

Science & Technology

THIRTY ARGENTINE
BIOTECHNOLOGY
COMPANIES
PARTICIPATED IN
BIO 2023

Housing

THE MINISTER
OF TERRITORIAL
PLANNING AND
HABITAT VISITED
WASHINGTON

Sports

LIONEL MESSI
JOINING MAJOR
LEAGUE SOCCER
HAS HAD A GREAT
IMPACT

EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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A delegation of Argentine biotechnology companies participated in the Biotechnology Industry Organization fair in Boston.

THIRTY ARGENTINE BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPANIES PARTICIPATED IN BIO 2023

Within the framework of the Biotechnology Industry Organization Convention and Exhibit (BIO 2023), held in Boston, Massachusetts, a delegation of 30 Argentine biotechnology companies were part of this important Trade Mission. Their participation in the exhibit was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the Argentine Chamber of Biotechnology (CAB), the Federal Investment Council (CFI) and with the support of

the Argentine Embassy in Washington and the Consulate General in New York.

The objective of the mission was to promote the production capacity of Argentine biotechnology, based on a scientific and technological ecosystem built over decades. The trade delegation also explored business and investment opportunities in the US market, both in terms



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the participation of 30 Argentine biotechnology companies in the BIO 2023 Convention and Exhibit as part of an important Trade Mission in Boston organized by the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In this edition we also include an article on the visit to Washington of the Minister of Territorial Development and Habitat, Santiago Maggiotti, to participate in several panel discussions at the 9th Global Affordable Housing Conference organized by the World Bank.

Finally, an article about the decision of the captain of the Argentine soccer team, Lionel Messi, to join Major League Soccer club Inter Miami starting in July.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE MISSION WAS TO PROMOTE THE PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF ARGENTINE BIOTECHNOLOGY, BASED ON A SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ECOSYSTEM BUILT OVER DECADES.

of financing and of linking with local counterparts, as well as possibilities for collaboration, exchange of information and joint ventures.

The Undersecretary for Trade Strategy and Economic Promotion of the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Guillermo Merediz, highlighted the importance of the Knowledge Economy sector as one of the main national export sectors, and the role of the ministry and embassies in opening up new trade opportunities around the world: "The knowledge economy is currently the third largest export sector in Argentina; it has developed and expanded jointly with a strong public investment process and incentive policies for the scientific-technological sector. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we make great efforts to foster its growth and positioning in international markets, promoting the outstanding offerings of Argentine biotechnology, and strengthening ties with foreign investors, institutions and companies".

Other members of the Argentine delegation were the President of the National Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development and Innovation (Agencia I+D+i), Fernando Peirano, together with officials and biotechnology companies from the provinces of Buenos Aires, Chubut, Córdoba, Salta, Santa Fe, Tucumán and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

As has been the case since 2006, Argentina participated

with an institutional pavilion coordinated by the Argentine Investment and International Trade Agency, in which Argentine companies had their own space for meetings. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a busy agenda of meetings with foreign delegations and visits to laboratories, accelerators and leading local scientific and academic institutions of the biotechnology ecosystem, including the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, the Bayer Research & Innovation Center, LabCentral, Johnson & Johnson, the Boston Hub of the German Accelerator startup, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Blavatnik Biomedical Accelerator at Harvard University.

These activities contribute to adding value to the presence of Argentine companies at the BIO exhibit and strengthening their links with delegations and companies from different countries, including Germany, Brazil, Spain, the United States, France, Italy, and Mexico.

An event entitled "Argentina Global Innovation Hub" was also held, created within the framework of the BIO 2023 exhibit. It featured presentations by the R+D+i Agency, the CFI and CAB, showing the technological offerings export potential from the Argentine biotechnology sector to foreign investors, investment funds, public officials, chambers of commerce and large international companies.

"For us, this is the most important exhibit in the biotechnology sector, since it allows us to be here before 16,000 specialists from diverse industries and countries around the world. We can connect our companies with them, and generate new export businesses, as well as link our chamber with its international peers," said Sergio Drucaroff, executive coordinator of the Argentine Chamber of Biotechnology.

BIO is the most important global event for the pharmaceutical industry. It has been held annually since 1993 in different cities in the United States and offers strategic meeting and marketing opportunities with major

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international companies, SMEs, startups and universities. Argentina has participated since 2006, with the support of the embassy and the six Argentine consulates in the United States. During the event, conferences and promotional and training sessions related to various areas of biotechnology were held.

In Argentina, the biotechnology sector is comprised of more than 200 companies, which places the country among the top 20 in the world. This sector generates \$2.1 billion exclusively in biotechnological products and employs 27,000 people. Investment in R&D exceeds \$90 million, reaching 7% in the health sector, and creating more than 1,100 jobs in R&D alone. Fifty-six percent of the companies were created in the past 15 years, and the dynamic local entrepreneurial ecosystem records investments of around \$1,100 million per year.

The main destinations for Argentine exports are Brazil, the United States, Uruguay, Paraguay, China, the Netherlands, Bolivia, Colombia and Chile. ■

THE MINISTER OF TERRITORIAL PLANNING AND HABITAT VISITED WASHINGTON

Between June 1 and 2, the Argentine Minister of Territorial Planning and Habitat, Santiago Maggiotti, came to Washington DC to participate in the 9th Global Affordable Housing Conference organized by the World Bank.

Numerous members of the public and private sectors, as well as academics, worked under the theme “Looking ahead: unlocking access to affordable, green and resilient housing through innovation”.

Minister Maggiotti, who is also currently president pro tempore of the Forum of Ministers and Highest Authorities of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), was a prominent participant in the panel “The Future of Site and Services”, accompanied

by Marcos Aguilar, Secretary of Coordination of the same Ministry. The following two World Bank officials also participated in the panel: Sheila Kamunyori, Senior Urban Specialist, and Judy Baker, expert on urban poverty and affordable housing. It was moderated by Catherine Lynch, Senior Urban Development Specialist.

The Argentine representative gave a detailed presentation about the programs implemented by the Ministry that he leads, with an aim of generating quality urban land. He also described how the National Government coordinates with local and provincial governments to achieve this goal, and put in practice the best land use planning.

On the other hand, Minister Maggiotti recalled that

(From L. to R.) Catherine Lynch, Marcos Aguilar, Santiago Maggiotti, Judy Baker and Sheila Kamunyori.



“since 2019 almost 107,000 homes have been allocated to Argentine families, and another 130,000 are under construction”.

The Minister also held a working meeting with the Argentine Ambassador to the United States, Jorge Argüello. During the Conference, Argentina presented our country’s vision regarding policies and programs that strengthen urban management and promote access to urban land with basic services. In addition, the event enabled Minister Maggiotti and Marcos Aguilar to meet with their counterparts from other countries, with whom they exchanged ideas about the generation of sustainable housing solutions.

They also held a series of meetings with senior World Bank officials, such as the Manager of Global Practice on

Ambassador Jorge Argüello and Minister Santiago Maggiotti.



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Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience In Latin America and the Caribbean, Angelica Nuñez; the Practice Manager of Urban, Disaster Risk Management, and Land in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, David Sislen; and from the Bank’s International Finance Corporation (IFC), Julia Assaad and Rusmir Music. ■



Lionel Messi at the World Cup in Qatar 2022, Qatar 2022. Photo Credit: Telam.

LIONEL MESSI JOINING MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER HAS HAD A GREAT IMPACT

The captain of the Argentine soccer team, Lionel Messi, announced his decision to continue his sports career in the United States starting in July, joining Major League Soccer club Inter Miami, after playing for the Paris Saint Germain (PSG) club for two seasons. Thus, the football icon shed light on one of the main uncertainties of the football world in 2023, just six months after Argentina won the World Cup in Qatar 2022.

The player, considered by many to be the best footballer in history, had already expressed his desire to play in this league in the past. The connection with Inter Miami developed naturally, thanks to his personal relationship with former player and club manager David Beckham, and his family's desire to live there.

Messi's decision, which will greatly impact the MLS, is expected to give a renewed push to the sport in an environment in which football has a lot of room to grow; besides, it has the ability to quickly organize important regional and global events on very short notice. The next Copa América will take place in 2024 in the United States and will feature not only the ten South American countries in Conmebol, but also the six Concacaf countries, among which the United States, Canada, Mexico and Panama have already been confirmed. That is, it will be a tournament full of stars.

And two years later, the global event of the football world will take place again here in North America, with matches in the US, Mexico and Canada. This uplifts Argentina's

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hope that its legendary captain will play in the 2026 World Cup. If so, it would be the sixth time Messi is present at a World Cup; this represents an absolute record, since to date no one has passed the threshold of five World Cups, He has been cautious regarding this possibility but, in the next three years, we football lovers will be excited at the possibility of watching him play in a World Cup again.

Likewise, the Argentine Soccer Association also benefits from this decision, since for the past several months it has been working on a business strategy aimed at the US market, which included the opening of offices in Miami, with the aim of continuing this expansion in other areas of the country. ■