fraction of more than 10,000, and even in municipalities that have fewer than 30,000 inhabitants, two deputies are always elected. Thus the National Assembly has representation from the entire people."

He explains, "After being elected and once the delegates have taken their seats in the National Assembly, the National Candidature Commission calls every one of those elected for consultation, and all have the right to propose those who should be, in their opinion, the members of the Council of State, that is, suggest 31 persons, among whom, obviously, one will be the President. "Later, this commission presents for the National Assembly's consideration, in an open vote, a candidature slate that is the product of the proposals made, and deputies have the right to modify it, totally or partially. After being approved, the candidates are submitted to free, direct, and secret vote by deputies. This is when the President of the Council of State is finally elected."

In accordance with the spirit of the Electoral Law, if the President ceases to perform this duty, the Vice President assumes the role. The path taken to complete the process, in Toledo's words, is "the most clear reflection of the participation of the people and the representatives elected by the people. Cuba is not the only country that elects its head of state in second order elections. There are many nations that hold this type of election, which does not limit, in any way, its legitimacy or democratic foundation."

"The vote is an act that is more delicate than any other, since with it comes life, honor, and the future. — José Martí "

Cuban Electoral Authority Finalizes Details for General Elections



Havana, Feb 27 (Prensa Latina) The Cuban National Electoral Commission (CEN) is finalizing details to hold the general elections, which are scheduled for March 11, CEN Vice President Tomas Amaran asserted today.

During a media conference, the official said they had almost decided the definitive number of electoral colleges, because some territories were still making adjustments, he explained.

This time, when we will hold different elections, compared to those on November 26, when delegates to the national Assembly of People's Power were elected, around 143 special colleges will be set to make possible that those

who, for different reasons, cannot vote in the electoral community where they live are able to do it.

Amaran added that 92 electoral districts had been created in the municipalities with a population that exceeds 100,000 inhabitants. Those authorities, established with the objective of speeding up the process, will work as if they were municipal electoral commissions.

He also said that more than 118 electoral authorities in the structures at all levels have participated in the a long process of training.

According to the CEN vice president, the updating of the list of electors concluded today and the information will be processed until tomorrow to present the definitive lists to the municipal electoral commissions on March 5 at the latest.

Besides, they worked restlessly to print the ballot papers, which had been already taken to the different municipalities, he told the news agency Prensa Latina.

The official recalled that as two votes would be held on March 11, two kinds of ballot papers will be available at the electoral colleges, a green ballot paper to vote for the deputies to the National Assembly of the People's Power and a white ballot paper to vote for the delegates to the provincial assemblies. There will be also two ballot boxes properly identified.



US Congressional Delegation Favor Improvement of Ties with Cuba



U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) heads a bicameral congressional delegation visited Cuba during the congressional recess.

HAVANA, (ACN) A bipartisan delegation from the US Congress expressed on Wednesday in Havana the need to improve relations between Cuba and the United States and criticized the hostile policy of the current administration of President Donald Trump.

During a press conference at the US embassy in Havana, the delegation headed by Senator Patrick Leahy insisted in the continuation of the process towards the normalization of relations initiated by former President Barack Obama in 2014. The also Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee said that he disagrees with Trump's decision of restricting travel to Cuba, which "eventually will hurt both countries".

Regarding the alleged sonic attacks reported by US diplomats in Havana, Leahy recognized the cooperation offered by the Cuban government aimed at clarifying the incident while stressing that it was a

mistake to reduce the personnel at the US embassy in Havana and the expulsion of the Cuban diplomats from its embassy in Washington DC.

Representative from Massachusetts, Jim McGovern questioned the travel warnings to Cuba issued by the US State Department to its citizens and pointed out that he is currently visiting the Caribbean island with his family, example of the safety the island offers its foreign visitors. McGovern also called in continuing bilateral dialog in areas like security, law, migration, health and scientific cooperation, in addition to cultural and educational exchanges. Our relation with Cuba has been guided by paranoia for too long, he said, and called the current administration not to repeat the "stupid" and "hostile" policy that was headed by successive US governments for over 50 years towards the Caribbean island.

Senator Ron Wyden from Oregon stressed the importance for the Trump administration to stop returning to the policies of the Cold War that never made sense and urged for the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by Washington to Havana for over five decades.

Before returning to the US Wednesday afternoon and as part of a two-day visit to Havana, President Raul Castro welcomed the Congressional delegation on Tuesday and both sides exchanged on issues of interests for both countries. Among other activities, the US Legislators' agenda included a meeting with the new General Director of the US Division of the Cuban Foreign Ministry, Carlos Fernandez de Cossio who thanked the Congressional delegation for their efforts in attempting to improve relations between the two countries.

Raúl receives U.S. Congressional delegation



Army General Raúl Castro Ruz, President of Cuba's Councils of State and Ministers, received a delegation from the United States Congress, led by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont).

The group also included two other Democratic Senators, Ron Wyden from Oregon and Gary Peters from Michigan, and House Representatives James McGovern (D-Massachusetts) and Susan Davis (D-California).

Affairs of interest to both countries were discussed during the meeting.

Additionally present on the Cuban side were Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla and Carlos Fernández de Cossío, the ministry's general director for the United States.



Trump, The "Fake News" and the Cuba Internet Task Force



Amikal Labañino Valdés / Cubasí Translation Staff

Just as it had been announced the Department of State summoned last Wednesday February 7th the first meeting of the Task Group dedicated to "increase" access to "information" and internet in Cuba.

As the official note reports at the website of the Department of State, the "Internet Team of Cuba made up by government and non-government representatives during next year will examine the technological challenges and opportunities to expand Internet access in Cuba with the objective of helping the Cuban people to enjoy the free and not regulated flow of information".

The new Cuba Internet Task Force is presided over by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Western Hemisphere, John S. Creamer, and besides the Department of State, for other entities like the Cuba Broadcasting Office, the Federal Commission for Communications, the National Administration of Telecommunications and Information of the Commerce Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, Freedom

House and the Information Technology Industry Council. All of them, as it's known, with backgrounds in the history of subversive war of the United States against Cuba.

According to several sources, to the meeting held under fluorescent illumination at a conferences room in the basement of the Department of State, several representatives of the so-called Cuban opposing groups and local entities that promote the full restitution of diplomatic relationships attended.

As expected, AP reported, the "opposers", responding to the voice of their master, charge against the Cuban government, making comparisons with the Second World War and with governments from Syria and Iran. However, and according to AFP, the representatives of the American civil society were not very impressed with the outlined objectives. According to French agency, lawyer Tony Martínez questioned that there isn't in the Department of State any specific group on internet on any other country. Why? Do they believe this is the way to attain the expected changes?? The same source highlighted that activist Cheryl LaBash pointed out that in Detroit, her city in 2015 the 40% of the population didn't have access to internet. I think that the best way of improving access to internet in Cuba would be to negotiate with the Cuban government in a respectful way. Have any of you been in Cuba? LaBash's question to the members of the group only receive silence for an answer. The always present topic of the so-called "independent" media on its defense some argued that any North American plan would backfire because it would undermine the independence and credibility that it's perceived in the flourishing "independent" media in Cuba. On the other hand, the leader of the group, Undersecretary of State John Creamer who must deliver a final report by late October with recommendations to the Secretary of State and the President, remarked that the Cuban government leaks and blocks websites in an attempt to prevent Cubans from having the opportunity to criticize Cuban institutions and politicians. These sort of aggressive acts have a chilling effect in the exercise of freedom of speech.

"It is unethical to criticize the so called fake news in US while they create media machineries to export false news to other nations"

Speaking of freedom of speech, the new task force created by the U.S. government for the media subversion against Cuba, it should concentrate its efforts and resources to take care of the problems that in this regard the United States face at present. As the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein alerted in Geneva: "the freedom of press and the integrity of journalists are at stake in the United States under the Administration of President Donald Trump. "Trump is undermining the freedom of press, while dangerous events already in motion could lead to an increase of violence against journalists", said Zeid in that opportunity.

The official spoke of Trump's constant accusations that the media produce fake news, the famous term coined by the leader to refer to lies or false news, and his repeated verbal attacks against the newspapers The New York Times, The Washington Post or the television CNN. On top of that, in January this year, the International Press Institute (IPI) announced that it will carry an international mission to the United States to evaluate the changes in the media and the freedom of press panorama and expose its concerns to the related authorities. IPI, like the entire world, doesn't see with very good eyes those repeated attacks against journalists and media during Trump's presidential campaign that included verbal harassment and denial of press credentials.

For anyone with some brains is highly counteractive and paradoxical that the first censor of the United States evaluates in October the "freedom of speech" in Cuba. There isn't greater machinery of "fake news" than the one usually used by the sort of task force groups like the recently created against Cuba against those countries that don't bend before the imperial hegemony, like the cases of Venezuela, Iran or Syria.

It will certainly be unethical to criticize the fake news at home while they create media machineries to export to other nations.

Cuba cannot be defeated



Cuba will continue along its own path, and as much as submissive and servile lackeys, like the current Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Luis Almagro, would like to destroy us, they will never be able to do so. This according to Cuba's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rogelio Sierra in response to recent interventionist remarks by Almagro regarding Cuba's electoral process.

According to Rogelio Sierra, the OAS Secretary General "tried to misrepresent the electoral process underway (in Cuba) in an attempt to de-legitimize it, in a show of support for campaigns against the Cuban Revolution and their allies." "The Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS)," noted Sierra "has no moral or ethical credibility whatsoever to judge what the Cuban government and people are doing. He is making a big mistake by failing to acknowledge, by ignoring, the Cuban people's decision to be sovereign and independent," he stated, in reference to remarks made by Almagro in an event held recently in Miami. The main theme of the Secretary General's speech, with a heavily interventionist

tone, was the Cuban electoral process, a subject on which he demonstrated a great lack of understanding.

During his speech Almagro noted that a non-democratic succession of power must not be permitted in Cuba – ignoring the fact that the island has a participative electoral system which ensures that the President of the Councils of State and Ministers is elected with support of the vast majority of the Cuban people. Almagro also made the most of the occasion to insult the Cuban government, which he described as a "regime" and "dictatorship," while categorizing the Cuban Revolution as a "dangerous example;" in remarks which contradict those made when he visited the island alongside former President of Uruguay Pepe Mujica. So when was Almagro lying, now or then? In this regard, the Secretary General of the OAS also mentioned another of his "favorite topics," Venezuela and the government of Nicolás Maduro, which he described as a "clumsy attempt to replicate the Cuban experience."

With the Eighth Summit of the Americas, to be held in Peru only months away, Almagro's speech in Miami comes as he seeks to build support for his interventionist plans against progressive governments in the region. Thus, once again the Organization of American States (OAS) has demonstrated that rather than working for a more united and prosperous region, it seeks to create divisions and tension between all its member-states, just as Washington intended when the group was founded.

Cuban youth demand the return of Guantánamo Bay



Cuban youth took to social media to demand the return of the territory occupied by the United States in Guantánamo province, where Washington continues to maintain a Naval Base and prison, which has received international condemnation as a torture center. The report notes that a Twitter campaign was launched in the morning featuring the hashtags #ReturnGuantanamoCubaNow, #USOutOfGuantanamo, #EEUUFueraDeGuantanamo and #DevuelvanGuantanamoCubaYa!

In addition to an end to the economic, financial and commercial blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba for over 55 years, the return of the territory illegally occupied by the U.S. Naval Base in Guantánamo also constitutes an essential step toward

normalizing relations between the two countries. Cuba regards U.S. facilities based in the territory as illegal, and a violation of its territorial integrity.

The United States took possession of the area in 1903 by imposing conditions on Cuba in exchange for help securing its independence from Spain. Meanwhile, since the triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, the island's government has denounced the illegal occupation of a part of its territory by the U.S. on repeated occasions and in diverse settings. Since that time the base has become a site of constant threats, provocations and violations of Cuban sovereignty orchestrated by the U.S., intended to hamper the revolutionary process. Cuba has had to withstand almost 60 years of aggression which includes dropping materials from planes stationed at the base, provocations, insults, aggression by U.S. soldiers, terrestrial and maritime violations by U.S. military vessels and aircraft, as well as the torture and murder of residents of the area. Furthermore, the territory is also home to a globally condemned prison and torture center, whose closure has, and continues to be called for by organizations and personalities from across the world, including in the U.S. and UN. Despite mentions of closing the prison by the Barack Obama administration, to date the facility remains operational, with President Donald Trump reaffirming his administration's intention to keep it open January 31. As such Guantánamo Bay will no doubt remain a source of tension between the two countries and an issue which continues to violate Cuba's sovereignty.

Preserving the Ideas and Work of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz



Working Group in charge of elaborating proposals for the creation of an institution that will conserve and promote the memory of the leader of the Cuban Revolution **Autor: ACN**

Cuban President and First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party headed a meeting in which a working group was created in charge of elaborating proposals for the foundation of an institution destined to the preservation of document heritage, research and promotion of the ideas and work of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz.

To carry out such important work, characterized by Raul as vital and which will be attended by the maximum leadership of the country, some 30 experts from different specialties and representatives of several institutions and entities were summoned to work on the project.

According to the First Vice President of the Council of State and Ministers, Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez, in charge of making sure the task is carried out, the objective of the institution is to perpetrate and collect valuable information that has been treasured for years on the activities of the leader of the Revolution during his life

and which is part of the historic memory of the nation.

To such effect, Presidential Decree Number 21 was executed in which a group of comrades will be selected to elaborate ideas to create the institution to be headed by Alberto Alvares Atienzar. Alvares who announced the work chronology said that on behalf of all present, he will take on the historic task of great political responsibility, adding that they will work with absolute dedication.

The Presidential Decree points out that the proposals to be presented, should be defined, among other issues, with the conceptual foundation, principles, mission, functions and structure of the institution.

The decision is in harmony with what is stipulated in Law number 1213 of December 27th, 2016 on the use of the name and figure of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz to name any future institution created for the study of his valuable trajectory in the history of the nation.



Cuba marks 123 Years since Jose Marti's War Of Independence



Jose Martí Monument at Revolution Square. Cuba.

Marti, who insisted on taking an active role in the conflict, was killed May 19, 1895, when his group was ambushed by Spanish soldiers.

Cuba is commemorating the 123rd anniversary of the start of the Cuban War of Independence, along with its emblematic leader, national hero Jose Marti.

The Independence War began February 24, 1895, under the intellectual direction of writer and philosopher Marti.

It was to prove his ultimate undoing: Marti, who insisted on taking an active role in the conflict, was killed May 19, 1895, when his group was ambushed by Spanish soldiers at Colonel Jimenez de Sandoval's command.

Decades later, the Necessary War, as Marti called it, would inspire the late revolutionary leader Fidel Castro during the War of National Liberation between 1956 and 1958.



Cuba Hosts Discussion on Caribbean Environment Management



Havana, Feb 26 (Prensa Latina) Caribbean representatives, non-governmental organizations and UN expert agencies began today in this capital a meeting of the leading committee of the Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (GEF-IWEco Project).

This initiative, coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), includes national projects in Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the regional contribution by Barbados and Grenada.

GEF-IWEco is a regional multi-focal project designed for a five-year term (2017-2022) that includes elements related to biodiversity, land degradation,

international waters, sustainable forest management and a small-financing aid program.

UNEP Regional Project Coordinator Jan Betlem said GEF-IWEco had the objective of contributing to the preservation of ecosystems in the Caribbean and the sustainability of the means of life, applying existing verified technologies and proper approaches for small island developing States

Lorna Inniss, from the UNEP coordinating office for the Caribbean, said integrating water, land and ecosystems was the only way to make progress regarding the regional goals in reference to sustainable development.

She added that despite the existence of national projects, the initiative had a greater scope. Thus, joint efforts were required.

According to Odalys Goicochea, director for the environment at the Cuban Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, protection of the environment and natural resources were strategic issues in the process to update the Cuban economic system and its agenda up to 2030, due to the importance of sustainable development for those purposes.

Goicochea explained that the work by Cuba was focused on three general objectives: preservation of natural resources and stopping deterioration of ecosystems, fighting climate change and increasing the environment quality.

The event agenda includes, among other activities, the presentation of the working plan for 2018 and the visit to the community Peñas Altas, where a urban-waste treatment program is being carried out.

Varadero Selected as One of the Best Beaches in the World



Varadero is renowned for its crystal clear waters and as a safe place to visit

Varadero, Cuba's number one beach resort, was voted third best in the world, according to the 2018 Travelers' Choice Awards, sponsored by TripAdvisor, which honor the best and safest tourist destinations around the globe.

Cuba came in behind Grace Bay (Turks and Caicos Islands), and Baia Do Sancho in Brazil, on the list of the 25 best beaches on the planet. The rankings were decided based on the opinions of millions of users from different countries collected over the last 12 months, who highlighted the security, beauty and crystal clear waters of Cuba's number one beach resort.

The award also confirms Varadero's popularity among national and international tourists alike, as well as being a safe place for visitors.

In 2017, Cuba received over four million interna-

tional tourists, while Varadero – home to 52 hotels and an international airport – saw a record 1,700,000 visitors, thus registering over one million for the 10th year in a row.

To this must be added the fact that Cuba was named "the safest country for tourism" this past January during the 38th International Tourism Fair, in Madrid, Spain.

Cuba welcomed some 4 million 700 vacationers in 2017 and is expecting 5 million tourists by the end of the year.

Cuban Cigar sales hit record as China demand surges



On a roll

A surge in sales of Cuba's legendary cigars in China helped manufacturer Habanos S.A.'s global revenue rise 12 percent to hit a record of around \$500 million last year, the company said on Monday at the start of Cuba's annual cigar festival.

Sudden demand in China

Habanos S.A., a 50-50 joint venture between the Cuban state and Britain's Imperial Brands Plc, said sales in China, its third export market after Spain and France, jumped 33 percent in value in 2017. "Without doubt, there is potential for China to become the biggest market at a global level," Habanos Vice President of Development Jose María Lopez told Reuters after the company's annual news conference, while puffing on a smoke.

Best in the world

The Cuban cigar company's hand-rolled cigars, which include brands such as Cohiba, Montecristo and Partagas, are considered by many as the best in the world, and the festival attracts wealthy tobacco aficionados and retailers from all over for a week of extravagant parties and tours of plantations and factories. Lopez said that growth in global sales of Cuban cigars last year outpaced the luxury goods market, which expanded 5 percent, according to consultancy Bain & Co. He put sales growth down to several good tobacco harvests and new products. The Habanos executive said the outlook was also positive, given solid demand and "excellent" climatic conditions. Hurricane Irma, which wrought havoc throughout much of Cuba last year, left the western, prime tobacco-growing state of Pinar del Rio mostly unscathed.

Top exports for Cuban economy

Cigars are one of the top exports for the Cuban economy. However, the Caribbean island cannot sell its signature export to the biggest market worldwide for cigars, the United States, due to the decades-old US trade embargo.

Trump's hostility has no effect on sales. Improved US-Cuba relations under former US President Barack Obama stoked a boom in international travel to Cuba and boosted cigar sales on the island, with American visitors able to take home as many cigars as they wanted. Lopez said US President Donald Trump's more hostile policy toward Cuba, including tighter restrictions on US travel, did not appear to have impacted sales so far. Domestic revenue rose around 15 percent last year. "We trust that despite Trump's measures the Cuban market will continue to grow in 2018," he said.

Cuban symbol

Cigars have been Cuba's signature product ever since Christopher Columbus saw natives smoking rolled up tobacco leaves when he first sailed to the Caribbean island in 1492. Late revolutionary leader Fidel Castro was often seen puffing on his favored kind, the long and thin 'lancero', until he quit in 1985.

Tobacco Plantations Focus Activity of Habano Festival



Written By Roberto F. Campos (Prensa Latina)

ing the leaves, they should be collected from 70 to 80 days after, which explains that during that period (obligatory) work requires great attention, in a land culture related to traditions.

The Habanos S.A. international corporation, created in 1994, exports to 150 countries in 27 different brands that surpass 220 cigar bands, 350 references and about 80 gallery bands or industry formats, for a network of over 150 Habano Houses distributed worldwide. The field is the starting point of all this work, when this version of the Festival is dedicated first and foremost to the brands Cohiba and Partagas.

To learn about tobacco plantations of the western Pinar del Rio province is one of the activities for participants in the 20th Habano Festival. To tour tobacco plantations of the Vuelta Abajo zone means a 'must' of the agenda of this meeting where traders, experts, artists and habano lovers are gathered. Vuelta Abajo is the richest land for the cultivation of tobacco leaves, for the exclusive quality of the soil and the experience of producers, farmers with a long history of caring for these plantations.

Many of the farmers of these plantations have a work-group of 10, given its quality of being a family crop to preserve traditions and quality of the leaves. Some of these families collect 2.4 tons of tobacco leaves per hectare. Nonetheless, the main focus of their efforts is in raising the quality of the yield. As for the task of the seed beds, in general, work there lasts 35 days and then after plant-

Cuban Tobacco Industry Renews Proposals Every Year



The Cuban tobacco industry renews every year its proposals for the international market, above all in habanos, Premium cigars (hand-rolled) claiming today the attention of experts all over the world. Such criteria was repeated this week at the Convention Center of Havana, opinions that agree in giving this island's cigars the crown of the best of their type worldwide.

Precisely, during the realization of the 20th Habano Festival that ends next Friday, March 2, a series of meetings and dialogues among businesspeople and professionals of the sector insist on those opinions.

This occurs despite the barriers of the United States against this island that for some, represent a total blockade to trade, worsened recently after more than half a century.

The proof of these opinions is found among the two thousand attendants from 70 countries to this Festival and can be accessed in the new portfolio of products that appeared during the first day of the fair, samples of what will be on sale in 2018 throughout the world.

As the first surprise for smokers and specialists is the Cohiba Robustos Reserve Harvest of 2014, an habano in which the leaves used as refill and cover used were submitted to a long and careful process of ageing for three years.

This Reserve 2014 of Cohiba is a unique production of five thousand numbered boxes (in the cigar world are known for the most common mortals as boxes of 25 units each).

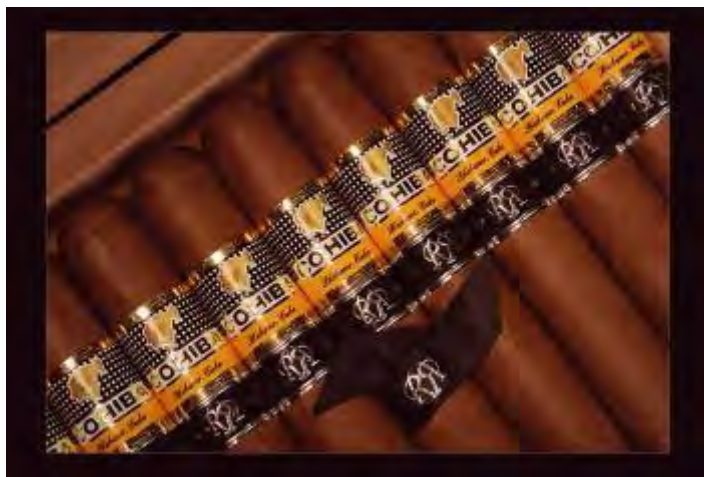
Cohiba is the most prestigious and emblem brand of all habanos, starting with its Classic Line developed from 1966 to 1989 of flavor medium to strong.

After that, it was joined by Line 1492 (1992), the Cohiba Maduro 5 (2007), and in 2009 appeared the first Great Reserve of Habanos in its emblematic band VI Century, one of the most talked about and still strongly attract smokers. After that followed (2010) the line Cohiba Behike, the most exclusive, in 2012 with the first figurado or pointed band in the Classic Line, the Pyramids Extra and two years ago, the humidor cabinet Cohiba 50th Anniversary, with 50 units and the special edition Cohiba Majestics 1966.

Finally, in 2017 the limited edition of Cohiba Talisman was presented. But this 2018 there are many more novelties of other brands, as Partagas Maduro Line, the Hoyo de Monterrey, Le Hoyo Rio Seco, the Vegueros Centrofinos and the Humidor Romeo and Juliet Grand Churchills.

All this includes the best leaves and mixed (formula) in response to market trends, besides filling with pride the Cuban producers, be them in the field or in industry.

Authorities of the international corporation Habanos S.A. also showed other novelties such as the 2018 Limited Editions with Romeo and Juliet Tacos, Bolivar Sovereign and H.Upmann Propios and products for the world chain of La Casa del Habano and for specialists of these cigars.



Tributo 2018, First Cuban Smoked Rum



Havana (Prensa Latina) Tributo 2018 is the first Cuban smoked rum, produced in a limited edition with only 1,500 bottles for the whole world.

This edition of Tributo, honor the experts's contribution of a barrel for the rum, allowing to discover nuances given by the barrel wood. It also has a special case that looks like the white oak wood, said Cristiasn Barre, director-general of the company Havana Club International Inc., during the presentation.

This year, he explained, we will expand the production of the product and reach 21 countries, but not the amount of bottles.

During the presentation ceremony, held in the context of the 20th edition of the Habanos Festival, which is developing in this capital until March 2, Abel Alvarez, sales director to the company, highlighted that the rum was a jewel among the Havana Club rums, designed to be tasted while

smoking Habanos.

We have great expectations, based on the success of the editions Tributo 2016 and Tributo 2017, he said before specifying that there were 330 bottles had been set aside for Cuba. Cuban rum expert Asbel Morales announced that there would be new surprises in 2019, especially due to the emphasis we will make on the making of the rum.

Havana Club on the shelves of the world



HAVANA, Cuba, (ACN) Famous Cuban rum Havana club continues to increasingly consolidate its presence in world markets with new prospects in 2018.

Havana Club International S.A. Corporation president Christian Barre told reporters that his entity expects to market over 4.5 million 9-liter cases this year in major markets like Germany, France and Cuba itself.

Out of these three markets, Cuba shows sustained growth as the figures of foreign visitors hit records with some 4.7 million in 2017.

However, Barre said that the Cuban rum is highly demanded in other countries like the U.K., Spain, Italy, Canada, Mexico and Russia. Interesting enough is that Havana Club Rum is increasingly being demanded in China and Japan, while its world roads also begin to extend

to new destinations such as Thailand, Vietnam and Singapore, the executive noted.

At present, Havana Club rums are present at over 125 world markets, with the exception of the United States due to the economic, commercial and financial blockade that Washington imposes on the Caribbean island nation.

Havana Club International was set up in 1993 by Cuba Ron Corporation and France's Pernod Ricard Group.

