

“A plan is a trap
laid to capture the
future.”

Woody Allen

Reform Times in Uruguay



Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en Uruguay
UNIDOS EN LA ACCIÓN

A monthly newsletter with news, data and events of the “Delivering as One” process in Uruguay

Darwin's frog as symbol

First Festival of Movies on Environment and Cultural Diversity has colourful agenda

“De Ver Verde” (Seeing Green) was the name of the First Festival of Movies on the Environment and Cultural Diversity, held in Montevideo city between 22nd and 28th May at Hoyt's Cinemas in the Alfa and Beta Building Complex (Barreiro and Berro). After Montevideo, the Festival will travel the whole country for six months.

The festival was jointly organized by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Office of the Resident Coordinator (RCO), the National Environmental Directorate (DINAMA), the National System of Protected Areas in Uruguay (SNAP), the Education and Culture Ministry (MEC) and the British Embassy in Uruguay.

“De Ver Verde” promotes, from an art and culture perspective, a look on the environmental issues impacting the world and the region. The movie sessions enriched the growing debate in Uruguay on these matters, particularly climate change. The festival also had an educational objective, by offering an attractive variety of films to schools in Montevideo and elsewhere in Uruguay. In addition, the festival included an exhibit of posters and cartoons which were first shown in international events about environmental rights, desertification, water resources and climate change. Also part of the exhibit were children's drawings from an international contest organized by UNEP, Bayer, Nikon and the Foundation for Global Peace and Environment and from a national drawing contest organized by UNESCO and the Public Education National Administration (ANEP).

Although the exhibition had a strong international content, the festival focused primarily on the situation of the environment in Uruguay. New short movies offering a tour of landscapes and situations of Uruguay's protected areas were included. The movie theatre had a thematic decoration. The audience enjoyed the presence of an emblematic species for nature lovers, the Darwin's frog. Some types of this animal can only be found in Uruguay and are in the list of endangered species. Its use as the symbol of the festival coincided with the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of “The origin of species”, a classic by Charles Darwin. ■



Workshop in Durazno considers potential of ongoing activities

Food security: How to promote it at the local level?

The first enlarged meeting of the Thematic Inter-agency Food and Nutritional Security Group was held on 22 May in Durazno. It focused on “The role played by the national and departmental levels in food security”.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Livestock, Agriculture and Fishing Ministry (MGAP), Social Development Ministry (MIDES), Uruguay's Technological Laboratory (LATU) and Public Health Ministry (MSP), as well as by representatives of municipalities and several civil society organizations. The meeting was inaugurated by the hosting Municipality of Durazno. The FAO Representative in Uruguay, Antonio Morales Mengual, also spoke and Héctor Díaz, from the Budget and Planning Office (OPP), and Gerardo Lorbeer, from the Montevideo Municipality, gave presentations. They briefed the audience on ongoing and innovative actions being implemented and analyzed the links between the national and departmental areas of action as regards food and nutritional security. The presentations were followed by an exchange of views on the topic of food security. The event concluded with a presentation of the projects being implemented by the UN system in the area around Durazno by Virginia Sena, from the Small Donations Programme (PPD/UNDP), and Rafael Casas, from FAO. ■



FAO Representative in Uruguay, Mr. Antonio Morales Mengual, together with the General Coordinator of Durazno's Municipality, Mr. Luis Iturria, at the meeting opening.

Human Development Report presented in Salto city

Policy making, a key factor for development

The UNDP fourth report on Policy Making and Human Development in Uruguay was presented on Tuesday, 5 May, at the “Eugenio Cafaro” Room of the North Regional Branch of the Republic University, in Salto city.

The presentation was attended by more than 250 university students and local professionals, together with Salto City Mayor Ramón Fonticiella, Director of the North Regional Branch of Republic University, Alejandro Noboa, and the UNDP Country Director in Uruguay, Antonio Molpeceres. Andrea Vigorito and Henry Trujillo, two of the several researchers who worked in the report, analyzed its technical content. This UNDP report had already been presented in Montevideo city a few months ago, but the presentation at the Republic University in Salto city allowed a first-hand contact with the local university audience interested in matters related to Uruguay's human development. “The report highlights the importance of policy making and shows that the country's democratic culture has a direct relationship with the welfare of the population. Uruguay has historically been a country with a high index of human development and this report is an attempt to demonstrate the reasons behind such situation. We know there are high indicators in the areas of education and health as compared to other Latin American countries and even at the global level. One of the conclusions of the report is that a factor that has influenced this historical situation is policy making, a key factor for development because there is a close link between political institutions and political culture, how people see politics and how it promotes their welfare”, Antonio Molpeceres told the daily “Cambio de Salto”. ■■



The Human Development Report and its impact

“There are still far too few women peacekeepers. With women joining national militaries and police in greater numbers, it is critical that Member States contribute even more female personnel to the United Nations. On this International Day, let us draw on the power of women to strengthen UN peacekeeping while helping women and girls themselves to transform their destinies – and societies – for the better”

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Joint Projects: letter by letter

Project E

“Support to the policies for social integration and food security”

Project products: Enhance social integration processes for the poor, particularly the young population (19 to 29) with children. The project will also contribute to reduce the significant poverty levels recently observed in Uruguay.

Participating Agencies: Executing Agencies: UNDP and FAO. Associated Agencies: ILO, PAHO/WHO, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNIFEM. FAO, ILO, UNDP and UNICEF.

National implementing associates: Social Development Ministry (MIDES), Planning and Budget Office (OPP), and the National Feeding Institute (INDA, by its abbreviation in Spanish).

Budget (2008-2010): USD 668.750 ■■



Food conservation training courses of CETP-UTU started in May, within the framework of the first phase of UN Project 08/00/E “Support to Social Integration and Food Security Policies”, component: “Supporting policies and instruments of the Uruguay Integrates Programme”. The training sessions will be held during a four-month period with the participation of groups from Ciudad del Plata (San José), Barros Blancos (Canelones) and Montevideo East Zone. ■■

United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Uruguay

Javier Barrios Amorín 870, 2nd floor
11200 Montevideo, Uruguay
Phone: (+ 598 2) 412 33 56 to 59
Fax: (+ 598 2) 412 33 60
www.onu.org.uy



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Translation: UNIC Buenos Aires