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EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

MAY 2022 // NEWSLETTER



YPF SA celebrated its 100 years at the Embassy.

YPF CELEBRATED ITS CENTENIAL AT THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY, ALONG WITH ITS PARTNERS

YPF SA, the leading energy company in Argentina, represented by its highest authorities, visited the United States from May 16 to 19, and carried out an intense work agenda in Washington. The program concluded with an event to celebrate its 100 years together with its local partners at the Embassy of the Argentine Republic.

The YPF delegation, headed by its president, Pablo González, and its CEO Sergio Affronti, presented the company's strategic plan before more than 100 people,

underscoring the role played by YPF as the main producer and refiner in as well as the most important producer of unconventional hydrocarbons outside North America, highlighting Argentina's energy exporting potential.

Carrying out their work agenda they met with the leading North American companies, international partners and suppliers, and emphasized YPF's commitment to make investments and incorporate technology with a view to reducing the carbon footprint and achieving more



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the celebration in Washington, DC, of the centennial of YPF SA, the main energy company in Argentina, which concluded with a meeting with its local partners at the Embassy.

In this edition we also include an article on the inauguration of a permanent exhibition on the American teachers convened by Domingo F. Sarmiento to found public education in our country.

Finally, an article on the meeting with executives of E-Sports companies with the aim of presenting the country's potential in this growing industry, both in terms of video game development and in the organization of digital sports tournaments.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

sustainable operations. The delegation also gave priority to YPF's role regarding natural gas as a key fuel for regional decarbonization.

Pablo Gonzalez stated that "YPF was founded in 1922, and since 2012, when Law 26741 was passed, its management model was reaffirmed with a 51% interest held by the state and the hydrocarbon-producing provinces, and a 49% interest in private hands. Since 1993 it has been listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and since the end of the pandemic, has achieved a solid recovery, increased its investments. Given this context, YPF is ready to take on the challenges of the energy transition by financing those investments through its oil and gas production."

This year YPF plans to invest more than 3,700 million dollars, once again placing Vaca Muerta front and center on the global radar thanks to its growing oil production, which increased more than 52% during the past year, when it reached 70,000 barrels per day and recorded an increase over 140% in gas production, at 96,000 boe per day.

Sergio Affronti mentioned "that YPF is not the only leading energy company in Argentina and the largest investor

by far, but also generates the greatest positive impact in the country and is a national emblem for our people, creating an incredible and exciting future." As its shale gas resources surpass 300,000 TCF, YPF can play a key role in the region's decarbonization process and, through LNG, the company could contribute to global decarbonization in the long term. We know we can provide the sustainable and affordable energy that is sorely needed by developed and developing economies."

Ambassador Jorge Argüello recalled that during his tenure as Ambassador in 2012, YPF and Chevron signed an agreement to develop Vaca Muerta. He also highlighted this partnership as "a positive overview of the bilateral relationship and the potential we have when we work side by side", and reaffirmed that "YPF is a company committed to the energy transition, and is investing in new sustainable projects. Their investment in research and innovation in wind and solar energy, in the development of green hydrogen, is truly a unique case in our country and in the region". ■

YPF SA President, Pablo González (Left), Ambassador Jorge Argüello (Center) and CEO Sergio Affronti (Right).



SARMIENTO'S TEACHERS, A BRIDGE TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Jorge Argüello

Ambassador to the United States

The Argentine embassy in Washington inaugurated on May 17 a permanent exhibition about the teachers that Sarmiento called on to establish a public education system in our country.

Creating a space to showcase Domingo Faustino Sarmiento's work implies accepting the praise and criticism that such a controversial historical figure has attracted since then.

Of course, it also means recognizing that each of these opinions are half-truths, and that Sarmiento's life and work -as biographers and historians have detailed extensively- are a complex and varied compendium of lights and shadows.

However, Sarmiento was the first to create Argentine public education, the father of the typical white school smocks. And that, rather than an event from the past, continues to be a starting point and inspiration.

Based on the rigorous historical research undertaken by Laura Ramos, as set out in her book "Las señoritas" (2021), the Argentine Embassy in Washington proposes visiting the moving human stories behind the pedagogical phenomenon of Sarmiento's teachers, an ancient bridge between two nations that were still young, brought about by the passion to educate people. This is why it continues to transport us to the future.

Women. At that time, political passions greatly conditioned people's lives and also made them hazardous. Sarmiento leaves Argentina to travel to Chile and, commissioned by

Ambassador Jorge Argüello and guests at the opening reception of the permanent exhibition about Sarmiento's teachers.



the trans-Andean government, in 1845 begins a journey that took him through Europe in search of public education models.

Guided by writings by the already renowned U.S. educator Horace Mann, a follower of the Swiss Johann H. Pestalozzi's pedagogy, he finally ends up in the United States. As David Viñas wrote, "if Argentina resembled any country due to its extension, its innovations, its scant population and its urgent need for immigrants to fill a purported void, it was the United States".

Sarmiento toured part of the United States in wonder, and frequented the Boston's intellectual circle, a hotbed of new ideas in which popular education was key, and independent women, reformists and suffragists were the main players, including Mary, Mann's wife. Upon his arrival, the traveler would see thousands of schools and teachers spring up everywhere.

After that revealing trip, Sarmiento met with Mary Mann again and resume his plans 20 years later, in 1865, when he returned to Washington as a plenipotentiary minister and our predecessor, as ambassadors that came after him. She was the first source of Sarmiento's dream of recruiting teachers in the United States.

Most of the teachers were women, hailing from Minnesota, New Mexico, Colorado, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine, who ended up planting a seed of gender equality in the creation and management of normal schools, where teachers were trained.

These young ladies, all of them trained as teachers, spread their innovative teaching methods throughout the country: Salta, Tucumán, Catamarca, La Rioja, San Juan, Mendoza, Corrientes, Entre Ríos Santa Fe, La Plata and Buenos Aires.

The exhibition "An Epic Story" at the Espacio Cultural Argentino of the Embassy.



THERE WERE MANY PREJUDICES
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Aires, where Mary Gorman, was the first to arrive.

Although this project was part of Sarmiento's broader one of colonizing the country with immigrants from nations that he considered more advanced, it served as a notable avant-garde impulse for Argentine women that had already begun their gender struggles. Our educator Juana Manso (1819-75), a main ally of the then-president and of the U.S. teachers, saw her dedication to teaching vindicated among Argentine women. And even Jorge Luis Borges' grandmother, Fanny, would host several of them in Paraná.

In Catamarca, the construction of the school directed by Clara Armstrong was financed with contributions from parents who wanted an institution for women, and it mobilized the entire population. It was the beginning of an educational and gender revolution that reflects what our country is today.

Tolerance. There were many prejudices and obstacles that the U.S. teachers had to overcome in a country with long-standing Catholic traditions, and had to travel throughout the provinces in the midst of violent political conflicts between Unitarians and Federalists. Their trips coincided with the Paraguayan War, the assassination of Justo J. de Urquiza and yellow fever in Buenos Aires.

When Clara and her sister and colleague Frances arrived in La Rioja, the local Catholic Church strongly opposed the

project for religious reasons, and forbade its faithful to send their children to the new schools, but the national government backed the teachers and defused the situation.

In 1884 the religious conflict in Córdoba was repeated and it escalated until it ended in the historic breaking of diplomatic relations between Argentina and the Vatican, within the framework of the approval of Law 1420, on compulsory, free and secular primary education.

Identity and Development. The political connotations of Sarmiento's project, both the most appreciated and the most reviled, are undeniable and were based on the situation prevailing at that time, although it was also geared towards a remarkable political, social and cultural future.

In 1849, in the introduction to his "Popular Education", he wrote: "The power, wealth and strength of a nation depend on the industrial, moral and intellectual capacity of its population, and public education should have no other goals besides increasing productivity, action and direction, and increasing the number of people who

Forty two digitalized portraits printed on acrylic.



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possess these traits". In 1868, the country had almost two million inhabitants and only 360,000 of them could read.

Born at a time of pure innovation, an era forged under a hard -often ruthless- concept of material progress, Sarmiento's intention was to educate for a new order, from which even powerful social subjects of that country in need of development should be excluded. "Imagine what a luminous center would be like in the hinterland, a North U.S. colony, in San Juan, producing silver, and cereals, and educating the people," he wrote to Mary Mann. This was also imagined by his liberal and centralist political associates, who intended to "create" a population to suit him.

But Sarmiento's teachers involved something so transformative that it would break that narrow mold, instead bolstering the construction of a new national identity and the universal formation of its citizens, both natives and immigrants. To the disappointment of minorities, this would also end up favoring the birth of popular and national movements that set out to perfect social cohesion and conquer power through democratic means, and in this spirit uphold the values of secular, free and compulsory education.

Sarmiento himself confronted contemporaries, such as his predecessor Bartolomé Mitre, who even at that time imagined a "spillover effect" and who preferred to

postpone the primary education of an entire town to privilege university disciplines that, under his project, should make up the elites the new country needed. Thousands of teachers training thousands of teachers who would instruct millions of citizens, not only in Buenos Aires: that was, his political idea, and deep down a moral one.

In short, the ladies were protagonists of a historical experience that was loaded with future, still ongoing, and will continue to generate a future beyond our days.

Earlier this year, a pico-satellite designed by high school students from Mar del Plata and their teachers, and financially supported by the Argentine State, was launched from Cape Canaveral and traveled to the homeland of those teachers. It is now providing connectivity to rural areas like the ones where those teachers traveled by donkey and cart more than a century and a half ago.

Those children are just one last test of the strength of the bridge towards the future that those women built between two nations that are still trying at present, in times of great inequalities, to ensure universal access to an unbeatable tool of social justice: the education of people. ■



Ambassador Jorge Argüello (Center) and officials from the Embassy.

ARGENTINA, AN ESPORTS HUB IN THE REGION

As part of its program to promote business and investment opportunities, last Tuesday the Argentine Embassy in the United States hosted 25 Esports company executives, to demonstrate the country's potential in this growing industry, both in terms of video game development and Esports tournament organization. It was the first time the Argentine Embassy gave such a far-reaching presentation on the Esports sector.

This event, organized jointly with the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Productive Development, had a hybrid format; while Ambassador Jorge Argüello received the entrepreneurs at the diplomatic representation, experts from the Ministry of Productive Development, the Electronic Sports Association and Videogames from the Province of Córdoba, and the audiovisual and video game hub in Mendoza Province

gave presentations on different segments of interest to US companies.

“The promotion of several industries of the Knowledge Economy is a priority for our government, particularly in the United States, the largest market in the world. Its potential is enormous as regards investments, creation of quality employment, and consolidation of the technological ecosystem”, said Ambassador Argüello.

He added: “Video games and especially electronic sports are reporting a significant growth; Argentina already occupies a preeminent place in this new industry and can continue to grow much more”.

The Ambassador highlighted the growth of the industry in Latin America, the region that has grown the most in

ARGENTINA ALREADY HAS THE LARGEST NUMBER OF PLAYERS PER CAPITA IN THE CONTINENT, AND IN OCTOBER, BUENOS AIRES WILL HOST THE PAN AMERICAN OPEN, A QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT FOR THE ESPORTS WORLD CUP TO BE HELD IN BALI.

this sector in the past two years. "Argentina ranks third in market in the region, after Mexico and Brazil," he said. "This represents a great opportunity for Argentine video game developers, characterized by their professionalism and highly valued talent globally," he added.

The companies present at the Argentine Embassy showed great interest in Argentina; among them, ESL Pro League, Twitch, Entain, React Gaming Group, Gameplan, NASCAR, Riot Games, Misfits Gaming, Nerd Street Gamers, Adidas, Blinkfire Analytics, Method Gaming, Esports Coaching Academy and Esports Innovation Center.

Alejandro Vicchi, Director of the Federalization of Productive Innovation at the Under-Secretariat for Knowledge Economy, made reference to the benefits of the Knowledge Economy Law and the competitiveness of this sector with a federal projection in Argentina.

He provided details on the incentives included in the law for the video game sector and presented diverse programs that his portfolio is developing to stimulate the national technological ecosystem.

Likewise, talked about the creation of gaming hubs and

personalized training programs in Esports provided in eight cities.

For his part, the founder of the Association of Electronic Sports and Video Games, Nicolás Crespo, spoke about the ecosystem of this sector in Argentina, the teams and federations, the streaming platforms, the events held in different provinces, and training and government incentives at national and provincial levels. He also highlighted the investment opportunities in the sector.

Mendoza was represented by Andrés Jaliff, well-known in the provincial hub and co-founder and CEO of Fúlgora Studio. He stated that the Esports ecosystem in Mendoza is growing exponentially, undergoing a rapid expansion, and whose main market is the United States. The Province of Mendoza represents 10 percent of the sector nationwide.

Finally, the Province of Córdoba gave a presentation on the knowledge-based industries at a provincial level. The Undersecretary for Technological Connections, Gonzalo Valenci, referred to Córdoba's solid technological ecosystem and the existing amenities for technology companies to settle in its territory. He referred in particular to the relevance of the University of Córdoba in the national and local educational system, and to the software industry, and highlighted that there are more than 40 companies focused on video game development.

He also indicated that the province makes great efforts in terms of training and qualification, as well as prioritizing the awareness of users regarding responsibility and values.

The executives that attended the event at the Argentine Embassy had the opportunity to ask the exhibitors questions about the different topics covered.

Argentina already has the largest number of players per capita in the continent and in October, Buenos Aires will host the Pan American Open, a qualifying tournament for

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the Esports World Cup in Bali, Indonesia.

This event was held within the framework of the Esports Insider Washington DC events and was attended virtually by Argentine companies and entities, such as the Mendoza Video Game Association (ADEM), Jesters Esports and Xowen Studio. ■