

# PRESS'Envir<sup>o</sup>nnement

N° SPÉCIAL PANAMÁ - Mardi - 1 novembre 2016 Par Amélie CROZE, Ruby SARRIA, Constance HAMM, Abigaël LIGNEUL

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## EADLINES - PANAMA OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS 2ND FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

On October 27, Panama was the seat of the 2nd International Congress on the economy, the environment and energy for sustainable development of the country organized by the International Chamber of Commerce. (The world business organization). Said Congress had intended to present the roadmap for the green economy of the Committee on the Environment and Energy of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), chapter of Panama. Therefore, participation of large companies, institutions and organizations such as the Development Bank for Latin America, the authority of the Panama Canal, the Celsia, UNEP and UNDP, among others. It is



noteworthy that the main themes were: the realities of environmental sustainability in Panama, energy diversity, foreign investment in the energy sector in Latin America and the economic outlook on the matrix of diversity energy. It is expected that the guidelines presented in the path of the green economy are an important vehicle for all stakeholders and actors in the economy, and to preserve and enhance economic growth, but always respecting the environment and sustainable development. Therefore, rest enjoy the results of an implementation of such important guide to the future.

## ECONOMY - PANAMA IN FIGURES

Panama is a country of about 75 420 km<sup>2</sup>, corresponding to slightly less than 8.9 times the size of France.

The Panama Canal is the primary source of financing the Panamanian state.

The latter was opened for the first time August 15, 1914.

The Panama Canal was opened after 9 years of titanic work on 26 June 2016. It is now 80 km long, equivalent of 20 Eiffel Towers steel. Product.

The Panama Canal is a major economic shipping route for about 14,000 vessels each year, carrying over 320 million tonnes of cargo.

The new system of sliding doors 16 allows access to each lock chamber (whose purpose is to protect the tidal effects due to the passage of ships). Each door weighs between 2100 and 4200 tonnes to over 57 meters high.

Furthermore, Panama has a rich biodiversity. With 950 bird species identified, it is among the richest countries in this area.



## A BIODIVERSITY - THE PANAMA CREATE TRUST FOR THE PRESERVATION OF SPECIES

It is well known worldwide as biodiversity is threatened daily for different reasons, are among the main trade and persecution of species and climate change. Panama is a country with a rich biodiversity. This is why, in order to protect its vast array of biodiversity, October 3, the National Economic Council (CENA) had given its approval in a first phase subject to final approval for a project to which Trust participate the Ministry of Environment and the National Bank of Panama, to ensure the protection and the effective support of protected areas. Finally, on October 13, CENA has approved the creation of the trust, which will begin with a fund of 1 million 500 dollars, from a variety of sources, including the Global Environment Fund and the Fund the Scots Life. The entities concerned provide that the Trust will run about 3 million annually, which will have a positive impact on the preservation of species biodiversity in Panama.

## WATER – BIG PROJECT TO CLEAN MARINE IS COMING IN COCLE

The sea is a water resource of paramount importance for Panama, since its privileged location is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic. Therefore, it obviously becomes a relevant source of economic activity in fishing associated with the rich biodiversity of Panamanian marine habitats. As part of the care and conservation of the habitat in 2009 The Authority of Water Resources of Panama (ARAP) launched, with communities in some provinces, a project to remove, collect waste in the sea but also fishing nets that affect harmfully to the marina fauna and coral networks. This is why the past 4 October this project began negotiations planned under the program for this year, in the last selected province (Cocle). According PFRA, since the launch of this project, 5 tons of waste were collected which benefited positively Panamanian marine ecosystem.





## LAW- PANAMANIAN CONGRESS FOR DEMOCRACY AND THE ELECTORAL LAW, 11 OCTOBER 2016

On the occasion of the opening of Congress Panamanian Democracy and Law held on October 11 2016, Erasmio Pinilla C., Judge President Panamanian Electoral Tribunal held a speech committed on the situation Panama economy. It has developed the Canal nationalization in 1999 much to open up the economy Panama internationally. This fact, Panama has seen a total of 14 billion in compensation. This greatly accelerated the growth of the country which is now close 6% per year. However, Erasmio Pinilla C. puts emphasize the fact that the enrichment the country does not yet allow to date a breakdown in the entire benefit Population. In 2016, still 30% the population is considered poor.



## AGRICULTURAL - A NEW SYSTEM FOR RICE PLANTING

The Institute of Agricultural Research Panama has developed a new all system for rice planting has aim to reduce the use water during the production cycle to reduce by fifty percent the use of water and four-twenty five percent the use of seeds. This system is part of a process organic for improved soil quality and health. This technology will be imported into Costa Rica and Nicaragua after proven in India and in Pakistan the yield increased from five to eight tons per hectare.



## RECYCLING - OPERATION LOCK OF PANAMA CANAL



A lock is a hydraulic structure to make it navigable channel and allow boats to negotiate height differences. The lock comprises a lock in which it is possible to vary the level of water and is delimited by the doors. The locks of the Panama Canal aim maintenance of pools, without traffic interruption.

In each lock, recycling is done by a filling system and gravity drain: when the ship goes down, the basins of the room are filled, saving 60% water. The remaining 40% is dumped in the next room, then the other, to the sea. The locks allow to raise the level of the channel, for raising a ship at 26 meters above the sea. they are built so that the size of ships (Panamax) can spend is thereby limited. The operations are directed to each side of the channel by control towers equipped with the latest electronic technology.



## TAXATION - AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH OECD AGAINST TAX EVASION



After suffering negative publicity in past weeks media on tax evasion, Panama has quickly responded by signing 27 October 2016 with the OECD (the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) multilateral Convention concerning mutual administrative Assistance in tax matters. We count a total of 106 participants in the Convention.

This agreement is an effective instrument for the fight against tax fraud. It provides including information exchanges, tax examinations abroad, etc. More recently, the OECD, under this Convention, set up the standard automatic exchange of information relating to financial accounts, which should come into force shortly. This signature "testifies good provisions of Panama and its commitment to move towards transparency," said Angel Gurría, Secretary General of the ODE.



## ECONOMY – GOVERNMENT PLEDGES BOOST ECONOMY OF PANAMA

Amador Causeway Amador or walk, two kilometers long, located east of the entrance channel of the coast of the Pacific Ocean, it connects the four islands facing the city. The area is a major tourist center where the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, the Centre of aquatic Punta Culebra Exhibitions, a museum open to the public nature of Culebra Point on the island of Naos or the Biomuseo (Biological Museum) designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry.



Amador Causeway is still processing due to traffic problems, safety and general neglect. However, the government is committed to completing the most important achievement of the capital.

Government spending has therefore had the authority to commit \$ 500 million for the expansion of roads, adding bike lanes through new landscaping. Added to this is the completion of the convention center to boost occupancy hotels, restaurants and cultural events. Moreover, the government has given the green light for the construction of an aquarium in the Biological Museum (BioMuseo). Finally, the Panama Maritime Authority in collaboration with the Panama Tourist Office wants to develop a cruise terminal on the island of Perico, The design will incorporate commercial structures and maritime infrastructure with a total area of 11 hectares. Amador is a historic area of Panama City and is slowly changing. Amador Causeway of companies had difficulties due to seasonal fluctuations and chaos from many projects unfinished improvement. The new government commitments aimed at boosting the country's economy in the long term and is of a major issue on the international scene especially with tourists and property investor.