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EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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Allkem's CEO and Managing Director Martin Perez del Solay and Ambassador Jorge Argüello.

IFC'S FIRST INVESTMENT IN LITHIUM CONSOLIDATES ARGENTINA AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING PRODUCERS

On July 24th, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) signed a landmark agreement to fund Allkem's Sal de Vida battery-grade lithium carbonate project in Argentina. The agreement came after a rigorous examination of the company's financial soundness, sustainability, and local community development, which is disclosed for public consultation through its Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS).

The Sal de Vida Project (the "Project" or "SDV") consists of the construction and operation of a greenfield Lithium mine in the Salar del Hombre Muerto (the "Salar"), a salt pan located in the Catamarca, Province in the Argentinian Andes at 4,100 meters above sea level and approximately 90 km from Antofagasta de la Sierra.

The financing consists of \$100 million from IFC's account



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the first IFC investment that consolidates Argentina as one of the world's leading lithium producers with high sustainability standards.

In this edition we also include an article on the frequent visits to congressmen from both parties that I have made in recent weeks to exchange different point of views on aspects of our bilateral relationship.

Finally, an article on the acquisition by the Ringling Museum of Art in Florida of the work of Argentine artist Silvia Levenson, "Tea time is back I", which highlights aspects of a society based on patriarchy.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

SAL DE VIDA IS GOING THROUGH ITS FIRST STAGE PROJECT AND IS EXPECTED TO LAUNCH TO PRODUCE 15,000 TONS PER ANNUM OF LITHIUM CARBONATE EQUIVALENT (LCE).

and up to \$80 million in mobilization. It's IFC's first greenfield mining project financing and has been structured as a green and sustainability-linked loan. Allkem's CEO and Managing Director Martin Perez del Solay said about the Project and future scalability: "We are proud to partner with IFC to ensure long-term safe and sustainable operations, responsible products, and thriving communities. We agreed to set up the highest sustainability standards for Sal de Vida to contribute to the Catamarca economy via local employment, local supply chains, and community development programs."

Argentina's Ambassador to the U.S., Jorge Argüello, met with Allkem's CEO to know more about the details of the Project and what it represents for Argentina, as the country has one of the largest lithium reserves in the world. In this regard, Ambassador Argüello stated: "Argentina is the fourth largest lithium producer in the world, and financial institutions play a key role when evaluating the environmental and social standards of the investments. We know that keeping those standards is central in ensuring that the transition is done correctly and that we are working correctly with the local communities".

Regarding IFC's investment in Argentina, IFC's Managing Director, Makhtar Diop, mentioned, "It will strengthen Argentina's position as one of the world's leading lithium producers and help set high sustainability standards for the lithium mining industry." Regarding the standards achieved by the company, it is essential to highlight that

during the IFC's environmental and social (E&S) review of the Project, the company went through an exhaustive and thorough analysis of its environmental and social management systems, policies, plans and procedures, and impact assessment.

All of the activities mentioned above and appraisals are significant since Argentina is taking extraordinary steps to secure its place as a responsible, sustainable, and transparent provider of critical minerals and services in the global supply chains. ■

MULTIPLE MEETINGS HELD AT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

During the past few weeks, Ambassador Argüello has met frequently with congress members of both parties, with whom he maintains a fluid and sound relationship. Some of those meetings are outlined below:

- Representative Sara Jacobs, Democrat, California. During the meeting, the importance given by our countries to the protection of human rights, combatting anti-Semitism and defending the rights of LGTBIQ+ people was highlighted.
- Representative Mark Green, Republican, Tennessee. Various issues that are part of the bilateral agenda were discussed, including in particular defense cooperation.
- Representative Andy Kim, Democrat, New Jersey.

They reviewed the opportunities existing under the current international situation, with an emphasis on increased investment and Argentine-US trade topics.

- Representative Nathaniel Moran, Republican, Texas. Points of view were exchanged on challenges posed by the current scenario, including political and legal issues, and they discussed the need to reinforce parliamentary diplomacy

Considering that all the legislators mentioned are part of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the meetings provided a favorable opportunity to discuss a wide range of political and trade issues.

Likewise, Ambassador Argüello stressed the relevance that our country attaches to the reinstatement by

Ambassador Jorge Argüello with Congresswoman Sara Jacobs (Left) and Congressman Mark Green (Right).



THE MEETINGS PROVIDED AN AUSPICIOUS OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES, BOTH POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL.

Congress of the Generalized System of Preferences, a mechanism that expired at the end of 2020, through which various Argentine regional economies generated more than \$300 million in exports. On the other hand, he underlined Argentina's potential as a critical minerals supplier, specifically regarding lithium production. He also stressed the goal to increase access to this resource, which is strategic for energy transition, to the United States market. ■

Ambassador Jorge Argüello with Congressman Andy Kim.



Ambassador Jorge Argüello with Congressman Nathaniel Moran.





"Tea time is back I" by Silvia Levenson, work acquired by the Ringling Museum. Photo: Marco Del Comune. Courtesy RoFa Project.

A WORK BY SILVIA LEVENSON AT THE RINGLING MUSEUM OF ART

A glass handbag with a hammer, glass shoes with spikes, tea sets or coffee pots with sharp objects, beds with wires: each of these elements are part of the aesthetic proposal of Argentine Silvia Levenson. The artist fled to Italy with her husband and two children in 1981 during the military dictatorship in Argentina. At present her works, with a strong social and political content, are part of different museums' collections in the United States and other countries. The most recent acquisition was "Tea time is back I", kiln-molded glass (2019), now part of the Ringling Museum of Art in Florida.

Levenson began working with glass during a visit she made to a Bertil Vallien exhibition in New York. Since then, honed her skills in this technique and her works highlight themes such as emigration, repression, dictatorship, or issues that link the role of women and society.

The artist maintains that her work is an expression of her soul and she uses glass for its potential as a narrative medium. She stated that these collections highlight the "discomfort of being a woman in a society that is based on patriarchy," adding that many of her pieces are apparently beautiful or elegant, such as dresses, bags and shoes, but they are all objects that prevent or hinder movement. "It is my response to the demand that this society poses to girls and women, that is: to be beautiful, passive and obedient."

Regarding this theme, her work "It's raining knives", made of molten glass, artificial grass and nylon thread, is part of the collection of the Corning Museum of Glass in New York. In 2004 Levenson received the Rakow Commission Award from this museum, and in 2008 she was one of the finalists for the Bombay Sapphire Prize. She explained that "Most of my work is done in glass. I'm attracted by the

IN MY WORK I EXPLORE THE
HOUSE AS A CLOSED SPACE BUT
ALSO AS A BATTLEFIELD IN A
WAR IN WHICH WE PARTICIPATE
WITHOUT PREPARATION.

ambiguity of this material, since we use glass to protect and isolate ourselves in our homes, but at the same time, we know that the same material that protects us can break into a thousand pieces and harm us. It is a metaphor for the emotional short circuit that takes place between what we see and what we know”.

Levenson’s work has become a fixture in the Washington DC area. In 2021 she was part of the group show “Walking together. For Them and For Us” organized by RoFa Projects and La Morada at George Mason University’s Mason Exhibitions Arlington; its theme denounced violence against women.

“The new feminist generations in Argentina and Latin America propose an inclusive, anti-racist feminism and a deconstruction of the heteropatriarchy,” Levenson stated at the start of this exhibition. That is why I am very happy to exhibit at RoFa Projects with other Latin American artists who produce art destined to rattle consciences and generate changes in our societies.

Also in 2021, she exhibited two different collections at the Argentine Embassy through RoFa Projects. “What Happen (sic) with the Kids?”, which explores children’s vulnerability and lack of protection, and “Basta” (Enough), a project based on the reproduction of portraits of women of different ages and ethnicities, on which the word Enough has been printed in different languages, including those of native peoples. “Enough of violence against women” is the main focus of this work.

This exhibition also included pieces related to daily life in which violence was symbolized using spiked glass beds, shoes with sharp metals, and the piece recently acquired by the Ringling Museum of Art.

A theme that remains in her work and that highlights the commitment of art to social and political reality was reflected in 2015 when she presented the “Disappeared Identity” exhibit at the Katzen Arts Center of the American University Museum, with the collaboration of the Argentine Embassy. This traveling exhibition began at the Casa de Las Abuelas in Plaza de Mayo in the former Esma in Buenos Aires, and was dedicated to the work carried out by this organization focused on the recovery of the identity of children born in clandestine prisons who were given up for illegal adoption during the dictatorship (1976-1983). After being shown in several museums around the world, this installation made up of 130 glass dresses is now part of the Tutsek Foundation collection in Germany.

Silvia Levenson. Photo: Marco Del Comune. Courtesy RoFa Project.



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AND ISOLATE OURSELVES IN
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PIECES AND HURT US.

The works of this Argentine artist are part of public and private collections, and can be seen in important museums such as the Casa de las Américas (Cuba), the Altare Museum (Italy), the Fine Art Museum (Houston), the New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fé, among others. ■