



POLITICS

The United States and Uruguay Sign a Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement

Agreement will broaden bilateral cooperation in all scientific and technology fields



During a ceremony at the Department of State, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Foreign Minister of Uruguay Gonzalo Fernandez today signed a bilateral Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement.

The new agreement provides a mechanism through which the United States and Uruguay can broaden cooperation in all scientific and technology fields, and move forward in areas of collaboration

such as energy, health issues, science and technology education, engineering, sustainable development, agriculture, and natural resources. It will support government-to-government exchanges and scientific partnerships between private, academic, and non-governmental entities.

The agreement establishes a framework to facilitate exchange of scientific results and provides protection for intellectual property rights. This is the fifth such bilateral cooperation agreement signed between the United States and a Latin American partner, after Brazil, Chile, Argentina, and Mexico.

Today's agreement with Uruguay prioritizes the study of biodiversity through the collection, conservation, and exchange of biological and genetic resources in cooperative projects, which are often the key to advancing agricultural science and medicine, and understanding the impact of climate change on the environment.

A new downtown Landmark celebrating Kansas City – Missouri

Inauguration of the Grand Boulevard of the Americas



A new downtown landmark celebrating Kansas City's multicultural spirit and international stature was inaugurated on April 14. At 1 p.m., Kansas City's office of international affairs and trade hosted a ceremony to dedicate the Grand Boulevard of the Americas Flag display and kick off events commemorating Pan American Day. James Malouff III, an area businessman and longtime civic booster, is the mastermind and muscle behind the Pan American Initiative in Kansas City. Two years ago, he pitched the Grand Boulevard of the Americas and Western Hemisphere flags proposal to the City Council's International Committee. In July 2006, the City Council approved a resolution to

rename the 1.5-mile section of Grand Boulevard from 3rd Street to 22nd Street. The following spring, the council passed an ordinance authorizing the purchase and installation of the flags along Grand Boulevard of the Americas and approved funding. Boris Svetogorsky Marino shakes hands with James Malouff III. Boris Svetogorsky Marino President of the Asociación Consular Iberoamericana (ACIC) and Consul general of Uruguay was the keynote speaker at the ceremony of the inauguration of the Boulevard of the Americas. Svetogorsky-Marino thanked Mayor Mark Funkhouser for the invitation to this great event, saying, "This event reflects the importance that this city gives to our countries" He also said that the Boulevard of the Americas projected should be looked on as an alternative path to grow our trade, promote our products, and access America's Midwest market. Svetogorsky-Marino also mentioned that 41.3 million Hispanics lives in United States . This Hispanic presence in the United States has raised the nation into fifth position among the Spanish-speaking countries in the world. **(2 world Kansas City)**

Uruguay asks for CIA declassification

Uruguayan President Vazquez has sent a letter to President Bush asking for the declassification of all dirty war records. From AFP:

"My government hopes it can count on the cooperation of the US government in clarifying all disappearances and human rights violations during that painful period in Uruguay's history," Vazquez told Bush in a letter already sent to the White House.

The letter, Vazquez' office said, was suggested by the opposition National Party (NP) last month to help an investigation into the 1978 poison murder of Cecilia Fontana, the wife of then NP leader Mario Heber.

In addition to information on Fontana's murder -- she was poisoned with a bottle of wine intended for her husband, Vazquez also asked Bush to declassify all documents dealing with Uruguay when it was under the military dictatorship.

The documents are all over 25 years old and could not possibly contain many classified secrets that would cause harm to the US (possibly shame or embarrassment, but not harm). We should make every effort to declassify the documents, provide truthful answers about what occurred and allow the countries some closure.

Uruguay & Venezuela Researchers Arrive in Antarctica



Venezuelan scientists and military officers took part in the country's first visit to Antarctica. The 15-day voyage took the crew 2,300 miles over the span of 15 days before reaching its destination on Friday.

Oyarvide, the naval research ship, was provided by Uruguay despite criticisms aimed toward President Tabare Vazquez for his decision to allow the Venezuelan researchers aboard. Vazquez's aides referred to the allowance as a gesture of friendship.

The crew was composed of 11 scientists and five naval officers. Upon arrival, the crew was met by high winds and choppy seas which hindered their ability to fully disembark.

"The Oyarvide arrived late Friday but only the mission chief, Uruguayan Navy Capt. Ricardo Young, and a Venezuelan naval official could disembark," Uruguayan army Maj. Juan Nunez told The Associated Press.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez intends to build a research station on the continent. During the current visit, the team will study

various topics including climate change.

Chavez referred to the team as "pioneers" when he announced their journey last month.

The mission is expected to last 45 days overall. It was approved by Uruguay's congress.

China and Uruguay celebrate 20th anniversary of diplomatic ties

China and Uruguay celebrated the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties here on Friday.

At a reception hosted by the Chinese People's Association For Friendship With Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), Vice President Li Jianping said that over the past 20 years, the two countries have kept frequent exchanges at all levels, and conducted fruitful cooperation in agriculture, technology, education and other areas.

Bilateral people-to-people exchanges have seen rapid increase, he said, adding that CPAFFC is to work closely with the Uruguayan embassy to contribute to the friendly exchanges between the two peoples and governments.

Uruguayan Ambassador to China Luis Leonardo Almagro Lemes said China is Uruguay's most important trading partner in Asia, and that his country would unswervingly

stick to the one-China policy. Senior Chinese legislator and Chairman of China-Latin America Friendship Association Cheng Siwei attended the occasion. **(Xingua)**

Uruguay & Venezuela to launch satellite

(UPI) - Uruguay and Venezuela have decided to work together to launch a communications satellite to be used by both South American nations.

The satellite, which comes with a \$250 million price tag, reportedly will enable both nations to improve their respective telecommunication and Internet capacities, Uruguay's El País newspaper reported Monday.

A launch date and location has yet to be set, however



ECONOMICS

Uruguay - South America's Safest Bet Industry, Real Estate & Construction



Press release from: E-Quity.com

Known as the Switzerland of South America, Uruguay is being seen as a safe emerging market destination for investors looking to balance risk with reward...

Located in the south-eastern part of South America, on the coastline between its more illustrious neighbours, Brazil and Argentina, Uruguay is fast becoming a place that property investors are warming to.

With a history of democracy and an increasingly stable economy, this Latin American nation is renowned for its European approach to business and politics; therefore it's little wonder that Uruguay is known as 'the Switzerland of South America.

Social Stability

With a population of more than 3.5 million, Uruguay is recognized for its progress in education, an advanced welfare system and its liberal laws on social issues such as same sex marriage and divorce.

An excellent climate, one of the continent's lowest poverty rates, as well as good access to health care contribute to a higher than average life expectancy for the country's residents.

Uruguay has a well-educated work force and high levels of social spending – it is a relatively prosperous country and does not share some of its neighbours' problems of unemployment, inequality, poverty and rundown neighbourhoods, which has resulted in the lowest level of crime in South America.

Politically Sound

Uruguay is a representative democratic republic, the only constitutional democracy in Latin America, whereby the President of the country is both head of state and of the government.

The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature, which reduces the chance of the legal system being corrupted or bribed, and according to Transparency International, Uruguay is the second least corrupt country in Latin America, after Chile.

the same time through a form of co-ownership or condominium.

Economic Growth

With the country's tourism trade on the up and a healthy agriculture industry providing a solid base, the Uruguayan economy is as strong as it's ever been.

The economy has continued to grow impressively since 2004, a direct result of high commodity prices for exports, a competitive peso, on-going regional development and low international interest rates.

Low Risk

Uruguay has strong laws to prevent bribery and other corrupt practices. In 2005, Uruguay ranked 32nd in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index, and was second in Latin America. A law against corruption in the public sector was approved in 1998, and acceptance of a bribe is a felony under the country's penal code.

Buying Property in Uruguay

Foreigners can purchase property and land in Uruguay in their own names on a 100% freehold basis; this is still relatively rare in emerging markets.

Ownership of property in Uruguay is an absolute and exclusive right as set out in their constitution. In addition to sole ownership, it's also possible for property to be owned jointly by several legal persons at

Finances

Uruguay has a finance system which is easy to understand and very securely regulated. Mortgages exist and can be arranged both for homeowners and buy to let purchases, while the Uruguayan law recognizes that resident and foreign investors should have the same legal rights and protection.

Opening a bank account is fairly easy and The Uruguayan state bank, Banco Republica, has by far the easiest account opening process for non-residents. With the account you receive an ATM card, which can be used to withdraw money in Uruguay or abroad, and you can also access your account via the Internet.

Conclusion

Uruguay is now firmly on the map as an emerging property location. With a thriving economy, steady political system, warm weather and wonderful beaches, this South American country with a European attitude and Latin heart is a safe bet for any international investor.

Uruguayan Foreign Trade Still Okay

Uruguayan foreign trade did not show any sign of weakening in the first quarter of 2008, despite the recession of the US economy, the Uruguay XXI Institute reported on Tuesday.

In the studied period, national exports reached 1.37 billion dollars, 37 percent more than the same period of 2007, and national imports went up to 1.76 billion dollars, 52 percent more than in the same period last year.

Far from lessening, meat sales and tourism increased 40 percent, and other items such as grains, dairy products and wood also increased.

Uruguayan exports maintained a positive course, despite decrease of sales to the US from 156 to 44 million dollars from the first quarter of 2007 to the similar period in 2008, a decrease of 70 percent.

The fall was compensated by large purchases from Argentina (40 percent), Brazil (60 percent) and Russia (300 percent). - **(Prensa Latina)**

Uruguay-Venezuela Dealing in Oil

Montevideo, Apr 18 **(Prensa Latina)** Uruguayan ANCAP state oil company, and Venezuelan PDVSA will agree on the terms for the joint exploitation of a sector of the latter's Orinoco Strip early in May, it was revealed in this capital.

Both entities will sign a memorandum of understanding on the technical project and investment plan for the operation of part of the Ayacucho oilfield in the Venezuelan state of Anzoategui.

The Uruguayan investment would not exceed 10 percent of the total, while Venezuela's is likely to be over 60 percent in each well.

The project is expected to begin operating by 2011, and would meet between fifty and eighty percent of Uruguayan oil demand, currently at one million barrels monthly.



Kosher meat on record barbecue in Uruguay

Kosher steak was the appetizer of sorts at the world's largest barbecue.

Uruguay on Sunday set a world record for the largest barbecue when 1,200 chefs grilled nearly 26,500 pounds of meat on a star-shaped grill nearly a mile long.

Officials worked with Chabad-Lubavitch of Uruguay to make one kosher steak before the rest of the non-kosher steaks were cooked. Chabad said the grill had never been used, so there was no problem with kashrut.

The event was used as publicity to sell Uruguayan beef, according to Chabad. Uruguay wanted to include kosher meat as part of its showcase, as the nation exports more than 24 million pounds of

kosher meat annually to Israel, the United States and elsewhere

Emerging market sovereigns growth seen slowing between 2007 & 2009 - S&P –including Uruguay

(Thomson Financial) - Standard and Poor's Ratings Services in a recent article said the five year run of emerging market sovereign upgrades exceeding downgrades may be nearing an end, as it forecast that 27 of the 42 sovereigns growth will slow, and the general government balances of 21 will deteriorate between 2007 and 2009.

But, according to near term forecasts the fiscal and external debt dynamics for most emerging market sovereigns will not worsen, S&P said.

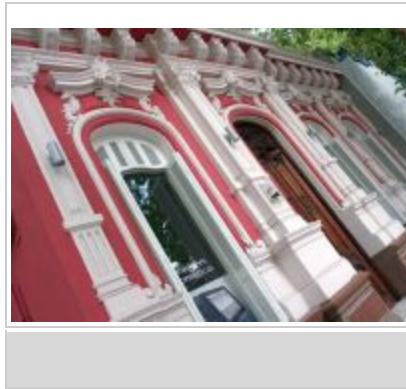
S&P said although upgrades still outnumber downgrades and positive outlooks are more than the negative outlooks, macroeconomic data are mixed and many particular credit stories are nuanced.

S&P said it continues to hold the view it stated last September, that it does not believe conditions in the credit markets of industrial economies will revert to the status quo ante, but believes the spillover

effects to emerging markets will be contained.

As of Apr. 14, Brazil, China, Malaysia, Peru, Poland, Russia, Slovak Republic, Trinidad & Tobago, and Uruguay all had positive outlooks. While, Hungary, Pakistan, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, and Sri Lanka had negative outlooks and the Dominican Republic was on watch negative.

ICG Software opens own headquarters in Uruguay



To carry out a mayor expansion plan for the Southern Cone. The opening ceremony will be performed by the Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining of Uruguay. In the spirit of projects of social and cultural nature, the seat of ICG Software in Uruguay is located in a landmark building of historical interest for the city of Montevideo built in 1911, which we have restored.

Responding to the need to increment our international expansion, the ICG Software group will open an own office in the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, in

order to foster the strong growth of business in the Southern Cone.

The opening ceremony, to be held on March 25 at the facilities of ICG Uruguay in Montevideo, will be chaired by His Excellency Mr. Daniel Martínez, Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay. Also present at this event, among other authorities, are the Municipal Mayor of Montevideo, Ricardo Ehrlich, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry, Gerardo Gadea, the Adjunct Consul General of Spain, Antonio Ruiz de Casas, representatives of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Information Technology and our president of ICG Software, Andreu Pi.

With this new inversion we respond to the need to develop our future plans in the South American countries, and to establish, a decade after our arrival in this Latin American country, an own delegation in Uruguay, while we join the interests of the Government of Uruguay to advance the technological and economical development of the area

On the other hand, in the spirit once again engage us in social and cultural projects, the new headquarters of ICG Uruguay in a landmark building of historical interest for the city of Montevideo, which we have restored to preserve the national heritage of the country.

Iran for Business with Uruguay

(Prensa Latina) Iran is showing interest in building a cement plant in Uruguay and signing an agreement with that South American nation based on the exchange of oil for rice, reported El País daily on Monday.

The president of the National Administration of Fuel, Alcohol, and Portland (ANCAP), Raul Sendic, said that the proposals are under study.

On Friday, ANCAP manager's office presented a project to restore and enlarge the cement plant of Paysandú, about 233 miles northwest of Montevideo, to a delegation of the Iranian government's foreign Investment Agency.

According to the daily, it is essential for ANCAP to make investments in the cement sector to end with its losses in the Portland division, which is amounting to about six million dollars a year. Regarding the Iranian proposal of supplying oil to Uruguay and charge it for rice, Sendic predicted that he will travel to Tehran in mid April to discuss a deal on that issue.

Uruguay Trading with Japan

At the Inter American Development Bank conference in Japan, the Uruguayan deputy director of Economy and Finances, Mario Bergara, assured that his country is "the best connection point to distribute foreign products in Latin America." The official explained

that the interest is to boost Japanese investment in that nation, which would encourage trade of Uruguayan products in Japan.

The agenda of the eight-day visit is aimed at informing on the great investment potential of Japan in the region.

He noted plans of Montevideo to increase exports of wood to Japan. Bergara acknowledged that the economy of his country needs foreign investment to maintain sustainable growth. **(Prensa Latina).**

Portucel awaiting response from Uruguay to install a paper factory and pulp plant.

LISBON - Portucel - Empresa Produtora de Pasta e Papel SA has submitted its proposal for a \$1.6 billion to \$3 billion paper and pulp factory to the Uruguayan government and is awaiting a response, Uruguayan daily La República reported, citing CEO Jose Honorio.

The newspaper cited Honorio as saying that 'we are very serious about the possibility of making Uruguay the location of one of our projects.'

Portucel has been reported to be considering Brazil, Mozambique and Angola as possible locations for its pulp plant. (Thomson Financial)

First apples from Uruguay arrived in Europe



The import season for top fruit from South America has started in Europe. Today the first Royal Gala apples from Uruguay arrived at Jaguar, the fresh company. "We have large import programs with top fruit and citrus from South Africa," says Eddy Jager, who is responsible for the import from South America at Jaguar, the fresh company.

Eddy Jager says the quality of the first apples is very well. "The quality and the size of the apples is better than last year. Last year, the apples were relatively small, but this year the size, the quality and the colour are good," says Eddy Jager.

Jaguar, the fresh company will import the varieties Royal Gala, Fuji, Granny Smith and Crisp Pink from Uruguay. The apples from Uruguay are packed under the labels Migranja and Urodor. Later on, the apples will also be available under Jaguar's own label.

MERCOSUR

EU and MERCOSUR Trade Increases

Brussels, Apr 15 (Prensa Latina) The imports of the European Union from the South Common Market (MERCOSUR) in 2006 went up to 55 billion dollars compared to 45.62 billion in 2004, said EU statistics office Eurostat Tuesday.

The study revealed that Brazil is accountable for three quarters of this trade, since 2006 was a year in which it spent 27.55 billion dollars in European products and sold others for 42.9 billion dollars to the old continent.

The other main commercial partners in America were Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay with 20.7, 3.5 and 0.8 percent respectively. In the case of European imports the situation was similar. Brazil exported 76.6 percent, followed by Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay with 20.6, 2 and 0.9 percent respectively.

Most of the European imports from MERCOSUR in 2006 were on agricultural and mineral products, while exports were on electric and industrial machinery, and transport equipment. Germany made 30 percent of the MERCOSUR imports, followed by France and Italy, with 14.9 and 13.4 percent respectively.

Germany also led the EU exports to MERCOSUR with 18 percent. Holland and Italy followed it in the list.

Morocco calls for tariff preference agreement with MERCOSUR

The position was manifested at a meeting of diplomats from Morocco and the Mercosur, earlier this week, in Rabat. The South American bloc, on the other hand, prefers a free trade agreement. Both sides will continue to discuss the subject late this year, in a new meeting to be held in Brazilian capital Brasília.

Morocco wants the agreement it is negotiating with the Mercosur to be one of fixed tariff preference. The position was manifested during the meeting of government officials from the two regions held in Rabat, in the Arab country. According to information supplied by the representatives of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Relations who attended the meeting, the Mercosur stated its preference for a free trade agreement.

The Arab country's intention to have a tariff preference agreement was manifested by the Foreign Relations director at the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Relations, Khalid Sayad, who was the chief negotiator for the country at the meeting. A tariff preference agreement means that the number of products involved in the agreement is limited, defined by the two parties, and that only a reduction or discount is allowed on import tariffs. In a free trade

agreement, in turn, most of the products historically traded between the two sides are included, and tariffs are reduced to zero. The Moroccans also became interested in learning about the level of integration among Mercosur countries, as well as about the laws in each of the bloc's member states. Information exchange should continue to take place, from a distance, until late June. According to the Itamaraty, there is a positive feeling in Morocco regarding the Mercosur and vice versa.

CULTURE

Uruguay: TANGO "La Cumparsita" 365 different Versions

Montevideo, Apr 16 (Prensa Latina) The famous tango "La Cumparsita" will be heard here for one year in the 365 versions of the world's most famous tango as of Saturday in the same place where it was performed for the first time 91 years ago.

An official report from Municipal Intendance of Montevideo (IMM) reads that diverse traditional groups will perform throughout a year in the corner of Palacio Salvo, downtown Uruguayan capital the famous Tango written by Gerardo Matos.

Sponsored by IMM and in coordination with Tourism, Education and Culture Ministries, the initiative is aimed at incorporating this intangible

patrimony to the city of Montevideo, making it public.

The first public performing of "Tango La Cumparsita" was carried out by the Argentine group of Roberto Firpo.

The instrumental musical piece, written by pianist and university student Gerardo Matos in the coffee house La Giralda, Montevideo, Uruguay, has gone beyond the times in the middle of controversial polemics.

Some experts on the matter affirm that the original piece only had two parts and Firpo added a third part to it. Others assert that Uruguayan musicians Carlos Warren and Minotto di Cicco made some adjustments to it.

It was spread all over the world by Carlos Gardel, who recorded it for the first time in Buenos Aires in 1924, and in Spain in 1927, with lyrics by Argentinean Pascual Contursi.

Tango "La Cumparsita" was declared cultural and popular hymn in Uruguay, while Argentina considers it one of the standards of Buenos Aires culture.



GASTRONOMY

World biggest barbeque in Uruguay



A meats association in Uruguay on Sunday hosted the world's biggest barbeque on a single grill totalling 1,500 meters in length, media reported.

As many as 1,252 volunteer cooks grilled 12 metric tonnes of beef and about 20,000 spectators cried with joy when a Guinness judge confirmed the barbecue record had been broken.

"I'm very proud to be Uruguayan. We have the best beef and now we have the world's biggest barbecue," said one of the cooks.

Wines of Uruguay

Another discovery was a red varietal wine that I had never heard of - Tannat. It is the national grape of Uruguay. Again Wikipedia provided me with more information. It is apparently a French varietal from the Madiran region in the South of France but it is rarely used there by itself

because of high acidity and tannin. The Uruguayan variety avoids those nasties and I have enjoyed two different brands already. The wine is very similar to Cabernet Sauvignon/Malbec in terms of body and color, and even in taste. As my palate is not well developed those of you interested should try some yourself.

The two brands were Montes Toscanini 2006 from Las Piedras, Uruguay, which cost about \$6, and Don Pascual Reserve 2006, Establecimiento Juanico, Familia Deicas (\$7). The latter has a web site (www.juanico.com) and the wine is available in Chicago, or at least this wine is - Bodegones del Sur, Tannat. Don Pascual Tannat is available through the Liquor Control Board in Quebec, and something called Pueblo del Sol, a merlot/tannat blend is sold in Ontario. No mention of BC however. Three tannats from Juanica are sold in the UK - Preludio Tannat Roble, El Hornero Tannat, and Teru Teru Tannat Reserva. There is even a distributor in France, in Pessac, who sells Casa Magrez Tannat.



They have begun growing this grape in California so it may be that in future years we will see more of it.). Some more: De Lucca, Vino de El Colorado, Tannat 2007, Reinaldo de Lucca, El Colorado, Canelones, Uruguay; Prima Donna, Riberas del Santa Lucia, Sauvignon Blanc 2007, Antigua Bodega, Stagnaris, Santos Lugaris, Canelones;

Don Pascual Reserve, Sauvignon Gris, 2006, Establecimiento Juanico. Purely in the interest of science I am now drinking a Don Pascual Reserve Marselan 2007. I have learned that this is a cross between Cabernet Sauvignon and Grenache first grown in France in the 1960s. It was planted in Uruguay at the end of the 20th century and first harvest was in 2002. The label says that it has elements of red fruits, eucalyptus, and mint. I will say that it has a pleasant aroma, is somewhat lighter than Cabernet Sauvignon, and tastes very much in the Cabernet style. It is in sum a very nice drink.

What's Your Beef?

Uruguay Steaks



You're always up for a stakeout (hence that episode in which you dressed in camo and hid in your BF's bushes to make sure his out-of-town "friend" was a member of the male species).

But in the case of Uruguay Steaks, Ken Fields has done all the legwork for you. In his quest (he spanned from Africa to Asia to South America) for the perfect cut of beef, he finally found the answer in Uruguay, and he is making it available to you. The stellar flavor is attributed to the fact that Uruguayan culture revolves around ranching. In those-there parts, the cattle are all grass fed and truly free range, making the meat much healthier and tastier. After learning the business from locals, Fields purchased land, moo cows, and horses and became a full-time rancher.

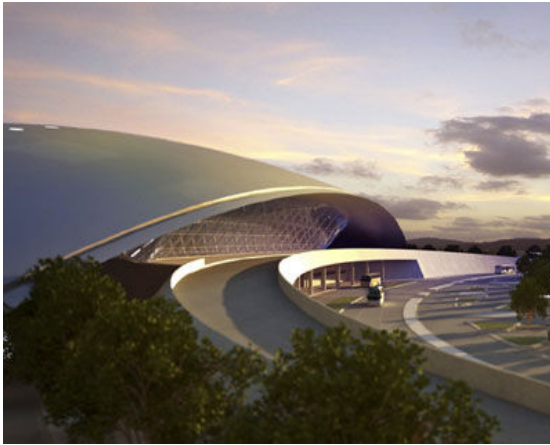
Just head to the online shop and choose from sirloin, skirt, rib eye, flat iron, strip, and filet mignon. They'll flash-freeze and vacuum-pack the goods for their journey to you. Being the good Samaritans they are, Uruguay Steaks offsets the plane travel with carbon credits.

Proving they're no meatheads.

Available online at

uruguaysteaks.com.

Carrasco International Airport in Montevideo, Uruguay By –Arch. Rafael Viñoly



This is Rafael Viñoly's second project in his home country, and his first airport.

Designed to increase capacity and support the growth of commerce and tourism in Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, the new terminal in Carrasco International Airport is due to be completed in early 2009.

Open spaces, strategic use of natural light and a curved roof minimising the building's impact on the environment are the key features of the project. The Uruguayan architect, who has a big practice in New York with a staff of 225 plus offices in London and Los Angeles, takes into account the fact that in Uruguay friends and relatives tend to flock to the airport to say goodbye to their loved ones and watch them take off.

The airport's scenography is designed to support large numbers of passengers, with large spaces for departing passengers but also for the people who come to see them off, with a spacious atrium, a large main hall and a terrace.

Uruguayan lawmakers ban tobacco advertising

Montevideo - Uruguay's Congress passed a law on Friday banning tobacco advertising, the latest anti-smoking measure in a government-led crackdown, a parliamentary spokesman said.

President Tabaré Vazquez, an oncologist, has taken a tough line on smoking. In 2006, his government passed the stiffest restrictions on smoking in Latin America by banning smoking in all public buildings, from bars to offices and shopping malls.

The latest measure, which Vazquez must still sign into law, prohibits the tobacco advertising on the radio and television, in newspapers and magazines and on billboards. It does not cover Internet advertising.

"In an organized society, the first priority is the right to life. No one has the right to sell death," ruling party deputy Jorge Orrico said during the debate in Congress. Nearly a third of Uruguay's 3.2 million people smoke and the government says smoking causes some 5,000 deaths per year. **(Reuters).**

EDUCATION

Local school welcomes teachers from Uruguay



Sand Creek Middle School is hosting two exchange teachers from Uruguay. They're here to observe the different educational settings the school has to offer. Many visits of this type last from a few months to a year, but this particular one is a little different.

"Because the teachers just come for three weeks, they're here in the United States and it's actually their summer vacation right now, and then they'll be going back to school and taking whatever information they've learned from their experience here, " said Spanish teacher Lynne Ogren. Sand Creek Middle School is hosting two exchange teachers from Uruguay. They're here to observe the different educational settings the school has to offer. Many visits of this type last from a few months to a year, but this particular one is a little different. The teachers discuss the differences, as well as the similarities, between the two countries.

"The idea is to exchange ideas, cultures, to observe classes and to have fun, why not, " said exchange teacher Maria Louisa Mendez. The exchange teachers also dropped in on a board meeting and visited other schools in the South Colonie School District.

"So it's not just our students at Sand Creek that will benefit, but the students throughout South Colonie who will benefit from this tremendous cultural exchange," said Associate Principal Jill Penn. While the exchange teachers are observing life here in the United States, there's also a plan in the works for teachers at Sand Creek School to visit Uruguay this summer, where cultural learning continues from the other perspective. "Through that, I would be working with students in Uruguay in a variety of settings. We would be there about a month and also we would have to present an innovative workshop to students Uruguay, " said Ogren. This program is part of the Fulbright Teacher Exchange, and was created to enhance a mutual understanding between the United States and other countries around the world. That goal seems to have been met with Uruguay. "The students were welcoming, they're friendly people, and we think that the exchange is going to be a good one, " said Mendez.

**End Newsletter – Consulate
General of Uruguay -Chicago IL
April 2008 Vol II**