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NEWSLETTER

A VISION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER COVERING LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ISSUES A PROJECT BETWEEN GREEN ZONE FOUNDATION AND TELESUR

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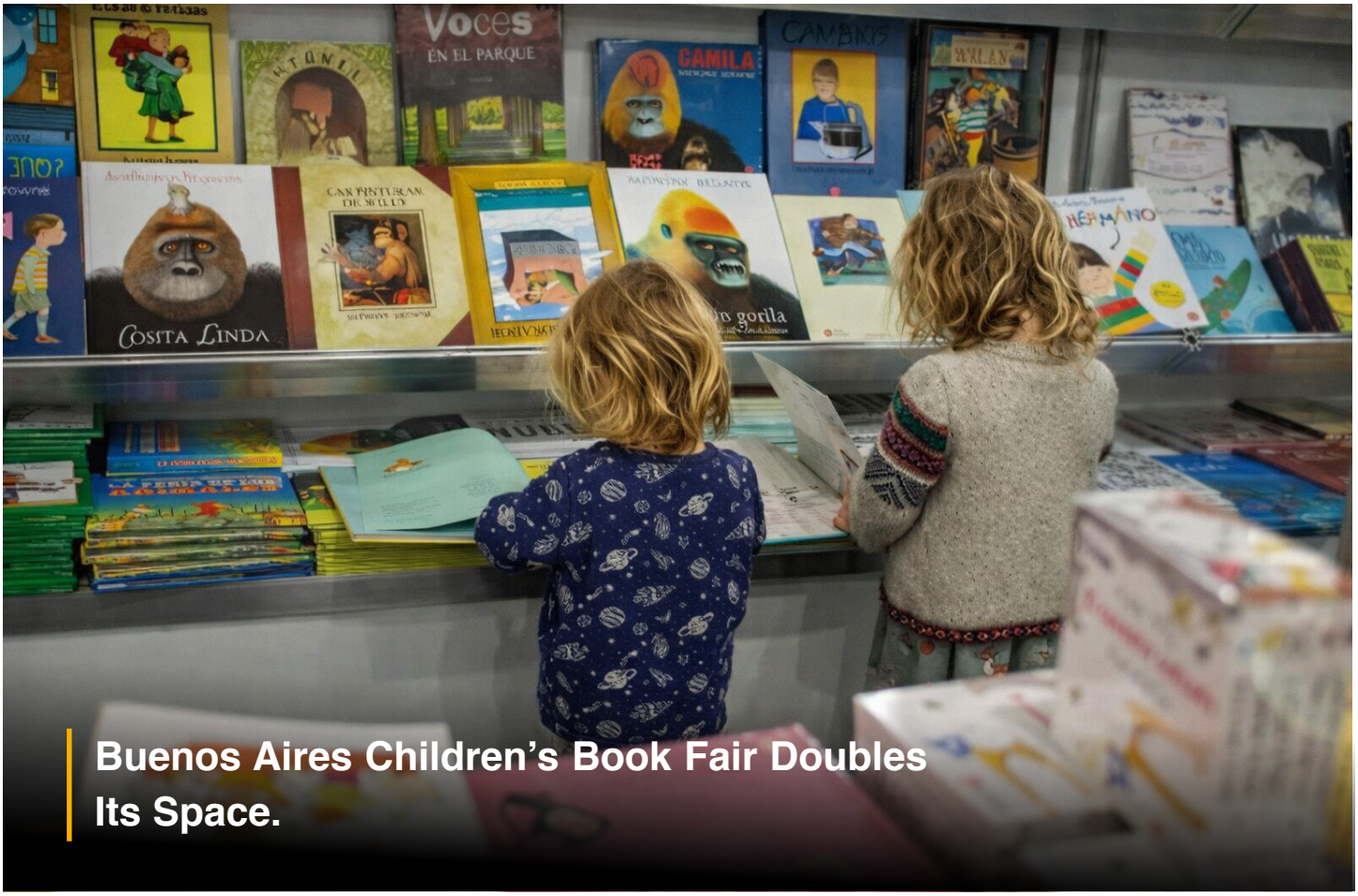


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Buenos Aires Children's Book Fair Doubles Its Space.

The 34th Children's and Young Adult Book Fair will return to the Buenos Aires Convention Center with free admission and a doubled space to promote reading.

The 34th Children's and Young Adult Book Fair will return to the Buenos Aires Convention Center (CEC), located in the Figueroa Alcorta and Pueyrredón area, its organizers announced on Wednesday.

This cultural event, organized by the El Libro Foundation, will run from July 11 to August 2 with free admission, marking its return to one of the venues where it began.

The exhibition will feature more than 3,000 square meters of exhibition space and more than 70 booths, effectively doubling the available space for activities. This expansion will facilitate a diverse program with book presentations, workshops, musical performances, and theatrical productions distributed throughout different areas of the venue, all geared towards children and teenagers.

Christian Rainone, president of the El Libro Foundation, emphasized that the move to the CEC will allow for an increased number of exhibitors, books, and activities. The director stated that the initiative aims to strengthen the promotion of reading from an early age, with the goal of replicating the strong growth in school visits recorded during the last Buenos Aires International Book Fair.

Regarding logistics, between July 13 and 17, access will be reserved specifically for school visits with prior registration, while the general public will be able to visit the fair throughout the entire period. The official opening will take place on July 17.

In addition, the program includes the Meeting of Children's Book Professionals on July 22 and the 34th Conference for Teachers and Reading Facilitators on July 23 and 24. The series will conclude on July 31 with the presentation of the Pregonero Awards, a recognition that distinguishes those who promote Argentine children's and young adult literature.



Three 50-Million-Year-Old Petrified Forests Discovered in Argentine Patagonia.

Río Negro Authorities, in Argentine Patagonia, are working on the preservation of three new sites with 50-million-year-old petrified forests.

On Sunday have been discovered in Argentine Patagonia three sites containing the remains of petrified forests, dating back approximately 50 million years, . Río Negro authorities are working to preserve the site, located near the town of Pilcaniyeu.

The discovery occurred when the owner of a rural property noticed the presence of possible fossil remains and reported the situation to provincial authorities. Following the report, the Heritage and Museums Río Negro Directorate authorized an inspection of the site to verify the find and determine its scientific and heritage significance.

During the inspection, three distinct paleontological sites were identified, containing thirteen petrified tree specimens belonging to conifer and angiosperm species, dating back to the Eocene period.

"This discovery represents an important opportunity to expand our knowledge of the natural history of Río Negro and highlights the enormous wealth of heritage that our territory holds," emphasized Pablo Chafrat, Provincial Director of Heritage and Museums.

As part of the procedure, samples were collected for scientific analysis, applying the protocols for the conservation and transfer of fossil remains. The material was sent to the Paleontological Museum of Bariloche, where it will remain under safekeeping for study and evaluation.

Argentina already boasts two large areas of petrified forests within its rich paleontological heritage. One is the Jaramillo Petrified Forest National Park in Santa Cruz, and the other is the Sarmiento Petrified Forest Protected Natural Area in Chubut.

The Patagonia petrified forests originated millions of years ago due to drastic changes in environmental conditions resulting from volcanic eruptions, which buried forested areas under layers of ash and other sediments, fossilizing various plant species.



Peruvian Inmates Stage the Inca Olympic Games in a Musical.

On Monday, more than 400 inmates in Peru starred in the musical 'Llactaman Kutiriq Raymi 2026' in the city of Cusco. 'Llactaman Kutiriq Raymi 2026' means 'The Festival Returns to My People' in Quechua.

This performance recreates the ancient initiation rituals of the Inca nobility in honor of Inti Raymi, the traditional Andean celebration held during the winter solstice in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Justice Ministry informed that this theatrical work represents ancient ceremonies of the Inca Empire of Tahuantinsuyo and military classification tests, functioning as a kind of 'Inca Olympics' to select warriors.

To achieve this, the inmates underwent more than two months of uninterrupted preparation through rehearsals, physical training, and artistic discipline instruction, with the participation of professionals from the Security and Treatment departments of the Cusco prisons.

The theatrical piece explores different moments of Inca tradition: the initiation ceremony, the entrance of the Inca and his imperial entourage, the Dances of the Four Suyos, and the ceremonial ritual.

It also features competitions of skill and endurance, including sprints, tug-of-war, human tower building, and jumping through rings of fire, culminating in a warrior act and an awards ceremony. The participants wore clothing inspired by Inca culture, which was made in the prison's own workshops.

"The energy that Cusco brings is fueled by the energy of the inmates who are committed and proud of what our country, our culture, and what this great empire represented for all of humanity represent," emphasized Justice Minister Luis Jimenez.

He also acknowledged the work of director Ernesto Miranda Concha, who first presented the project in 2015 and continues as its leader and choreographer.

The event has its roots in 2010, growing steadily in scale and artistic ambition. This year, the performance 'Llactaman Kutiriq Raymi' has the support of the Municipal Company for Festivities and Tourism Promotion of Cusco (Emufec), integrating it into the official activities of the city's jubilee celebrations.



IICA Calls for Strengthening Agri-Food Systems in the Americas.

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) urged the promotion of innovation and systemic transformation in the Americas to sustain its role as a pillar of global food, energy, and environmental stability.

On Monday, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) called for strengthening agri-food systems in the Americas to guarantee food security and availability globally.

The statement was made by the IICA Director Muhammad Ibrahim during the 2026 World Conference of the International Food and Agribusiness Management Association (IFAMA), held at University College Cork, Ireland.
The Americas play a systemic role for the planet, as what happens on the continent affects global food availability, international prices, and supply chains.

In this regard, Ibrahim indicated that the world must understand that the Americas are not only a major exporter, but also “one of the pillars of global food, energy, and environmental stability.”

Currently, Latin America and the Caribbean is the world’s largest net food exporter, accounting for approximately 23% of global agri-food exports and nearly 13% of the global net value of agricultural and fisheries production. The region leads in strategic markets such as soybeans, corn, beef and poultry, coffee, sugar, fruit, fish, forestry products, and biofuels.
However, the IICA Director warned that the region will not be able to maintain its essential role in the future simply by expanding agricultural land or increasing input use.

To reduce pressure on forests, soils, water, and biodiversity, it is necessary to generate more value per hectare, worker, unit of water, fertilizer, and energy. In this context, Ibrahim emphasized that science and new technologies play a key role, as innovation allows the region to move from producing more to producing better and from exporting raw materials to generating more value. This will enable a deeper, more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient transformation of the agricultural sector.
Finally, the IICA Director maintained that the challenge now is to move from isolated successful experiences to a systemic transformation, which requires long-term investment, robust research systems, digital infrastructure, financing, and greater regional cooperation



Cuban University Promotes Innovation in Renewable Energy.

Cienfuegos University Students of developed renewable energy and circular economy projects at the CienLabs Innova hackathon, promoted by the international initiative **InnoLabs.**

Cienfuegos University “Carlos Rafael Rodríguez” in Cuba hosted the CienLabs Innova hackathon, a 48-hour competition dedicated to renewable energy and the circular economy, on Tuesday.

Six multidisciplinary teams, comprised of undergraduate and graduate students from the Mechanical, Chemical, Industrial, and Computer Engineering programs, participated in the event, proposing scalable solutions for local industry.

The activity focused on open innovation in STEM fields, strengthening skills in high-pressure environments, and directly contributing to Sustainable Development Goals 9 (Industry and Innovation) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

During the evaluation, the jury, chaired by the rector, Dr. Orquídea Urquiola Sánchez, highlighted the technical quality of the presentations.

The Grand Prize was awarded to Jesús Rafael García Lorenzo and Leidy Laura Moreno. Second place went to Eber Pérez Lima and Gabriela de la Caridad Lozano Nodal, while third place was awarded to Yuliet Soca García and Jarold Abraham Muñiz Cárdenas.

The winning proposals will be evaluated for possible implementation in the university and productive sectors of central Cuba.
This competition is part of the international InnoLabs project, funded by the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) program.

This strategic alliance brings together universities and organizations from Spain, Belgium, Cuba, and Ecuador with the aim of creating Entrepreneurship and Innovation Labs that foster collaboration between academia, local communities, public institutions, and the private sector.


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