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Ambassador Jorge Argüello (Ctr.) during the 12th Assembly of Governors of the Regional Council of the Norte Grande held in Argentina.

GOVERNORS OF ARGENTINA'S NORTE GRANDE TO UNDERTAKE A TRADE MISSION TO THE UNITED STATES

On Tuesday, August 23, the 12th Assembly of Governors of the Regional Council of the Norte Grande held a meeting in the city of San Salvador de Jujuy, where a trade mission to the United States was announced.

The mission will take place on September 25 and will last for a week. Governor Gerardo Zamora, pro tempore president of the Regional Council of the Norte Grande,

and the host, Governor Gerardo Morales of Jujuy, led the meeting, which was attended by the National Chief of Cabinet, Juan Manzur; the Minister of Tourism and Sports, Matías Lammens; the Secretary of Energy, Flavia Royón; the Secretary General of the Federal Investment Council, Ignacio Lamothe and the Secretary General of Provinces, Bruno Ruggeri; as well as all the provincial governors and Ambassador Jorge Argüello, who was present virtually.



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the first visit to the US of ten governors from Argentina's Norte Grande region to hold a full agenda of business meetings in Washington DC and New York City, with authorities, think tanks, business leaders, and representatives of international organizations.

In this edition we also include an article on the lithium market which is one of the sectors of greatest interest to both, the governors of Argentina's Norte Grande region and their U.S. counterparts.

Finally, an article on issues related to the growth of international inbound tourism as one of the main factors that boosted business movement during the first half of 2022.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

THE VISIT WILL BE A MILESTONE IN THE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION TO THE MULTILATERAL CREDIT INSTITUTIONS, THE GOVERNORS WILL HOLD MEETINGS AT THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES AS WELL AS WITH TECHNOLOGICAL COMPANIES.

both countries. In addition to the aforementioned multilateral credit institutions, the governors will hold meetings at the Executive and Legislative branches as well as with technological companies.

The Assembly of Governors of the Regional Council of the Norte Grande coincided with the 210th anniversary of the Jujuy Exodus, a crucial episode of the Argentine War of Independence that consisted of the patriotic feat of the people of Jujuy who, in 1812, led by General Manuel Belgrano, undertook a retreat that was key to national independence: twenty days after the exodus, and already on Tucumán soil, the Army of the North, under the General's command, defeated the Spanish royalists. ■

The ten governors will have a large agenda in Washington and New York City, organized by the Ambassador Argüello, where they will hold meetings with representatives of Government, politicians, businessmen and multilateral credit organizations such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

The Norte Grande of Argentina is a group of ten provinces located in the northern area of the country, composed of Catamarca, Chaco, Corrientes, Formosa, Jujuy, La Rioja, Misiones, Salta, Santiago del Estero and Tucumán. These provinces share the common interest of promoting their exports and attracting investments in areas such as Knowledge-based Economy, Mining, Electromobility and Agricultural products among other topics of mutual issues like environmental public policies and smart cities.

The visit of ten Argentine governors (Gerardo Zamora - Santiago del Estero; Jorge Capitanich - Chaco; Oscar Herrera Ahuad - Misiones; Gildo Insfrán - Formosa; Raúl Jalil - Catamarca; Ricardo Quintela - La Rioja; Gerardo Morales - Jujuy; Gustavo Valdés - Corrientes; Osvaldo Jaldo - Tucumán; Gustavo Sáenz - Salta) to the US for the first time will be a milestone in the bilateral relations between

ARGENTINA CONSOLIDATES ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE LITHIUM MARKET

By the end of September, ten governors from Argentina's Norte Grande region will travel to the United States. Undoubtedly, one of the sectors of greatest interest to both the governors and their U.S. counterparts is lithium, a natural resource found in Catamarca, Salta and Jujuy, provinces that will be present during the governors' trip.

The Embassy is working on a business roundtable focused solely on lithium, so that governors Raúl Jalil (Catamarca), Gustavo Sáenz (Salta) and Gerardo Morales (Jujuy) can have an open and direct dialogue with U.S. companies, both those that already have projects underway in our country and those that have announced purchases of Argentine lithium, such as General Motors, Ford and Tesla. Argentina is currently the first supplier of lithium to the

United States, being the fourth largest lithium producer in the world. Furthermore, Argentina has the conditions to increase its production six times in the next five years.

On the other hand, Argentina's challenge is not only to extract this commodity but also to add value to it. Thus, the production of lithium cells and batteries is one of the examples in which Argentina is already working. The first manufacturing plant for these cells and batteries is being built in the Y-TEC complex, located in the town of Berisso, Province of Buenos Aires.

Y-TEC is a company created as a result of an agreement between YPF, the largest energy company in the country, with CONICET, the primary institution responsible for the

President Alberto Fernández (Ctr. Left) and Minister Daniel Filmus (Ctr. Right), with authorities of YPF, Y-TEC, CONICET and UNLP in Y-TEC, Berisso.



ARGENTINA'S CHALLENGE IS NOT ONLY TO EXTRACT THIS COMMODITY BUT ALSO TO ADD VALUE TO IT. THUS, THE PRODUCTION OF LITHIUM CELLS AND BATTERIES IS ONE OF THE EXAMPLES IN WHICH ARGENTINA IS ALREADY WORKING.

promotion of science and technology.

This week President Fernández visited Y-TEC accompanied by the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Daniel Filmus, the President of YPF, Pablo González; the President of Y-TEC, Roberto Salvarezza; the President of CONICET, Ana Franchi, and the President of the National University of La Plata (UNLP), Martín López Armengol, among other authorities.

The plant, located in the Technology Transfer Center of the UNLP, has an area of 1,300 square meters and the annual production, measured in stored energy, will be about 13 MWh, which is equivalent to 1,000 batteries for stationary storage of renewable energies or about 50 for electric buses.

Through the Escuela de Oficios of the UNLP, the operators who will be in charge of the first start-up phase of the plant and who will be members of the CONICET support staff career have already been trained. The start-up of cell production is scheduled for December 2022, since the factory is already completed and is awaiting the arrival of the equipment, which will take place in October.

President Alberto Fernández stated that "Argentina is the second lithium reserve in the world, so we not only have

to export it, but also industrialize it. I have seen how the world claims lithium as energy and I believe we have the opportunity to provide it".

The President said that "our potential multiplies enormously if we industrialize it. Lithium has a very different value if it is exported as a mineral than if it is exported as a battery. This not only means factories to be set up, or jobs, but also means multiplying its price".

In Berisso, President Fernandez, along with Fabio Saccone, head of the Lithium Mission at Y-TEC, toured Y-TEC's Applied Research Center, the largest in the country and one of the five most important in Latin America. This is the first national laboratory-scale plant capable of testing new materials in prototype lithium cells in commercial format. In addition, the process that allows the validation of national technologies and inputs is carried out there. Finally, the Head of State led a meeting in which the head of Y-TEC, Roberto Salvarezza, made an institutional presentation of the company's initiatives and the progress of the YPF Lithium project. ■



Ansenzuza National Park, located in the Province of Córdoba.

A NEW NATIONAL PARK IS BORN AS INBOUND TOURISM CONTINUES TO RECOVER

The growth of tourism in Argentina continues with its growth after the strong impact that the pandemic has caused in the sector. While domestic tourism had already shown signs of a significant recovery in the past austral summer (December to February season), the novelty lies in international inbound tourism as one of the main factors that boosted business movement during the first half of 2022.

According to INDEC data, the number of foreign tourists visiting Argentina in that period of time registered a year-on-year jump of 922%, a figure that is explained by the very low level of arrivals in the same period of 2021, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, these numbers demonstrate a trend that has been on the rise since Argentina reopened its doors to international tourism in

November last year. The Secretary of Tourism Promotion of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, Yanina Martinez, indicated that “the activity is in a moment of exponential growth”.

The first semester of 2022 showed that almost 700 thousand non-resident travelers entered the country and that the United States was the third place in the origin rank, after Brazil and the rest of Latin America.

Within Argentina’s vast tourist offer, the most traditional destinations such as the city of Buenos Aires, Iguazú Falls, Mendoza and Patagonia were the most chosen by international visitors.

However, the Argentine government continues to promote

A NEW NATIONAL PARK HAS EMERGED IN ARGENTINA, WHERE THE DESIGNATION OF ANSENUZA NATIONAL PARK, LOCATED IN THE PROVINCE OF CÓRDOBA, PROVIDES ADDITIONAL PROTECTION FOR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SHOREBIRDS.

destinations throughout the country, focusing on the diverse natural landscapes that Argentina has to offer.

Thus, a new national park has emerged in Argentina, where the designation of Ansenusa National Park, located in the Province of Córdoba, provides additional protection for hundreds of thousands of shorebirds.

The park, which covers 1.6 million acres, provides habitat for 30 species of shorebirds as well as for three species of flamingos. The park is also expected to provide protected habitat for the Maned Wolf, or Aguará Guazú. Ansenusa National Park protects South America's largest saline lake (the fifth largest saline lake in the world), Mar Chiquita, as well as the lake's northern shore and the banks of the Rio Dulce River, the largest tributary of the lake.

In addition to being a great spot for birding, the national park also offers sailing on the Ansenusa "sea," which is the saline lake, and horseback travel. From the United States, the best way to get there is a flight to Córdoba City -the

second largest in Argentina- and then a bus up to the north of the province.

Argentina has reopened its borders to international travelers from around the world since November 1, 2021. In addition, new simplified measures for traveling to Argentina were implemented last April. Non-residents must complete an Affidavit within 48 hours before the departure flight to Argentina, certifying that the traveler is symptom free. Also, non-residents must provide proof of medical assistance insurance, including hospitalization, quarantine and medical transfer services in case of suspected or confirmed infection with COVID-19 or contact cases, for the duration of the stay. ■