

Bilateral Relations

CELEBRATION OF
THE ANNIVERSARY
OF THE MAY
REVOLUTION

Commerce

LAUNCH OF THE
SMEs PROGRAM
FOR THE WORLD

Energy

ARGENTINA BOOSTS
GROWTH AND
INVESTMENTS IN
THE OIL AND GAS
SECTOR

EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

MAY 2022 // NEWSLETTER



Ambassador Jorge Argüello and guests at the Embassy of Argentina.

CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAY REVOLUTION

On May 25, Argentina celebrated the 212th anniversary of the May Revolution of 1810. The main celebration was held at the Argentine Embassy, with the participation of Mark Wells, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere at the Department of State, and the attendance of around 200 prominent personalities including White House representatives, officials from several agencies, the US Congress, and the accredited diplomatic corps in Washington DC.

Ambassador Jorge Argüello also participated in a school event at the Escuela Argentina de Washington on Saturday, May 21, where children performed some of our country's typical dances, dressed in representative clothing. This event brought together the families and the school's more than 400 students.

The formation of the first autonomous government in our country faced the same dilemma that had arisen a



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the celebration of the 212th anniversary of the May Revolution of 1810 that was held at the Embassy with the participation of prominent personalities including representatives of the White House, the US Congress, and the accredited diplomatic corps in Washington DC.

In this edition we also include an article on the presentation of the "SMEs to the world: Export to the United States Program", aimed at small and medium-sized companies from all productive sectors that have the potential to export to the US market.

Finally, an article on policies announced in Argentina to promote the development of the oil & gas sector, thereby making a contribution to energy security at a critical juncture.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

THE PATH TOWARDS
INDEPENDENCE REPRESENTED
THE BEGINNING OF A STRUGGLE
TO ACHIEVE A PROGRESSIVE
EXPANSION OF RIGHTS.

little over two decades earlier in the United States: that of building a new legitimacy. Replacing the monarchy implied constituting a new formula of authority.

The path towards independence represented the beginning of the struggle to achieve a progressive expansion of rights, which began with those linked to the political arena, but which continued later on with social, economic and civil rights, and persists to this day.

That is why it is important both to celebrate and share the formation of the first national government as well as education about its values, knowledge of the struggle and the strength and timeliness of the ideas that encouraged it.

The wisdom shared by the Founding Fathers in the United States and the Creole patriots in Argentina, is to recover an ancient philosophy, centered on freedom and equality, for a new system of government. However, the most important lesson we can retrieve today from the United States Declaration of Independence and the ideas that inspired the May Revolution can be summed up as follows: destiny is in our hands. It is up to us to change the course of history.

Faced with the challenges posed by a changing world fraught with uncertainty, with many similarities and also with our own differences and nuances, let's continue working to achieve a world in which there is freedom and prosperity for all. ■

Ambassador Jorge Argüello, his wife, Erika Grinberg (Ctr.) and Deputy Principal, Andrea Casteluccio (R.) at Escuela Argentina in Washington.



LAUNCH OF THE SMEs PROGRAM FOR THE WORLD

With the participation of approximately 250 companies from all over the country, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Productive Development and the Argentine Embassy in the United States presented the “SMEs to the world: Export to the United States Program”, a cycle that will extend throughout 2022 and aimed at small and medium-sized companies from all productive sectors with potential to export to the US market.

The event was headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Santiago Cafiero, and broadcast from Pilar at the Cladan headquarters. The Argentine Ambassador, Jorge Argüello, attended virtually and gave a presentation on the United States market and its opportunities.

Present in person were the Secretary of Small and Medium

Enterprises and Entrepreneurs, Guillermo Merediz; the Mayor of Pilar, Federico Achával; the president of the Investment and International Trade Agency, Juan Usandivaras; the undersecretary of Productivity and Regional SME Development, Pablo Bercovich; the Undersecretary of Commerce and Investment Promotion of the Foreign Ministry, Pablo Sívori (virtual), the Executive Director of Cladan, Martín Cardona, and the foreign trade representative of Amcham, Gustavo D’Amuri.

“We are here, in a company that is thriving; it applies technology, innovation and development, and its mindset is to expand its expertise, open markets, and be part of the exporting SMEs,” Minister Cafiero stated. “What is exported and produced here today is talent, because its employees have a high-quality technical training. There are technologists that are working on this and use Argentine

Chancellor Santiago Cafiero (Ctr.) together with entrepreneurs from small and medium-sized companies.



BOTH THE PANDEMIC AND THE WAR HAVE PUT IN EVIDENCE THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF SAFE, CLOSE AND FRIENDLY PROVIDERS.

talent when producing goods”, he added.

“Argentina set a record for SMEs exports last year. That is why we believe that with more strategic training, more technical assistance and more financing, we can strengthen our national SMEs export momentum, explained the Minister.

For his part Secretary Merediz stated: “This training is part of a strategic and coordinated work agenda undertaken by the Ministry of Productive Development and the Ministry so that more SMEs in Argentina continue to meet the objective of joining the world’s major markets”.

Ambassador Argüello gave a detailed characterization of the United States market and the tools provided by the Argentine Embassy to assist exporting companies. He emphasized the role that Argentina can play in priority sectors such as energy, mining, food and beverages, and organic products, among others.

“An important aspect that should be taken into account is how we can shorten and secure supply chains: the pandemic and the war curtailed the idea of very complex value chains spread across the globe. Currently what are being sought are safe, close and friendly providers. If we add the environmental sustainability issue, we find some of the main features promoted by the Biden Administration, to which Argentina is deeply committed”, remarked Ambassador Argüello. And he added: “Besides factors such as professional talent, the use of English, similar time

zones, a good cost/quality ratio, there is another factor we rarely take into account, but which at present attains a special relevance worldwide: we are part of a zone of peace”.

Through the Argentine Consulates General, in the upcoming sessions of this program priority sectors such as biotechnology, food and beverages, knowledge-based services, gas and oil, animal nutrition, wines, advanced pharmaceutical manufacturing, fashion and design, among others, will be addressed. ■



President Alberto Fernández (Ctro.) together with ministers from his administration.

ARGENTINA BOOSTS GROWTH AND INVESTMENTS IN THE OIL AND GAS SECTOR

The invasion of Ukraine produced shockwaves in the global economy, particularly in the energy and food markets due to the impact of the war on supply, as well as the rise in commodity prices.

This crisis, beyond its notorious negative effects, especially as regards uncertainty about the future, represents for certain countries, including Argentina, the opportunity and the need to speed up the development of their productive capacity and thus make a contribution to global energy and food security.

In this context, on May 24 President Alberto Fernández together with Minister of Economy Martín Guzmán and Minister of Productive Development, Matías Kulfas, announced the creation of special regimes that will expand

access to foreign currency in the Argentine exchange market for the oil and gas companies that in response to the exceptional situation in the hydrocarbon markets are investing to increase their domestic production.

Decree 277/2022 issued by the Executive Branch modified the regulations for access to foreign currency, aiming to promote scaling-up the country's hydrocarbon production. This measure will also contribute to generate the additional natural gas production needed to supply the Néstor Kirchner Gas Pipeline, a vital infrastructure project for energy transition in Argentina, which will be built and operative by next year. Likewise, it will foster ramping up oil production, thus improving the supply in the domestic market and strengthening the balance of

DECREE 277/2022 ISSUED
BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH
MODIFIED THE REGULATIONS
FOR ACCESS TO FOREIGN
CURRENCY, AIMING TO
PROMOTE SCALING-UP THE
COUNTRY'S HYDROCARBON
PRODUCTION.

payments, as well as enhancing the development potential of the Argentine economy.

This access to foreign currency through the Single Foreign Exchange Market for gas and oil producing companies may be used to pay capital and interest on commercial or financial liabilities abroad, including liabilities with non-resident related companies, and/or profits and dividends, and/or the repatriation of direct investments of non-residents. This right may be totally or partially transferred to direct providers of the beneficiary for the same purposes available to the operator.

The Argentine government has had to put in place strict capital controls since the severe Balance of Payments crisis experienced by the national economy in 2018-2019. However, it stated that its roadmap is to transform this system into a less restrictive one, which includes macroprudential measures, as soon as conditions allow it. In this vein, the recently announced measures to accompany the development of investments in the oil and gas sector are a clear signal in that direction. ■