

GLOBAL FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Fostering Progress, Collaboration and Exchange



YEAR IN REVIEW 2018



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GFDD GLOBAL FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT Fostering Progress, Collaboration and Exchange



Table of Contents

| About GFDD | 11 |
|---|---|
| GFDD Highlights 2018 | 12 |
| International Affairs | 15 |
| Global Forum Latin America and the Caribbean | 16 |
| Global Roundtables | 26 |
| Collaboration with the United Nations | 30 |
| Collaboration with the OAS | 36 |
| Collaboration with UNA-DR | 38 |
| International Participation by Dr. Leonel Fernández, President of GFDD/Funglode | 42 |
| Education, Professional Development & Scholarships | 51 |
| InteRDom | 52 |
| Fellows Program | 56 |
| Education | 62 |
| | |
| Environment & Sustainable Development Programs | 71 |
| DREFF | |
| $X \setminus X / Z$ | 72 |
| DREFF | 72 76 |
| DREFF | 72 76 82 |
| DREFF ReCrearte Year Round Environmental Film Screenings | 72 76 82 89 |
| DREFF | 72 76 82 89 90 |
| DREFF | 72 76 82 89 90 94 |
| DREFF | 72 76 82 89 90 94 98 |
| DREFF ReCrearte Year Round Environmental Film Screenings Dominican Issues, Heritage and Outreach | 72 76 82 89 90 94 98 104 |
| DREFF | 72 76 82 89 90 94 98 104 109 |
| DREFF | 72 76 82 90 94 98 104 109 117 |



It has been sixteen years since the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development began working to promote the sustainable social, democratic, economic and cultural development of the Dominican Republic, throughout the Western Hemisphere and the world. Not even for a moment has our commitment to that mission wavered or fallen short.

As the world undergoes changes, it is now more than ever vital that we be equipped with leadership to guide and recommend responses that enable long-term success and prosperity for all. GFDD serves that role through its numerous projects and programs as well as its global partnerships with other institutions dedicated to ensuring society's wellbeing.

In 2018 we continued to strive to enhance perspective on economic and social challenges faced in Latin America, the Caribbean and around the world with information and knowledge on global trends and best practices.

It was a particularly special year as we had the privilege of hosting the First Annual Global Forum Latin America and the Caribbean, which brought together some of the world's leading experts from think-tanks, academic institutions and international organizations for an exchange of ideas and conversation about how to confront the most pressing global challenges. The Global Forum 2018 was one of dozens of events, projects and programs that GFDD carried out in this very fruitful year.

We are well aware that individual supporters and participants as well as our institutional collaborators make events and projects like the Global Forum 2018 so successful. In this 2018 version of the Year in Review, we provide an overview of the terrific job you have helped us achieve as a congratulations and thank you. We invite you to continue to work alongside us in 2019 as we move forward and strengthen efforts to promote sustainable social, economic and political development for all people in Latin America, the Caribbean and throughout the entire world.

Dr. Leonel Fernández President of GFDD



We at GFDD feel grateful and blessed for having had the opportunity to develop and expand numerous development programs and initiatives in the year 2018. Over the last twelve months GFDD was able to carry out initiatives in areas critical to the socio-economic, cultural and sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

To strengthen knowledge and collaboration among policy makers, GFDD/Funglode held the first Global Forum Latin America and the Caribbean, a two-day-long gathering of international experts, Heads of State, Ministers of Foreign Relations and senior representatives from regional organizations, academia and think-tanks at the Union League Club in Manhattan.

By providing innovative approaches through GFDD Research and Ideas Series publications, this year GFDD published four books in the area of sustainable development, economy, and history.

Using the latest website technologies, GFDD redesigned, upgraded and created new contents for Dominicanaonline.org website.

The Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival (DREFF) hosted dozens of screenings and panel discussions on environmental sustainability in Washington DC, New York City and locales venues throughout the Dominican Republic as part of its mission to promote sustainable environmental practices. It also attended the First International Forum of Environmental Film Festivals in Seia, Portugal alongside 37 other film festivals from around the world.

During the 2018 sessions of the Global Roundtable series GFDD sat down for interviews with regional leaders like Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the OAS; Inés Bustillo, Director of the ECLAC Washington Office among others.

The Dominican Film Showcase held many special celebrations of Dominican culture and heritage through film including the debut of the Dominican film *La Barbería* at the world-renowned Walter Reade Theatre at the Lincoln Center in New York City. GFDD also held screenings of the Dominican film *Hay un país en el mundo* (There is a country in the world) at the Inter-American Development Bank headquarters in Washington, DC, at the CODOCUL in New York and at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA.

We have so much to be grateful for and even more to look forward to! In 2019, we plan to carry out more creative projects and events to bring new perspectives, innovative approaches and solutions for the sustainable development of the Dominican Republic and all of the Americas.

Natasha Despotovic Executive Director of GFDD



About GFDD

Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) is the sister organization in the United States of Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (Funglode), headquartered in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Funglode was created in 2000 by Dr. Leonel Fernández upon completing his first presidential mandate. GFDD was incorporated under US law in 2002 to elevate and expand the international visibility and presence of Funglode, and to strengthen collaboration and exchange with US-based institutions.

GFDD Headquarters are located in Washington, DC and its second office is in New York. The Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the advancement of global collaboration and exchange relevant to Dominican professionals, general audiences and institutions in the homeland and abroad. The Foundation conducts research, enhances public understanding, designs public policies, devises strategies, and offers capacity-building in areas crucial to social, economic, democratic and cultural sustainable development.

GFDD promotes better understanding and appreciation of Dominican culture, values and heritage in the Dominican Republic, the United States and worldwide.

GFDD creates, facilitates, and implements wide-scope international human development projects, building on its own experience, expertise and strong national and international networks.

Mission

GFDD formulates and implements initiatives that contribute to sustainable social, democratic, economic and cultural development in the Dominican Republic and the Western Hemisphere.

Vision

GFDD brings new perspectives, innovative approaches and solutions to pressing issues and challenges of contemporary society in the Dominican Republic and the Americas. Through the construction of partnerships and networks, the Foundation builds bridges and implements development promoting initiatives on a global level.

Areas of Interest

- Environment
- Sustainable economic and social development
- Education
- Communications
- Health
- Culture

- International relations
- Defense and security
- Knowledge management
- Information and communications technology
- Democracy
- Dominican studies
- Globalization and regional integration









The Forum brought together prominent thinkers and practitioners dedicated to the study of the Region's dynamics, in order to launch a dialogue and present proposals encouraging development with equity.

September, 25-27, New York

Dr. Fernández elected President of the World Federation of United Nations Associations





DominicanaOnline



Redesigned Upgraded Mobile Friendly



Publications

Four new books on sustainable development, economy and history

Five Dynamic Panel Discussions at DC Office



HIGHLIGHTS 2018



New Partnerships



International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)

United Nations Office for South South Cooperation (UNOSSC)



Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital (DCEFF)



Dominican Night screening and panel discussion on local stories of environmental success First International **Forum of Environmental Film Festivals**



Seia, Portugal, October 15



Twenty-six screenings in educational institutions around Dominican Republic

Fifty-five Cultural and Community Events

In New York, District of Columbia and Boston









The main objective is to promote a space for debate and offer a comprehensive platform for the exchange of ideas, discussion and analysis on the current role of Latin America and the Caribbean in the global arena, as well as its implications and challenges.



> September 25:

Leonel Fernández Initiates the First Global Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean

> September 26:

Panels on Socio-Economic Perspectives; International Economics; the Election Super Cycle in Latin America and the Region on the Global Stage

> September 27:

GFDD President, OAS Secretary General and former Heads of State Discuss Regional Integration and Democratic Norms in Latin America and the Caribbean

Watch the full-length videos!

globalforumlac.org/videos/



2018 Global Forum Latin America and the Caribbean

2018 Global Forum Latin America and the Caribbean was a grand success with the participation of dozens of interested audience members, representatives from the private and public sector, journalists and members of the media as well as academics from New York City and around the world. Over two days, presentations, panel discussions and keynote speeches from some of the region's top experts and leaders engaged in thought-provoking debate and discussion that will surely fuel some conversation about the role and challenges faced by Latin America and the Caribbean in the year to come.

GFDD would like to express gratitude to the panelists and participants who made the Forum possible. A special thanks is also given to the volunteers and collaborators who dedicated their time and assistance to the event.

The organizing committee is sure that this conference contributes to the discussion and exchange of ideas concerning the social, economic and democratic growth of the region. It looks forward to continuing these efforts at the 2019 Global Forum Latin America and the Caribbean.



More than 30 international experts, including Heads of State, Ministers of Foreign Relations and senior representatives of regional organizations and think tanks discussed their ideas on the present and future of the region of Latin America and the Caribbean on September 25-27, 2018 at the First Annual Global Forum Latin America and the Caribbean in New York City.

The First Global Forum was held at the Union League Club of Manhattan and was organized by GFDD/Funglode. Other event organizers included the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA Internacional), the Institute of Latin American Studies – Columbia University and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The international event was led by GFDD President and former President of the Dominican Republic, Dr. Leonel Fernández.

The Forum brought together the foremost think-tanks dedicated to the study of the region's dynamics, in order to launch a dialogue and present proposals that would encourage development with equity. Among the most renowned panelists and guests were Organization of American States (OAS) General Secretary Luis Almagro; Former Presidents Vinicio Cerezo from Guatemala and Carlos Mesa from Bolivia; Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado, the Vice President of Panama and Jorge Castañeda, the former Mexican Foreign Minister.

Over the course of two days, these high-level panelists and other experts held conversations and analyzed the role of Latin America and the Caribbean as well as implication and challenges for the region on the world stage. The Forum provided a pluralist platform for debate and the exchange of ideas.







"Global norms have not prevented the recurrence of all kinds of crises, all kinds of conflicts that have challenged and continue to challenge the democratic institution and processes in lots of countries. So, we have this declaration of universal rights and most of the members states of the United Nations are committed to the declaration but in terms of the implementation it differs from case to case. [There is an] increasing lack of agreement indeed at a global level of the meaning for instance of fundamental rights, like democratic rights."

Yves Leterme – Secretary General, IDEA International



Global Forum Experts Tackle Economics, Elections and the Region's Role in the International Arena

September 26, New York City

The official program of the Global Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean began on Wednesday, September 26, a day filled with panel discussions and speeches concerning topics such as the socioeconomic perspectives for Latin America and the Caribbean; the international economic scenario; the super-cycle Latin American electoral calendar for 2018 and the region's position in the global arena.

On this day, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Alicia Bárcena delivered her keynote on "Economic Perspectives of Latin America and the Caribbean," which highlighted the financial situation in the region and pointed to various macro-economic concerns. Following the Secretary's presentation were two panel discussions led by economists from the World Bank and the United Nations as well as other leading think-tanks and organizations in the field of economics and finance.

Also, on Wednesday were two panels and a keynote address concerning democratic processes in the region. First, Mr. Zovatto highlighted concerns over democracy and corruption in Latin America and the Caribbean in a speech entitled "Electoral Super Cycle 2018." Afterwards, leaders from top think-tanks, institutions of higher learning and regional bodies reflected on and debated past and future electoral outcomes and the importance of regional political institutions.

To close the day, Dr. Fernández gave a speech on the political panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean and demonstrated how the region's current political situation is tied to the 2008 financial crisis. He encouraged the creation of a consultation mechanism to coordinate policies of the region as a whole. According to Dr. Fernández, this mechanism would help Latin America and Caribbean be much more effective in strengthening its presence at the international level.

"Nowhere in the world is there a region where there are so many institutions working towards the same thing," explained Fernández. The President was referring to the multiplicity of efforts that have been carried out to integrate the Latin America and Caribbean region without reaching important advancements in integration.

Dr. Fernández' dissertation was commented on by a panel of experts made up of distinguished political scientists Iván C. Rebolledo, Shannon O'Neil and Thomas A. Shannon. All touched upon the key issues presented by Dr. Fernández and expressed their own points of view regarding the current situation faced by Latin America and the Caribbean regarding a functional integration system and its relationship to the international community.



















Dr. Fernández, Luis Almagro and Panelists Debate Regional Integration; Democratic Norms in Latin America and the Caribbean

September 27, New York City

On the final day of the conference, the focus was the value of democratic and regional instruments to ensure the promotion of democracy.

In the morning a panel of experts, including Secretary General of the OAS Luis Almagro, Yves Leterme, Massimo Tommasoli, Thomas Garret, and Christopher Sabatini touched upon issues regarding the current regional integration institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean in a conversation entitled "the Value of the International and Regional Democratic Instruments to Guarantee Sustainable Democracies."

Latin America continues to lack an effective overall mechanism that will guarantee the sustainability of democracy, an element that constitutes a challenge to the region that it must overcome in the short-term, the panelists agreed.

In the afternoon General Secretary Almagro gave special remarks in which he encouraged the strengthening of democracy in the region. During his intervention, titled "Perspectives on Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean," the OAS Secretary General encouraged the people of Latin America and the Caribbean to work together to build a solid and effective democratic system that will leave no space for the entry of authoritarian governments.

"We need less fear and more energy to face the dictatorships in the region," stated Almagro. "We have sent clear messages that we want a hemisphere free of crimes against humanity," he added.

The General Secretary then shared the stage with a high-level panel featuring former Presidents Leonel Fernández of the Dominican Republic; Vinicio Cerezo from Guatemala and Carlos Mesa from Bolivia. Also participating were Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado, the Vice President of Panama and Jorge Castañeda, the former Mexican Foreign Minister. Dr. Fernández and the group of leaders discussed challenges to democracy and the region's human rights crises.

The world leaders concluded that democratic norms ought to be strengthened, since dictatorial tendencies, particularly in places like Nicaragua and Venezuela, are threatening the region's status as a beacon for democracy.























In close association with the United Nations and other organizations, GFDD organizes regular interviews with ambassadors, think-tank experts and multilateral institutions representatives in an effort to spread news and understanding of global issues and work of different international bodies.



> April 19:

Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Luis Almagro Lemes on the OAS in Regional Democratic Processes

> September 4:

Gerardo de Icaza, Director of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation at the Organization of American States on OAS Special Democratic Missions

> November 8:

Inés Bustillo, Director of the Washington Office of ECLAC

> November 28:

Rita Hernández Bolaños, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the OAS

> December 7:

Ana Rosa Valdivieso, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Peru to the OAS





The OAS in Regional Democratic Processes

April 19, Washington, DC

Luis Almagro Lemes - Secretary General of the Organization of American States

In the first edition of the 2018 GFDD Global Roundtables, GFDD invited Luis Almagro Lemes, the Secretary General of

the Organization of American States (OAS) to the organization's offices for a discussion about the most pressing issues facing Latin America. The OAS Secretary General was interviewed by GFDD's Socio-Economic Development Program Manager, María Victoria Abreu, who asked the leader several questions about the role of the OAS in regional democratic processes including its electoral observation missions as well as about new institutional challenges for the OAS and the then upcoming General Assembly that was to be held in the Washington, DC in June 2018. When asked about the OAS' slogan, "more rights for more people" Almagro noted that the phrase represents an important approach since Latin America and the Caribbean is the most unequal continent in the world. For that reason, not all of its citizens have the same opportunity to access their rights.

DECO Supports Electoral Processes Throughout the Hemisphere

September 4, Washington, DC

Gerardo de Icaza – Director of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation

In a September edition of the Global Roundtables, Semiramis de Miranda, GFDD Projects and ICT Director, and diplomat and GFDD contributor Angie Martinez received Gerardo de Icaza, Director of the Department of

Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) at the OAS, at the GFDD offices in Washington, DC. In an interview with Martinez, de Icaza spoke about the role of the OAS in promoting and ensuring democratic norms and systems in the Western Hemisphere. De Icaza also explained the goals of DECO in the electoral observations that it facilitates, which include: ensuring that underrepresented populations, like women and indigenous communities, are able to vote; guaranteeing that electoral processes are fair and accurate and finally, making certain that elections are clean of abuse, bribes and other forms of fraudulent activity. The Director of DECO noted that the OAS missions have been quite effective in ensuring and promoting democratic processes throughout the region.

ECLAC Celebrates 70 Years of Promoting Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

November 8, Washington, DC

Inés Bustillo - Director of the Washington Office of ECLAC

The Director of the Washington Office of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Inés Bustillo, visited the GFDD offices for an interview with diplomat Angie Martinez. The two spoke about ECLAC's mission as well as the challenges and advances made on social and economic development during the organization's 70-year history.





The Director of the ECLAC Washington Office noted some of the major challenges that ECLAC has faced. Most recently the impacts of globalization, including migratory flows and technological change, have caused major shocks. Dr. Bustillo also explained that while the region has advanced in terms of simple economic production, social, political and environmental development have not always grown at the same rate. Despite facing such hurdles, Dr. Bustillo remained optimistic, saying that regional integration and a demographic dividend will help Latin America prosper in the long-run.

Women Leadership at the OAS and Throughout in the Hemisphere

November 28, Washington, DC

Rita Hernández Bolaños – Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the OAS

In the November edition of the Global Roundtables, GFDD welcomed the Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the OAS, Rita Hernández Bolaños to the GFDD offices in Washington for a discussion with Angie Martinez. Among the



topics discussed were women leaders in politics and the future of the OAS. Hernández, one of only six female Permanent Representatives at the OAS, mentioned how, as a woman, it was challenging to move up in the field of diplomacy. The Ambassador noted the advances that had been made toward gender equality, but that work lay ahead. She highlighted the strong commitment to equality from Costa Rica's President, Carlos Alvarado, whose administration has equal representation of men and women leaders.

"The OAS wants to be closer to the citizens and promote policies that put them closer to their rights"

Luis Almagro – Secretary General of the Organization of American States



Peru Continues to Support Regional Frameworks on Democracy

December 7, Washington, DC

Ambassador - Permanent Representative of Peru to the OAS

GFDD was honored to have the Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Peru to the OAS, Ana Rosa Valdivieso visit the Washington office for a December Global Roundtable interview with

Martinez. The two discussed Peru's work at the OAS as well as the country's leadership throughout the region. The Ambassador stressed that "Peru is a country committed to democracy and to human rights." She explained the significant role that Peru has played in encouraging peace in Venezuela and, more recently, in Nicaragua. The two chatted about the recent 8th Summit of the Americas, which was held in Lima, Peru in April 2018. She mentioned that the signing of the Lima Commitment, a regional agreement to fight corruption, was the greatest achievement of the meeting. Her country will continue to fight for the creation of regional frameworks on governance, human rights and democracy, said the Ambassador.





G FDD and Funglode are non-profit organizations with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Department of Public Information (DPI), the Global Compact Office, the Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Summit of Information Society (WSIS) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC).



> March 3: General Assembly of Confederation of NGOs (CoNGO)

> March 12:

UN Panel Discussion on Status of Financial Services Available to Rural Women

> April 26:

UN Side Event Discussion on Financial Inclusion and Financial Stability

> July 9-18:

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2018

> July 26:

Partnership Established with UNOSSC

> September 12:

Celebration of United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation

> October 4:

Musical Performance for the 70th Anniversaries of the Conference of Non Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)





GFDD Continues to Support CoNGO as a Member of the Board

March 3, Geneva

GFDD/Funglode, represented by the director of its New York office, Yamile Eusebio, attended the 2018 General Assembly of Confederation of NGOs (CoNGO) in Geneva, Switzerland. This 26th General Assembly was marked by a special commemorative event to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of CoNGO, an organization dedicated to facilitating the participation of NGOs in the UN system. GFDD has been a CoNGO Board member since 2014, when it became the organization's Secretary.

"We live in a complex world. The United Nations cannot succeed alone. Partnership must continue to be at the heart of our strategy."

Antonio Guterres – Secretary-General of the United Nations



The Importance of Financial Capacity for Rural Women Stressed at 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

March 12, New York

The NGO Committees on Financing for Development and GFDD/Funglode partened up to hold a panel discussion during the 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62). The event, titled "Economic Empowerment of Rural Women Through Access to Innovative Financing and Effective Partnerships," brought together a variety of experts who generated ample debate on the effectiveness of the financial services available to rural women in developing countries. Representatives from the NGO sector, a representative from the private sector and one from the UN organization highlighted the importance of strengthening the capacity of rural women to correctly save, borrow, insure and invest due to women's key role in the agricultural sector.



GFDD and International Colleagues Call for Financial Access to Reduce Global Poverty

April 26, New York

At a side event organized by the NGO Committee on Financing for Development at United Nations Headquarters in New York, GFDD/Funglode continued to promote financial inclusion for all. The event was meant to present the progress made and likely future challenges for financial inclusion strategies to reduce income equality, alleviate poverty and shrink the gender gap. Among the countries and organizations represented at the forum were Brazil, Nigeria, Puerto Rico and the United Nations. Yamile Eusebio, New York office director of GFDD, and UN intern Skyara Guridi represented the institution and supported the organization of the side event.



Side and Special Events at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2018 (HLPF)

July 9-18, New York

GFDD participated in several intergovernmental and side & special events organized within the framework of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2018 (HLPF). The HLPF 2018 was an opportunity to not only assess the progress of the SDGs and their implementation, but also to address climate change. The issues discussed included going Carbon-Neutral, getting young people involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and using technology to deliver the SDGs.

Collaboration with the United Nations

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation Seeks Collaboration with GFDD/Funglode

July 26, New York

GFDD/Funglode representatives, Dr. Leonel Fernández and Natasha Despotovic, met with Jorge Chediek, the Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), a UN body established to promote, coordinate and support South-South and triangular cooperation globally and within the United Nations system. Throughout their discussion the two groups found common ground and opportunities to work collaboratively. **UNOSSC invited GFDD/Funglode to participate in a number of the group's** initiatives including: NEST, a UNOSSC group of think tanks which exchanges knowledge and expertise among its members; South-South Cooperation (SSC) events, including the then upcoming Delhi Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation; the UNOSSC South-South Cooperation on Peace and Development program; UNOSSC youth leadership program Youth for South (Y4S) and UNOSŠC's publication initiative called South-South in Action. At the end of the discussion, the two agreed to meet again in September at which point they planned to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the topics discussed, although the work between the organizations got under way even before the agreement was to be signed.









United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation Marks the 40th Anniversary of BAPA

September 12, New York

A special celebration of United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation took place at the UN headquarters in New York. The day celebrated the economic, social and political advancements made by developing countries and marked the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA). GFDD team members, dozens of UN organizations and Member State representatives attended the special anniversary, which featured a speech from United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Amina J. Mohammed. GFDD's attendance was a continuation of active participation in South-South Cooperation at the United Nations and the close partnership that it maintains with the UN Organization for South-South Cooperation.


Commemorating the Work of CoNGO, the UDHR and the Rights of Migrants with Music

October 4, New York

In celebration of the 70th anniversaries of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) a musical performance, co-organized by GFDD, was held at the Salvation Army Auditorium in New York City. Dedicated to the rights of migrants and refugees, the concert's headlined group was the Carr-Petrova Duo and featured seven pieces of violin and piano composition. A number of special guests, including GFDD's New York office Director and CoNGO Secretary, Yamile Eusebio, were in attendance. At the end of the event, CoNGO President Liberato Bautista invited Vice President of CoNGO Cyril Ritchie and Eusebio to the stage to present a bouquet of flowers to the Carr-Petrova Duo.



Collaboration with the United Nations



FDD and Funglode are civil society organizations affiliated with the OAS and active supporters of the organization's aims and objectives, of the Inter-American System and the Summit of the Americas program. Joint specific initiatives in the field of democracy, regional integration, trade, environment, education, culture, drug abuse prevention —as well as internships and professional training opportunities— are developed and implemented with different departments and divisions of the OAS.



April

Secretary General of the OAS, Luis Almagro Lemes, participated in GFDD's Global Roundtable Initiative talking about the OAS in Regional Democratic Processes. https://youtu.be/IWJqT0Y6pG0

May

As part of the 2018 Dominican Week in the United States, GFDD attended the panel discussion hosted by the OAS, "Mejorando la Sostenibilidad Ambiental de las Inversiones: Lecciones y Experiencias de las disputas Inversionistas-Estado", lead by Claudia De Windt, OAS Senior Legal Specialist, Chief Environmental Law, Policy and Good Governance, Department of Sustainable Development.

June

GFDD participated in the OAS General Assembly in Washington, DC as an accredited Civil Society Organization.

In the context of the OAS General Assembly, GFDD hosted a side-event with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), called "Hablemos del Futuro de las Américas", which triggered a series of other meetings with the Department of Civil Society and several Civil Society Organizations, and presented a proposal to improve and expand civil society participation mechanisms with the OAS, with its member countries, with the OAS Ambassadors, and among CSOs.

July

The Former President of the Dominican Republic and President of GFDD/Funglode, Dr. Leonel Fernández, lead the OAS Mission of Foreign Visitors that observed the federal and local elections in Mexico.

Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian, director of the Social Inclusion Department of the OAS, participated as a panelist on the discussion "Governing for Inclusion: The 10 Golden Rules for a Successful Political Communication and Inclusive Government", hosted by GFDD.

September

Secretary General of the OAS, Luis Almagro Lemes, and Gerardo de Icaza, Director of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation at the OAS, were special guests and panelists at the First Annual Global Forum Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by GFDD, Funglode, ECLAC, ILAS and IDEA International in New York City.

November

Hilary Anderson, Senior Gender Specialist at the OAS, participated as a panelist on the expert discussion hosted by GFDD on violence against women, following the screening of the Dominican film "A Rebellious Act a Day".

December

Ana Rosa Valdivieso, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Peru to the OAS, participated in GFDD's Global Roundtable Initiative. https://youtu.be/4KMOwHPJNgc





















Collaboration with UNA-DR



The Dominican United Nations Association (ANU-RD) is a nonprofit NGO dedicated to supporting the work of the United Nations and helping to strengthen its mission by coordinating educational and cultural activities to raise awareness and foster civic involvement.



> April 1-5:

New York Model United Nations Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean 2018, New York

> October 24:

The International Conference of the Americas in Punta Cana, DR





400 Latin American and Caribbean Students Tackle Global Issues in the First Annual NYMULAC 2018



April 1-5, New York

The Dominican Association of the United Nations (ANU-RD) and GFDD/Funglode, along with the Mexican GlobalMuners civil association, opened the first annual New York Model United Nations Conference for Latin American and the Caribbean (NYMULAC) with the participation of more than 300 young students from the Dominican Republic and some 100 peers from other Latin American and Caribbean nations. Participants also included 35 professors from schools, some 60 representatives from the event's Secretariat, and several observers. On April 2-3, the students participated in 10 commissions and discussed issues normally debated by the 193 representatives of the UN Member States. In the closing program, awards were issued to the best delegations as well as to the best educational institutions supporting the activities. During this part of the event, the ANU-RD and GlobalMuners presented a special gift to Ms. Yamile Eusebio Paulino, Director of the Funglode/GFDD New York office, for her contributions to the development of young leaders.



The International Conference of the Americas Featured the Participation of More than 500 Young People

October 24, Punta Cana, DR

The International Conference of the Americas (CILA 2018) held its 14th edition with the participation of more than 500 young people from the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Colombia, Argentina and other countries in the region. During three days of work, the youngsters participated in a series of mock conferences and debates where they discussed some of the greatest challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean and the entire world. The United Nations Association of the Dominican Republic (ANU-RD, for its initials in Spanish), and GFDD/Funglode in collaboration with the Globalmuners Mexican Civil Association, organized the event, which for 14 years has impacted the lives of thousands of young people.

The Director of the GFDD office in New York and Director of Funglode's Educational Activities Program, Yamile Eusebio was part of the Table of Honour along with Executive Director of ANU-RD, Edwin Jackson and many international guests from the United Nations and other international organizations. In addition to the debates and mock delegations held, a video tribute was presented in honor of the former Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan. Taking place alongside the United Nations Organization Day, the video presentation highlighted the greatest contributions made by the former Secretary General to the UN and the international community.

"Each one of you has had an important role in the development and success of this edition of CILA. Hats off to you, for your work, dedication and effort."

Jorge Fernández – Secretary General of CILA 2018

Collaboration with UNA-DR

International Participation by Dr. Leonel Fernández President of GFDD/Funglode



G lobal Outreach for the Continued Strengthening, Development, and Advancement of the Dominican Republic: Addresses and International Participation by Dr. Leonel Fernández, President of GFDD and Funglode.



> January 10:

Presentation at the Inter-American Defense College, Washington, DC

> March 15:

University in Argentina Recognized Leonel Fernández with a Doctor Honoris Causa Degree, Buenos Aires, Argentina

> May 7:

Keynote Speech at Opening of Lecture, Cartagena, Colombia

> June 24-27:

Annual ISTE Conference and Expo, Chicago, Illinois

> July 24:

Annual Meeting of the Academic Council on the United Nations System, LUISS University, Rome, Italy

> July 31:

Keynote Speech at VI International Dominican-Hispanic Book Fair, Orlando, FL

- > August 30: Central American Parliament Forum, Santo Domingo, DR
- > September 10:

Young Diplomats Meeting in Panama City, Panama

- > September 25 27: The First Annual Global Forum on Latin American and the Caribbean 2018
- > October 21: Dr. Fernández Elected President of the World Federation of United Nations
- > November 21: Miami Book Fair, Miami FL
- December 3: President Fernández reports on the elections in Mexico Washington, DC



Peace, Prosperity and Ecological Balance Must Prevail

January 10, Washington, DC

In a presentation entitled "A World in Transition: Geopolitical Perspective in a Time of Change," delivered in front of Inter-American Defense College authorities, Ambassadors to the OAS, heads of delegation and leaders of the Inter-American Defense Board, faculty and master's degree students at that institution, GFDD President Dr. Leonel Fernández began his 2018 international endeavors. In the speech Dr. Fernández touched upon several topics relevant to development and, in particular, security issues in Latin America. Fernández discussed the interactions between the United States



and Latin America, which gained considerable momentum after the rapprochement with Cuba, but also highlighted the gap in military spending of the United States and the rest of the countries in the Americas. The former president of the Dominican Republic called for the establishment of a new world order that is aligned with the main needs, concerns and aspirations of the inhabitants of the planet. The speech was given as part of a Conference that took place at the Inter-American Defense College in Washington.



National University General San Martín (UNSAM) Awards Dr. Leonel Fernández with Honorary Degree

March 15, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dr. Leonel Fernández, received an honorary doctorate from the National University General San Martín (UNSAM) of Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, for his contributions to the communications sector, the rights of the press and international relations. In his keynote remarks, UNSAM

Dean Carlos Greco highlighted the political and academic trajectory of Fernández. Greco stressed that the award was being bestowed upon the former Dominican president for having served as encouragement to Latin American students. After expressing his gratitude for the distinction, Dr. Fernández highlighted the great challenges faced by universities and the commitment that must be undertaken by institutions of higher education alongside the overall development of nations.

Stressing the Significance of Food Access in Latin America and the Caribbean

May 7, Cartagena, Colombia

Dr. Leonel Fernández continued his international travels, this time in Cartagena, where the GFDD president delivered a keynote speech on various issues important to the international agenda and with a concentration on food sovereignty.



The presentation was part of a seminar program launched to inaugurate the Cartagena Lecture, an initiative with the goal of discussing and reflecting upon integration challenges faced by the Ibero-American nations. In his remarks, the former president of the Dominican Republic stressed that all individuals in the region must have physical, social and economic access to healthy and nutritional food staples. The former president of the Dominican guest to the event by former Colombian president, Ernesto Samper, who leads the Cartagena Lecture's sponsoring institution, Corporación *Escenarios*.

Exploring New Ways to Innovate and Integrate Technology in Education

June 24-27, Chicago, Illinois

The former president of the Dominican Republic participated in a variety of dynamic and educational panel discussions about innovation and technology in education during the 2018 Annual ISTE Conference and Expo, this year in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Fernández presented and heard presentations about challenges being faced in the education sector throughout the world. During the Conference Dr. Fernández



was part of a panel concerning ISTE International Reception, alongside other international representatives. The president also participated in a LATAM VIP Guest Dinner, where he spoke specifically to innovation in the education sector in Latin America and the Caribbean. The president was accompanied by Natasha Despotovic, GFDD executive director and Yamile Eusebio Paulino, director of the GFDD New York office.



We Must Guarantee State Sovereignty and the Rights of Migrants, Argues President Fernández

July 24, Rome, Italy

Dr. Fernández laid out policy recommendations at the annual meeting of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), an event that was held at LUISS University in Rome, Italy, under the

theme "Human Rights, Migration, and Global Governance." Regarding the event's focus on immigration, President Fernández advocated for the establishment of national regulations that guarantee both state sovereignty and the rights of migrating peoples. He stressed the importance of immigration policies that respond to objective and reliable data and not to rhetorical discourse bereft of evidence-based information. At the meeting the former Dominican president shared the stage with an audience made up of academics from LUISS University, members of ACUNS, politicians, diplomats and other important international figures.

Dr. Fernández Praises Renowned Dominican Writer Aida Cartagena Portalatín in Keynote Speech

July 31, Orlando, FL

In the opening of the VI International Dominican-Hispanic Book Fair Dr. Leonel Fernández, delivered the keynote address in which he highlighted the quality and impressive intellectual trajectory of writer Aída Cartagena



Portalatín. This year's Fair, held in Orlando, Florida, honored the renowned Dominican writer. Regarding writer Cartagena Portalatín, former President Fernández explained that she is one of the Dominican Republic's top intellectuals and a distinguished and respected writer in the Caribbean. "We are talking about an exceptional human being in both the academic and literary worlds, and she was also fully committed to the best interests of all Dominicans... I am profoundly pleased that her name is being honored in the opening of Orlando's book fair," stated Fernández. Dr. Homero Luciano, president of the Latin American Organization for Social Assistance, the Fair's organizer, thanked President Fernández for his participation in the event. In Dr. Luciano's remarks, he highlighted the many contributions made by the former President in the development of the Dominican Republic, not only in the cultural sector but in all other sectors as well. During his visit, the Office of the Mayor of Orlando declared former President Fernández a distinguished guest of the city.



Speaking on the Political Trajectory of the World and Latin America at Parlacen

August 30, Santo Domingo, DR

PresidentFernándezdeliveredakeynoteaddressduringtheThirdForum of the XXVI Central American and Caribbean Conference on Political PartiessponsoredbytheCentralAmericanParliamentForum(Parlacen). The event was held at Hotel Crowne Plaza in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. During his intervention Fernández highlighted many important periods for the international political system, and

specifically for Latin America, over the past several decades. The Forum where former President Fernández spoke is one of four hosted by Parlacen in the country that have featured the participation of key regional leaders, among them Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organization of American States and Duma Rusa, head of the Central American Integration System. The event was coordinated by Parlacen President Tony Raful.

"In the last five years poverty has risen, unemployment has started to rise as well as some dismay. This situation can worsen if we do not re-think the future for Latin America."

Dr. Leonel Fernández – Former President of the Dominican Republic, President of GFDD

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President Encourages the Trajectory of Young Diplomats at EU-LAC Foundation Meeting

September 10, Panama City, Panama

The First Young Diplomats of Central America and the European Union Program featured the leadership of President Fernández. The program, organized by the EU-LAC Foundation, of which Dr. Fernández is the President. was attended by representatives from nearly twenty countries in the Americas and Europe. The meeting's theme was "facilitating a joint look at shared challenges," and intended to promote confidence and mutual understanding for bi-regional relations between Europe and Latin America. The activity took place in the facilities of the Diplomatic and Consular Academy of Panama's Foreign Relations Ministry and featured the participation of young diplomats from the Dominican Republic, Panama, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Mexico, Haiti, Portugal, Italy Lithuania, Romania, Spain, Slovakia, France, Bulgaria and Finland. Over the course of his 24-hour stay in Panama, Fernández also held separate work meetings with the president of the country, Juan Carlos Varela and the vice-president, Isabel Saint Malo, with whom he spoke about topics discussed at the Young Diplomats event as well as others on the global agenda.





President Fernández Provides Leadership, Insight at the First Annual Global Forum Latin America and the Caribbean 2018, a New Platform for Debate and the Exchange of Ideas

September 25, 26 and 27, New York

Dr. Fernández headed the activities at the Global Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean 2018, a meeting of more than 30 international experts, Heads of State, Ministers of Foreign Relations and senior representatives from regional organizations and think-tanks held conversations and analyzed the role of Latin America and the Caribbean on the world stage.

Dr. Fernández started the ceremonies on September 25 with a speech welcoming the special guests and panelists who presented at the 2018 Global Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean. During this intervention, the former Head of State spoke about democracy in the region, mentioning that the Dominican Republic played an important role in promoting democratization of the region. The Dominican Republic was the first country to establish a democratic system of governance four decades ago, said Fernández.

Also, on Wednesday, September 26, the president delivered a keynote speech and on Thursday, September 27 he participated in a forum with regional leaders. The keynote delivered on Wednesday encouraged the creation of a mechanism that would coordinate the policies related to the region at the international level. There are currently too many integration mechanisms that have been created in the Latin American and Caribbean regions, said the president. He explained that these institutions are currently confronting serious internal problems that have weakened their functions.

"Nowhere in the world is there a region where there are so many institutions working towards the same thing," explained Fernández when referring to the multiplicity of efforts that have been carried out to integrate the Latin America and Caribbean regions. In a panel discussion the next day, Dr. Fernández shared the stage with Organization of American States General Secretary Luis Almagro, who delivered a keynote address about democracy prior to the conversation. In response to the Secretary's statements, former President Fernández stated that the fundamental challenge faced by democracy in the region is to full satisfy the expectations of the people. He indicated that the so-called "lost decade" of the 20th century was provoked because the regional democracies were not prepared to satisfy the needs of their citizens.

The two-day-long conference was a grand success, which featured the participation of hundreds of interested audience members, representatives from the private and public sector, journalists and members of the media and academics from New York and around the world. Dr. Fernández leadership was integral in what was the first of many successful Global Forum Latin America and the Caribbean.

Dr. Fernández Accepts the Nomination of President to the World Federation of United Nations Associations

October 21, Punta Cana, DR

President Fernández was elected President of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) during the 42nd WFUNA Plenary Assembly at the Dreams Palm Beach Punta Cana Hotel in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. The international event was led by Fernández, alongside the Secretary General of WFUNA, Bonian Golmohammadi, and featured the participation of delegations from 40 countries and five continents. Upon accepting the position, the former president said he hoped that in the next years the United Nations Associations, through WFUNA, could continue to have a significant impact in the respective countries and, at the same time, add value to the United Nations' commitments to peace, security, prosperity and wellbeing of all the countries in the world.

During the event, workshops, high-level panel discussions and keynote addresses all related to the United Nations' (UN) current geopolitical orientations and reforms were carried out. The central theme of the event was "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions," within the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 42nd WFUNA Plenary Assembly was organized by GFDD's sister organization in the Dominican Republic, Funglode, and the Dominican Republic United Nations Association (ANU-RD, for its initials in Spanish) jointly with WFUNA.









The President Stresses Issues of Dominican Citizenship at the Annual Miami Book Fair

November 21, Miami, FL

During a launch of his book "Años de avances. Escritos de Teoría y Acción" at the Miami Book Fair, Dr. Fernández took the opportunity to speak about the right of citizenship in the Dominican Republic. In a keynote speech the former President of the DR warned that if the Dominican Republic were to grant citizenship to all those born in its territory, the

country would eventually lose its national identity. "When we set forth the right of citizenship, it's not a racist, xenophobic nor exclusive ideology; what we are talking about is the survival of the country and the identity of the Dominican Republic," he said. The GFDD President made the comments in response to recent comparisons between the United States' policy of *jus solis*, in which citizenship is granted to all people born in the country's territory, and the policy of the Dominican Republic. The president gave the speech alongside a Dominican senator, José Rafael Vargas, and many interested book readers.



Head of OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Mexico, President Fernández, Reports that "Election day was characterized by a peaceful process in most states"

December 3, Washington, DC

Alongside the Secretary General of the OAS, Luis Almagro, and in front of the OAS Permanent Council, the former President of the Dominican Republic presented a final report on electoral processes in Mexico. The report's release came months after President Fernández had served as the Chief of the OAS Foreign Visitors Mission to the Elections in Mexico that accompanied the federal and local electoral processes in that country on July 1, 2018. During the December meeting, Dr. Fernández highlighted important observations and made several recommendations to the OAS Permanent Council. In his statement, Fernández highlighted that "Mexico has defined a robust legal framework, and its execution has been effectively accompanied by the actions carried out by various electoral institutions." He also mentioned that, while the elections were generally free and fair, there were instances of violence in certain Mexican states. Following the President's remarks, several OAS Permanent Representatives offered comments of their own, highlighting the importance of ensuring solid electoral processes throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.



Education, Professional Development & Scholarships





www.interdominternships.org



Since its establishment in 2005, InteRDom: Internships in the Dominican Republic, has become the leading internship and academic study program in the Dominican Republic. It promotes professional, academic and cultural exchange between students, universities, scholars, professionals, businesses and nongovernamental organizations on a national and international scale. InteRDom works with many universities, and affiliated national, international, public and private institutions.



- > April 23: Spring Program 2018, Santo Domingo, DR
- > September 10: Fall Program 2018, Santo Domingo, DR







InteRDom 2018 Gets Underway in Santo Domingo

April 23, Santo Domingo, DR

InteRDom's 2018 Spring Program was officially started in Santo Domingo with the presentation of two interns participating in the seasonal program. The students, both from French universities, experienced a broad range of activities and events while supporting Funglode's Center for Francophone Studies. Aside from the daily activities that they carried out, the students also had the opportunity of attending the weekly events organized by Funglode, as well as documenting their experiences through the InteRDom blog.





InterDom

InteRDom 2018 Begins its Fall Program

September 10, Santo Domingo, DR

InteRDom continued its support of young professionals when it started its fall program in Santo Domingo with the participation of a nursing student from the Northeastern University in the United States. The intern was officially introduced by Ms. Lucila Mora, the Nursing Department Chief of Robert Reid Cabral Hospital where the student would be working during her stay in Santo Domingo.



"My internship not only taught me career skills but also a way of life, Santo Domingo it's a unique place to be. Thank you InteRDom for supporting my work and challenged me to do better in life. Definitely, I recommend this program to everyone."

Tanya Huairt – Technology Institute of Niza



Logitations to develop a community of scholars that contributes to the growing body of research on matters of international concern directly impacting the Dominican Republic. Fellows Program seeks to develop scholarship on issues at the forefront of the United Nations' agenda in order to give voice to national and regional concerns and to offer viable solutions to domestic and global challenges.



> February 15:

Fellow Megan Beddow Releases Book *Fundamentals of the Dominican Voluntary Sector* in New York

> August 7:

Fellow Sergio Morales Presents Findings from *Legal, Political and Social Reflections of the Dominican Environmental Structure* in Santo Domingo

> August 10:

Beddow Highlights Findings of *Fundamentals of the Dominican Voluntary Sector* at the Funglode Headquarters in Santo Domingo

> November 27:

GFDD Fellow Showcases Study on Dominican Evangelical Churches in Santo Domingo



"How Can We Find Long-lasting and Tangible Solutions for the NGO sector?" Asks GFDD Research Fellow

February 15, Washington

2015 GFDD Research Fellow Megan D. Beddow showcased her research on the role and importance of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Dominican Republic during the release of her book "Fundamentals of the Dominican Voluntary Sector," at the UN Church Center. The fellow's main goal was to analyze the external environmental factors and internal organizational characteristics that shape the NGOs of the Dominican Republic while illustrating the classic evolution of the voluntary sector in a developing country. Among the insightful points made in her research, Ms. Beddow stresses the need to consider the following questions: What do NGOs in the Dominican Republic really need? How are we going to find long-lasting and tangible solutions? How can we collect and study successful practices that could help us to achieve our mission?

The introduction of the book release was delivered by Mr. Liberato C. Bautista, Assistant General Secretary for UN and International Affairs of the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) of The United Methodist Church and former president of the Conference of NGO (CoNGO). Mr. Bautista qualified Ms. Beddows report as a crucial read, not only for scholars in academia, but also for grassroots practitioners who have the need for clear and accessible guidelines.

Mr. Severin Carminat, Program Officer with Alianza ONG, shared the improvements and accomplishments of the grassroots organizations in the Dominican Republic. Furthermore, he pointed out that Ms. Beddow's research reflected the Dominican civil society's strongest characteristic: its capacity to work united despite its broad level of diversity.

Megan Beddow is an academic from Florida and an expert in not-for-profit organizations. She has more than 10 years' experience in designing programs and management projects in the U.S., Mexico and Chile. She participated in the Fellows Program between June and August 2015.

Beddow has a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics, Sociology and Spanish from Florida Southern College, a master's in Public Affairs and has specialized in the international management of not-for-profit organizations. She also has a master's in Caribbean and Latin American Studies from the University of Indiana.







Research Fellow Argues that "Climate Change Must be a Government Priority"

August 7, Santo Domingo

The Dominican Republic must, in the short-term, understand the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) – a U.N. initiative - to comply with the Paris Agreement and incorporate the accord's mandates to the country's National Strategic Development Plan and the Evaluations of Environmental Impact.

Attorney and doctoral candidate Sergio Muñoz Morales, from the University of Barcelona, presented this and other important conclusions based on his GFDD-published study titled "Legal, Political and Social Reflections of the Dominican Environmental Structure" at Funglode headquarters in Santo Domingo.

After explaining the methodology used in the research project and summarizing the content of his findings, Muñoz Morales shared the study's overall conclusions. During keynote remarks he stressed that "it is necessary to encourage a dialogue on the EIA and Climate Change laws, as well as the unification of concepts, such as local environmental management, complying with international agreements, and an evaluation strategy on natural resources."

Omar Ramírez, the director of GFDD/Funglode's Center for Environmental Studies and Climate Change, introduced Morales Muñoz and commended the research the Spanish expert had carried out. Yamile Eusebio, director of the GFDD office in New York, highlighted the efforts carried out by the institution to support high-quality research and studies that will benefit the Dominican Republic.

The event was organized in coordination with the Global Institutes of Higher Studies in Social Sciences whose rector, Marcos Villamán, also spoke on the excellent research performed by Morales Muñoz.

The GFDD Fellow's research is part of Muñoz Morales doctoral thesis at the University of Barcelona, titled "The Evaluation of Environmental Impact as a Management Tool of Environmental Risks and the Fight Against Climate Change: A Comparative Study on the Spanish and Dominican Legal Regimes." As a doctoral candidate at the University of Barcelona his research focus includes evaluating the environmental impact on societies of sustainable development and climate change by comparing Spanish and Dominican legislation. His goal is to introduce ideas that will lead to a legislative discussion on the modification of Dominican environmental laws, strengthening resilience based on the environmental structure of Dominican society and improving the overall quality of life in the Dominican Republic.

"In the Dominican Republic the institutional weaknesses, economic and social inequalities, and the lack of confidence in the political leadership are factors the significantly reduce the benefits of a civil society and the human development needed for an emerging and strong volunteer system."

2015 GFDD Fellow Megan D. Beddow on her study Fundamentals of the Dominican Voluntary Sector

61

Another Enlightening Presentation from GFDD Fellow Megan D. Beddow

August 10, Santo Domingo

It is necessary to invest in training, simplify processes and establish mechanisms of responsibilities in order to contribute to the development of a volunteer movement in the Dominican Republic, explained expert Megan D. Beddow during the GFDD Fellow's second presentation of the year for her study, *The Fundamentals of the Dominican Voluntary Sector.*

During the August presentation, carried out before a crowd in Funglode headquarters in Santo Domingo, Beddow expanded on her earlier findings. The researcher mentioned the many advantages that the NGO sector in the DR has including strong constitutional support and statutes that encourage the registration of volunteer sector organizations. She also highlighted the existence of an active civil society; strong economic growth; the Dominican Republic's advantageous geopolitical position; religious traditions and a strong international agenda that the DR shares with many of the world's leading countries

Beddow also brought up some of the main threats facing the volunteer sector. Among them were the complexities of the registry process; economic inequality; the limited promotion of informal and local organizations; cronyism, corruption and public mistrust, as well as the centralization of power in Santo Domingo.

"In the Dominican Republic the institutional weaknesses, economic and social inequalities, and the lack of confidence in the political leadership are factors the significantly reduce the benefits of a civil society and the human development needed for an emerging and strong volunteer system," said the GFDD Fellow.

Liberato Bautista, president of the Conference on NGOs (CoNGO), was once again present and explained that Beddow, importantly, recognizes the lack of formal academic research on this complex network of organizations. Bautista commented on the importance of the private sector in the development of volunteerism.

"This is excellent reading material in respect to the relationship that can exist between a local NGO and an international NGO," said Bautista.





The History of the Dominican Evangelical Churches is Grouped Together, Despite Differences Between Denominations

November 27, Santo Domingo

The history of the Evangelical Church in the Dominican Republic reflects the popular understanding of a unified identity among evangelical Christians, despite many differences among their beliefs and practices, argues Doctor of History Christina Davidson in her publication, *Analysis of Evangelical Christianity in the Dominican Republic*. This conclusion and more were formally presented on Tuesday, November 27 at la Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (Funglode) headquarters in Santo Domingo as part of Davidson's research with the GFDD/Funglode Fellows Program.



Dr. Davidson then presented the main findings of her ten-month-long study. The researcher explained that the document provides a glance at two historical protestant churches with great presence in the DR: the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Dominican Evangelical Church. Historical documents and interviews with church leaders were utilized to analyze how the institutions have changed and adapted to societal shifts overtime. According to the study's results, leaders of the two churches have adapted significantly to the growing influence of the protestant evangelical community. The churches have taken into consideration more ways to make their institutions more "Dominican" in terms of style and format, despite strong historical ties with the United States and a history of imperialism and racism among US missionaries.

A number of special guests were there to provide commentary following Dr. Davidson's presentation. Among them were political scientist and theologists and the project's research advisor, Marcos Villamán; Bishop Telesforo Isaac; Reverend Miguel A. Cancú and Reverend and lawyer Margarito Rodríguez.





In collaboration with the most prominent thinkers, analysts, academics and practitioners, as well as the most reputable institutions around the world, GFDD and Funglode regularly offer innovative and inspiring training programs, seminars, workshops, conferences and discussion forums to audiences in the Dominican Republic and the United States with the purpose of enhancing the local capacity, raising the level of the national discussion, and promoting the implementation of creative solutions for the country's sustainable development.



> January 22:

Education and Training Workshops Held during the 25th Edition of Geography Week, Santo Domingo, DR

> February 8:

Successful Education and Labor Markets with Senior World Bank Economist, Washington, DC

> April 24:

GFDD/Funglode and ISTE Find Common Education Agenda, New York

- > April 25-26: 7th Geography Week Fair, Santo Domingo, DR
- > June 5:

GFDD and Civil Society Organizations Convene during OAS General Assembly Events, Washington, DC

> June 21:

Panel on Best Practices on Sustainable and Responsible Tourism, Washington, DC

> July 12:

Regional Experts Present on Effective and Inclusive Communication Strategies for Political Campaigns and Government, Washington, DC

> July 19:

Workshop on Professional and Entrepreneurial Growth at the River Front Library, New York

> September 18:

Professional Training Workshop for Hispanic Women in Washington Heights, New York

- > October 12-13: XI Dominican Book Fair in New York
- > October 12: Workshop on "Food Writing for Foodies," New York
- > October 18:

Leadership Workshop with Dominican Businesswoman, Torrington, Connecticut





50 Specialists and Teachers Attend Lecture in Anticipation of 25th Annual Geography Week

January 22, Santo Domingo, DR

As part of the activities that took place prior to the celebration of Geography Week, the Plan LEA, the educational program of Listin Diario, and GFDD/Funglode organized a conference at Funglode heaquarters for school specialists and directors from the 04, 10 and 15 regions of the Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic (Minerd), as well as for some of those regions' natural and social studies educators. The workshop entitled "The Geography of Women's Rights Movements: A Call to Action" was presented by writer Ylonka Nacidit, who called upon Dominican teachers to raise awareness in their classrooms about women's rights. This year's Geography Week was celebrated from March 12 to March 16.





"No Country Can Afford to Ignore Higher Education" Argues Senior World Bank Economist, Maria Marta Ferreyra

February 8, Washington, DC

GFDD hosted a timely presentation on successful education and labor markets, led by Maria Marta Ferreyra, Senior Economist, Office of the Regional Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean of the World Bank, and author of "At a Crossroads. Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean." Ferreyra offered the main results of her publication and gave an insightful regional panorama of the higher education sector. Ferreyra noted that we need to provide students, starting in high school, with more information of the different career paths to help them visualize themselves in not-so-popular choices such as industrial engineering and other STEM related careers with better net rates of return. Dr. Leonel Fernández, former president of the Dominican Republic and president of GFDD/Funglode, participated in the event via videoconference alongside local experts in Santo Domingo.



GFDD/Funglode and ISTE Find Common Challenges and Opportunities to Improve Education

April 24, New York, NY

President Leonel Fernández met with representatives from ISTE, a not-for-profit organization that serves educators interested in better utilizing technology in education. During the meeting Dr. Fernández and the CEO of ISTE, Richard Culatta, discussed the missions of their respective institutions and the work they carry out at the national and international levels to further key educational agendas. The two also investigated opportunities for cooperation to build educational opportunities in the Dominican Republic and for the Dominican diaspora in New York City. President Fernández was accompanied by GFDD's executive team, headed by Natasha Despotovic, its executive director; Yamile Eusebio, head of GFDD's New York office; Semiramis de Miranda, ICT & projects director and Paul Goris, Funglode's coordinator of educational technologies.



GFDD/Funglode Actively Engaged with the Public During the 7th Geography Week Fair

April 25 - 26, Santo Domingo

GFDD/Funglode participated in the 7th Geography Week Fair in Santo Domingo, continuing an annual tradition that provides an informative space in which visitors can educate themselves and incorporate the fundamentals of geography into their lives. In this year's edition of the fair, GFDD/Funglode had its own stand that attracted the attention of more than 300 student visitors. In addition to sharing information about the organization's environmental initiatives, GFDD/Funglode showcased the documentary *Exuma* and facilitated a lecture by Omar Shamir Reynoso, a Dominican biologist, who reflected on environmental and natural resource issues.

67



"Let's Talk about the Future of the Americas!"

June 5, Washington, DC

More than a dozen organizations representing civil society of more than 10 countries in the region got together at the GFDD-DC office and participated in a dialogue called "Let's Talk about the Future of the Americas!," a side event of the General Assembly of the OAS. María Victoria Abreu, GFDD's International Affairs and Socio-Economic Development Program Manager, moderated the discussion, which also featured the participation of Semiramis de Miranda, GFDD's ICT and Projects Director, H.E. Edward Anibal Pérez Reyes, Ambassador, Alternate Representative, and Mr. Francisco Cruz, Counselor, Alternate Representative, from the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the OAS. Participants agreed on the importance of involving the Embassies and Permanent Missions to the OAS in their efforts as civil society members and on the need of improving the mechanisms used for dialogue and discussions.



"The Lack of Sustainability is Going to Affect Us All; It's Already Affecting Us"

June 21, Washington, DC

The GFDD-DC office was filled with interested audience members who engaged in a lively and interesting discussion during a workshop titled "Best Practices on Sustainable and Responsible Tourism." The panel was led by a group of experts who shared their experiences working to promote sustainability in the Dominican Republic. Among the presenters were, Natasha Despotovic, GFDD/DREFF's Executive Director and President, Villa Serena Hotel in Samaná, Dominican Republic; Jake Kheel, Vice President, Grupo Puntacana Foundation (and co-director of the documentary 'Death by a Thousand Cuts'); Martha Honey, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Center for Responsible Travel (CREST) and Maryanne Culpepper, Executive Director, Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital (DCEFF). The group all offered innovative suggestions for integrating sustainability into the agenda of development in places like the Dominican Republic, stressing that the education of local communities is the first step to promoting sustainable initiatives.



Inclusive and Effective Communication Strategies Highlighted at Meeting of Regional Experts

July 12, Washington, DC

Four expert panelists led a conversation about "Governing for Inclusion: The 10 Golden Rules for a Successful Political Communication and Inclusive Government" at the GFDD Washington offices. Geovanny Vicente Romero, Dominican political analyst and commentator and his colleague Gustavo Rojas-Matute, Venezuelan economist and GWU

professor, presented first on the "10 Golden Rules for a Successful Political Communication." The two experts emphasized the importance of using new technologies (such as social media tools) to not only communicate but to connect with and learn from the targeted audience. Harvey Restrepo, Colombian author and professor, participated from his country via Skype, telling the audience that "we need more politicians that inspire and that are able to inspire others." Finally, Venezuelan Betilde (Betica) Muñoz-Pogossian, Director of the Social Inclusion Department of the Organization of American States (OAS) addressed several points about why having inclusion as a center element of any political communication strategy is vital for a successful government or campaign. The speakers were accompanied by GFDD Executive Director Natasha Despotovic and a large audience of students and professionals interested in the area of political communication strategies.

"No country can afford to ignore higher education"

María Marta Ferreyra – Senior Economist, World Bank

Dominican Economist Jonathan D'Oleo Puig Inspires Entrepreneurship and Leadership Among the Dominican Diaspora

July 19, New York

Jonathan D'Oleo Puig, a Dominican economist and businessman, was the keynote speaker at a workshop designed to promote entrepreneurship and leadership among the Dominican Diaspora in New York City. The activity was headed by Yamile Eusebio Paulino, GFDD's director in New York City and Maria Gribakina accompanied by Jael Rivas, both members of the Board of the General Coordinator of Dominicans Abroad. During his presentation, the invited speaker



captured the attention of the audience through an interactive presentation, rich in anecdotes, and with the thesis of encouraging specialization in a particular area where entrepreneurs and businesspeople will be able to grow and develop. Following the workshop, D'Oleo engaged in a lively question and answer session with the audience, many of its members identifying as part of the Dominican Diaspora in the United States.



Diana Zuluaga Supports the Professional Growth of Hispanic Women with Training Workshop

September 18, New York

Business specialist and speaker Diana Zuluaga led a workshop for Hispanic women entitled *Latin Women Entrepreneurs: Learning How to Create and Expand Your Company*. The training, supported by GFDD, was held at the Dominican Women Development Center in Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan and featured the participation of over 50 Latina women. Ms. Yamile Eusebio, director of the Global Foundation's New York Office, introduced Ms. Zuluaga. The leader shared her own personal story and the challenges faced when deciding to launch her own company, JET D'OR, which specializes in the operation of aircraft and private jets with offices throughout the world. The participants learned, step by step, how to empower themselves and create their own company in their communities.



Conference, Book Launches and Much More in the XI Dominican Book Fair

October 12-13, New York

The XI Dominican Book Fair got underway on Friday, October 12 when Dominican Minister of Culture Eduardo Selman gave welcoming words and highlighted the importance of Professor Juan Bosch, to whom the XI Dominican Book Fair in New York was dedicated. Over two days the XI Dominican Book Fair featured a number of events led by GFDD/Funglode including a workshop on food journalism, a discussion on Dominican cuisine and several book launches with Dominican authors. Dozens of interested guests gathered at the George Washington High School on Audubon Ave in New York City to participate in the fair, where GFDD Director in New York, Yamile Eusebio and International Exchange Program Assistant, Manuel Medrano were present. The GFDD leadership helped facilitated the various workshops, conferences and chats that took place.



Dominican Cuisine Workshop "Food Writing for Foodies" Showcases Marketing Strategies for the Culinary Arts

October 12, New York

A workshop on "Food Writing for Foodies" was led by Elaine Hernández, food blogger and expert in food journalism and communication as part of the first Dominican Gastro Tour 2018 at the 809 restaurant in New York City. "Escritura gastronómica para Foodies" (Food Writing for Foodies in English) had the main goal of showcasing writing tools and communication strategies for business people working in gastronomy and restaurants, as well as cooks and community managers who attended the workshop at 809 Sangria Bar & Grill specialized in top-notch Dominican cooking. The workshop took place as part of Hispanic Heritage Month in the United States thanks to DominicanaOnline.org, an initiative of GFDD that promotes Dominican culture.



Leadership Workshop with Dominican Businesswoman Emphasizes the "4 P's" of Modern Leadership

October 18, Torrington, Connecticut

In partnership with the Latina Women Association and New Opportunities, GFDD organized a special conference in Torrington, Connecticut entitled *Las 4 P's del liderazgo modern: Preparación, Planificación, Persistencia y Persona* (The 4 P's of Modern Leadership: Preparation, Planning, Persistence and Persona). The workshop was led by Dominican businesswoman Linda Valette, a specialist in leadership, millennial culture and finance as well as the first Dominican woman to be named CEO of an international financial institution. The presentation by Valette focused on the changing landscape of the global economy and the qualities required to lead in the 21st century. Following her remarks, the audience of more than 60 directed questions to the presenter and expressed their appreciation for Valette's efforts to support the professional growth of the Latina community in Connecticut.

71


Environment & Sustainable Development Programs



Since its creation in 2011, the Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival has provided Dominicans with a platform for knowledge and debate on environmental and sustainable development issues, along with its challenges and best practices, while celebrating the unique beauty and wealth that is the Dominican Republic's natural heritage. With a diverse selection of films and numerous panels, workshops, seminars, and community activities, DREFF promotes dialogue and the exchange of knowledge and experience, inspiring Dominicans to adopt actions that contribute to the appreciation, conservation, and sustainable use of their environmental resources.



- > March 19: Dominican Night at the DCEFF, Washington, DC
- > March 20: Panel on Environmental Activism and Journalism, Washington, DC
- > September 5: Special Screening of Blue Heart at Patagonia Store, Washington, DC
- October 6:
 7 Gramos at the Patuxent Research Refuge Wildlife Festival, Laurel, Maryland
- > October 15: First International Forum on Environmental Film Festivals, Seia, Portugal





Local Success at Promoting Conservation and Appreciation of the Environment Through Film

March 19, Washington, DC

This edition of the yearly Dominican Night with the DC Environmental Film Festival event was entitled "Local Stories of Environmental Success: The 2018 Dominican Night at DCEFF," and introduced two new Dominican films on the environment to the prestigious Washington, D.C. festival. The featured films were the short production *Aristolochias of Haiti*, directed by award-winning

Dominican conservationist and photographer Eladio Fernández and the feature documentary *Cacú: Un cambio por la vida*, directed by photojournalist Marvin del Cid. The first film takes the viewer to Haiti on an expedition to find a new species of the *Aristolochia Indica* (Pipe Vine), which has not been seen in the Caribbean nation for some 90 years. The latter documentary features five fishermen from the underprivileged community of Manresa, situated on the southwest section of Santo Domingo, who transitioned from being sea turtle nest predators to full-fledged conservationists. After the screening, del Cid and Reynoso led an active Q & A session with an engaged and inspired audience facilitated by María Victoria Abreu, DREFF Programming Director and GFDD's International Affairs and Socio-Economic Development Program Manager.

Dominican Night Featured Producers Share Experiences as Nature Advocates

March 20, Washington, DC

The GFDD and DREFF hosted a special side event on "Environmental Journalism and Activism: Creating and Sharing the Frontline Stories," moderated by Natasha Despotovic, the Foundation's Executive Director and head of the DREFF. The dialogue, provided as a complement to the prior day's film presentations, featured Dominican nature photographer and activist Eladio Fernández, Guatemalan-Dominican photojournalist Marvin del Cid, and Dominican biologist Omar Shamir Reynoso. The activists highlighted their experiences as nature advocates and journalists who cover environmental-related issues in the Dominican



Republic as well as the importance of promoting environmental awareness through social media, films and books.



Joint Screening of "Blue Heart" at Patagonia in Washington Inspires Viewers to be Nature Conservationists

September 5, Washington, DC

GFDD/Funglode co-hosted, alongside Patagonia, a screening of the film *Blue Heart* at the Patagonia Georgetown store in Washington, D.C. The film, directed by Britton Caillouette and supported by Patagonia, shows how dams and diversions drastically change the environment and contribute

to global climate change, negatively affecting waterways, natural habitats, surrounding landscapes and entire communities. Dozens of Washingtonians were able to enjoy the film and learn more about these important issues while sharing some experiences and best practices from the Balkan region on how to better address them. "You don't need to be a biologist to be a nature conservationist; you need to be human and have a voice", was one of the most celebrated quotes of the film. María Victoria Abreu, GFDD International Affairs and Socioeconomic Program Manager and DREFF's Programming Director; Brad Forder, DCEFF's Programming Director, and Rebekah Stewart, CREST's Communications & Outreach Manager were amongst the representatives that attended this event.



Young Nature Enthusiasts Enjoy Globo Verde Dominicano Award Winner 7 Gramos at Wildlife Festival

October 6, Laurel, Maryland

The Dominican film and 2015 DREFF Globo Verde Dominicano Award winner *7 Gramos* (7 Grams) was one of four movies showed at the Patuxent Research Refuge Wildlife Festival held on Saturday, October 6. Dozens of families and young people went

to learn about wildlife, research and how to protect the environment during the day-long festival. The environmental film screenings were looped all day long at the auditorium of the National Wildlife Visitor Center of the Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, Maryland. In addition to films, visitors enjoyed displays on endangered species, amphibian research and how to reduce the use of plastics, as well as much more.

"You don't need to be a biologist to be a nature conservationist; you need to be human and have a voice"

From the film Blue Heart

DREFF Joins 37 Festivals from Around the World in the First International Forum on Environmental Film Festivals

October 15, Seia, Portugal

Under the organization and sponsorship of the *CineEco* environmental film festival that takes place annually in Seia, Portugal, the *First International Forum of Environmental Film Festivals* united 38 film festivals from all around the world, all the members of the *Green Film Network*. The director of DREFF, Natasha Despotovic, was among the participants. The Forum represented a unique opportunity to meet, network, exchange knowledge, experiences and ideas while strengthening collaboration and



agreeing on strategies for further growth and enhancement of the Green Film Network, now celebrating fifteen years of its existence. Film festival directors all the way from Borneo, Korea, India and Japan, numerous European and South American countries, United States and Canada held lively meetings and formed working groups in order to discuss how to best unite their resources, foster cooperation and offer the most efficient and effective ways of spreading knowledge and creating awareness on environmental issues through the use of audio-visual media. "We are all deeply grateful to CineEco, Seia, Portugal and its director Mário Branquinho for organizing and sponsoring the Forum and we certainly hope there will soon be another opportunity to meet and work together in person," commented Despotovic.

77



The ReCrearte program works with the most disadvantaged members of the community, who receive training in the art of recycling and creating new objects from waste and simultaneously learn to develop an alternative source of income. The program revolves around the "three golden rules" (or 3Rs) for the proper management of solid waste: reduce, reuse, and recycle. The workshops demonstrate and emphasize the idea that recycling waste and transforming it into art and objects for daily use strengthen individuals and communities alike.



- > January 13: Recycling as a Creative Tool for Family Integration
- > January 24:

From Milk and Juice Packaging to Fish: How to Create from Waste Products

- > January 25: Los Frailes Sector 2 Hosts ReCrearte Workshop
- > January 25 and 28: ReCrearte Closes January with Two Important Activities in Greater Santo Domingo Neighborhoods
 - > March 8: ReCrearte Now in Punta Cana



Recycling as a Creative Tool for Family Integration

January 13, Santo Domingo, DR

The activity, organized in coordination with Lorna Aquino from Green Love, was held in the the Office of Risk Management Insurance

ReCrearte, an initiative of the Dominican Environmental Film Festival, held a creative recycling workshop at the Office of Risk Management Insurance on Saturday, January 13, 2018.



Thirty-two participants, adults and children, were beneficiaries of the creative training activity. Employees and their children met in the auditorium at the institution's headquarters in Ensanche La Fé.

For two hours, Lucia Marte, the creative recycling specialist and coordinator of GFDD/Funglode's ReCrearte program, showed participants how to use recycled fabric to make cloth handbags.

Ms. Marte's workshops also encourage family unity and integration through environmental activities. The workshops serve as a space for participants to learn how to make proper use of available resources, such as materials normally considered trash, which can be converted into useful resources for domestic and personal use.



From Milk and Juice Packaging to Fish: How to Create from Waste Products

January 24, Santo Domingo, DR

The ReCrearte program, in coordination with the Fundación UnToque de Luz (Touch of Light Foundation), held an interesting workshop at the El Túnel School, in the Capotillo Sector, one the the most vulnerable areas in the country.

A diverse group of pre-teens and teenagers, 11 through 15, greeted ReCrearte's program manager, Lucia

Marte, who talked to them about the causes and consequences of water pollution, which was especially relevant because the school is located on the banks of the Isabela River. She also taught the children how to make fish figures by reusing the milk and juice cartons from their school breakfast.

Two of their teachers and a representative from the Un Toque de Luz Foundation were also at the activity. Professor Jacinta Castillo noted that the workshop was extremely valuable and appropriate for the reality in which the students live.



Los Frailes Sector 2 Hosts ReCrearte Workshop

January 25, Los Frailes, DR

GFDD's ReCrearte program continued it full schedule of lectures and workshops in and around Santo Domingo. ReCrearte paid a visit to a group of women and girls in Los Frailes 2 where participants had a blast learning about recycling and reusing instead of tossing their trash.

The group, comprised of 13 people, began their workshop with an interesting lecture on the importance of taking care of Mother Earth and the resources she provides us.

Lucia Marte, ReCrearte program coordinator, initially focused on offering important information on how to avoid the accumulation of trash in the communities. In the second part of the activity, participants learned how to make bags and purses out of fabric that would otherwise have been discarded. This activity enables women to create innovative and unique designs out of blouses, pants and fabric they no longer use, rather than discarding it.

One participant, Lidia Vitorino, was pleased with the activity, especially reusing fabric from used clothing they would have otherwise thrown out.





ReCrearte Closes January with Two Important Activities in Greater Santo Domingo Neighborhoods

<mark>January 25 and 28, Santo D</mark>omingo, DR

GFDD's ReCrearte Program kept up a very active agenda during January that ended with two workshops held in two specific neighborhoods in the Greater Santo Domingo area, where it is important to encourage and emphasize environmentally-friendly measures through the initiative known as the 3Rs.

The Héctor J. Díaz Sports and Cultural Club, situated in the "Capotillo" neighborhood in northern Santo Domingo, was the venue where a group of adolescents gathered to learn creative projects by using recycled paper and plastic bottles. On January 25, 13 teenagers and four adults participated in these workshops where they expressed their commitment to put into practice the techniques learned by using the resources that are readily available to them in their specific communities. The group also learned how to put together a community bulletin board that will provide important information on various issues to the community.

The "Toque de Luz" (Touch of Light) Foundation, an important program partner, participated in the workshop organized in the "Capotillo" neighborhood.

Program coordinator Lucia Marte continued with her teaching agenda on January 28, this time at the "La Caleta" community, situated in the eastern section of Santo Domingo. Others who participated in the workshop were Mrs. Grecia Enrique, the Association of Women Carmen Delia Cedeño, and the "Las Mariposas" Group. The workshop was held at the FREMOPROCA offices, where some 35 community members learned how to recycle waste products in the creation of artistic works. Workshop participants learned to reuse egg cartons to make papier maché, and later use the paper to create decorative vases.

Participants explained that this kind of activity encourages personal growth, helps the environment, and opens the door to the possible generation of extra income for many of the participating families. Alexandra Rincón, a participant in the workshop help in "La Caleta," said that she enjoyed learning to make new things with materials she would have thrown out in the garbage.





ReCrearte Now in Punta Cana

March 8, Punta Cana, DR

GFDD's ReCrearte Program celebrated International Women's Day by hosting an instructive fabric-recycling workshop that was held at the Hotel Dreams Palm Beach, in Punta Cana, the country's foremost tourism enclave.

Program coordinator Lucía Marte presented an instructive lecture to the 22 workshop participants (21 women and one man) on recycling and valuable techniques on how to reuse garments to create shopping bags made with fabric.

Ms. Mariela Cotes, a participant, stated that the workshop was very productive which provided her with the necessary information that will enable her to recycle fabric and make shopping bags that she will be able to use in her personal daily schedule.

ReCrearte coordinated the workshop with the support of Ms. Lorna Aquino and Green Love. The workshop is part of a series of activities scheduled by GFDD, in coordination with Green Love, to raise awareness among the general population on the importance of reusing available resources to create decorative ornaments and other useful objects.

"Today we had a wonderful workshop on recycling in which I learned to create earrings and wallets with plastic waste. It is truly beautiful to see that trash, which was going to end up contaminating the ocean, can be made into such useful and marvelous items. Thank you R3crearte for teaching us how to make these garments and at the same time contribute to the well-being of our planet."

Manuela Cuevas – Teacher at Escuela Unida February 27

83



Year Round Environmental Film Screenings

www.dominicanscreenings.org



A spart of its mission to reach more communities, institutions, and individuals around the country, the DR Environmental Film Festival (DREFF) organizes yearround film screenings that bring interesting and important films to new and remote communities. By showing a diverse selection of quality movies on critical environmental and sustainable development issues and organizing discussions and workshops, the year-round film screenings program fosters and inspires dialogue, raises awareness, and promotes sustainable practices.



> March 25:

La Montaña, Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro High School, Santo Domingo, DR

> April 19-30:

Several Films at the International Book Fair, Santo Domingo, DR

> June 8:

*El mar y y*o and *Un viaje a través de los ojos del arrecife*, Ministries of the Environment and Tourism, Santo Domingo, DR

> June 11:

¿Basura o recurso? Experiencia de la República Dominicana and others, Ibero-American University (UNIBE) and APEC University (UNAPEC), Santo Domingo, DR

> June 30 to July 1:

Bienvenido a la tierra / Donde vive Jobito / Peter Plástico / Travesías / El agua de la tierra, 2018 Festival Marisco Ripiao, Santo Domingo, DR

> July 11: Peter Plástico and The Change, BIJRD Summer Camp, Santo Domingo, DR

> July 29 and 30:

The Boy and the World, Children's International Film Festival

> August 10:

Peter Plástico, Centros Tecnológicos Comunitarios, Santo Domingo

> August 11:

Bag it!, National Museum of Natural History, Santo Domingo





The DREFF and the Siempre Más Foundation Present Motivational Documentary to Local Students and Encourage Them to Follow Their Dreams

March 25, Santo Domingo, DR

The Year-Round Environmental Film Screenings program, in association with the Siempre Más Foundation, began its

2018 program with the presentation of the documentary *La Montaña* to hundreds of students from the Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro school, in the northeast Santo Domingo community of San Isidro. After viewing the documentary, the students participated in an open conversation with Siempre Más Foundation President Karim Mella, who discussed with the students his experiences in the planning and successful climbing of Mt. Everest. On two occasions, explained the Dominican mountaineer, he reached the top of the world's highest mountain. Mella encouraged the students to follow their dreams by conquering their own personal mountains and to overcome whatever obstacles they may find along the way of their young lives.

GFDD/DREFF and the Cinemateca Dominicana Feature Documentaries on How Children and Adolescents Can Take Care of the Environment

April 19-30, Santo Domingo, DR

During Santo Domingo's 10-day-long International Book Fair, children and adolescents were treated to special showings of short documentaries and feature films on how to care and protect the environment. The initiative was a joint effort carried out between the DREFF and the Dominican Film Archive and the National Film Directorate of the Dominican Republic (DGCINE). The films and short



documentaries featured were Garbage or Resource? The Experience of the Dominican Republic; 7 Grams; Cycles; The Change; The Journey; Peter Plástico; Eating Each Other; Moravilla and In Our Mouths. The films and documentaries were presented on different times throughout the Fair and were attended by hundreds of children, adolescents and adults.



Commemorating World Ocean Day

June 8, Santo Domingo, DR

To commemorate World Ocean Day, held on June 8th of each year DREFF and the Ministries of the Environment and Tourism of the Dominican Republic featured a special presentation of the short documentaries *El mar y yo* and *Un viaje a través de los ojos del arrecife*. The activity was organized by personnel from both Ministries.



World Environment Day with Film Showings at Cinemateca Dominicana and UNIBE and UNAPEC Universities

June 11, Santo Domingo, DR

With the support of local partners, such as the Cinemateca Dominicana the Year-Round Environmental Film Screenings program presented several short documentaries, including *Garbage or Resource? The Experience of the Dominican Republic* at the UNIBE and UNAPEC Universities in Santo Domingo, DR. The feature films *Racing Extinction, Exuma, Sonic Sea, Todo el tiempo del mundo* and *La Tragedia Electrónica* were shown as well.



GFDD Once Again Brings Environmental Consciousness to the Festival Marisco Ripiao

June 30 and July 1, Santo Domingo, DR

Continuing its yearly tradition of participating in the Festival Marisco Ripiao, GFDD screened several environmental short films at the 2018 edition of the event. Among the shorts were *Bienvenido a la tierra, Donde vive Jobito, Peter Plástico, Travesías* and *El agua de la tierra*. The event included a recycling art workshop led by GFDD.

DREFF and Cinemateca Screened Environmental Short Films to Participants of BIJRD's Summer Camp



July 11, Santo Domingo

As part of a special vi it to the Cinemateca Dominicana and thanks to the DREFF, dozens of children and adults, participants of the summer camp at the Biblioteca Infantil y Juvenil de la República Dominicana (BIJRD, Dominican Republic's Youth Library), enjoyed the short films *Peter Plástico* and *The Change*. The event complemented a presentation on the history of Dominican filmmaking and a guided tour of the exhibit on that topic displayed at the Cinemateca's art gallery.

87





Partnering with BIJRD for the Children's International Film Festival

July 29 and 30, Santo Domingo, DR

As part of the collaboration with the XIII Festival Internacional de Cine Infantil (FICI – Children's International Film Festival), held annually in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, GFDD and its DR Environmental Film Festival (DREFF) screened the animated film The Boy and the World twice. Hundreds of children and adults enjoyed the Oscar nominee film that was part of the 2016 DREFF's official selection. In addition to the screenings and also as part of FICI's environmental protection efforts, participants were able to enjoy a virtual reality experience called Vertedero Reality (Dump Reality), created by Dominican filmmaker José María Cabra. FICÍ is an initiative of the Vicepresidency of the Dominican Republic and the Biblioteca Infantil y Juvenil de la República Dominicana (BIJRD -Dominican Republic's Youth Library), with whom GFDD has partnered on many occasions to promote environmental consciousness among Dominican youth.



Screening "Peter Plástico" at the Centros Tecnológicos Comunitarios

August 10, Santo Domingo, DR

On Friday, August 10th, GFDD, DREFF and the Cinemateca Dominicana, screened the children's environmental short film *Peter Plastico* to youth from the Centros Tecnológicos Comunitarios (CTC). More than thirty young adults from the CTC La Barquita visited the Cinemateca Dominicana in Santo Domingo, participated in an interesting guided tour of its "Findings" (Hallazgos) exhibit, and enjoyed the screening of the short film provided by DREFF.



New Habits to Control Plastic Consumption Explored in Film "Bag it!"

August 11, Santo Domingo, DR

DREFF and the National Museum of Natural History (MNHN for its initials in Spanish) joined forces to screen the documentary *Bag It!*. The screening's main purpose was a call to action to stop or at least significantly reduce the use of plastics in the Dominican Republic and promote awareness about the importance of sustainability. Dozens were able to enjoy the film and engage in a discussion and reflection on the use of plastics in the Dominican Republic.



"A film is a petrified fountain of thought."

Jean Cocteau



Dominican Issues, Heritage and Outreach



FDD reaches out to the Dominican community and to all those interested in the Dominican culture as a part of its mission to promote the understanding and appreciation of the Dominican culture, values and heritage. Annual events such as the Passport D.C. and other activities aim to bring together members of the Dominican community that live in the U.S., particularly Washington, D.C. and New York. GFDD uses these initiatives to create a space for reflection, discussion and sharing of topics relevant to the Dominican community in the U.S. and in the homeland.



- > May 10: Arts and Crafts Bazaar in Washington
- > June 28: Máximo Jiménez in New York
- > August 20: 2018 Cultural Week and the Dominican Festival of Boston
- > August 25: Taste of the World DC Festival in Washington

> September 10:

Taste of the World International Food Festival at Nationals Park in Washington



Celebrating Mother's Day in Style

May 10, Washington, DC

GFDD and the Dominican Republic Embassy in the United States hosted an arts and crafts bazaar celebrating Mother's Day at GFDD's Washington, DC office. Local artisans from the Dominican Republic visited to participate in several events and showings, including Passport



DC, and made a stop in their busy agenda to meet and greet, and sell their artisanal creations to, GFDD's friends in a more intimate space for Mother's Day.



The History of Bachata Urbana

June 28, New York

As part of the GFDD initiative, Dominican Get-Togethers in the Big Apple, a large and enthusiastic audience of Dominicans and people interested in Dominican culture gathered at the Dominican Commission of Culture to hear the story of author and journalist Máximo Jiménez and his new book La gran aventura de la bachata urbana. In an open-discussion format the author shared interesting details on his professional career as a journalist and lover of bachata, one of the most popular Latin American musical genres that originated in the

Dominican Republic in the 20th century. The book, published by Funglode, tells the story of the popular bachata group Aventura, from its very beginnings to its final breakup in 2011.

GFDD Recognizes Magalis Troncoso at the 2018 Cultural Week and Dominican Festival of Boston

August 20, Boston, Massachusetts

GFDD Liason Katy Berndt recognized Mrs. Magalis Troncoso's hard work and community engagement, especially aimed toward empowering women, during a ceremony at the 2018 Cultural Week and Dominican Festival of Boston. During the event, Mrs. Troncoso was gifted the book LO DOMINICANO - "All Things Dominican" - a compilation of Dominican culture, written in English and in Spanish, as a gift. Ms. Troncoso has organized the "Dominican Women's Day" for the past 12 years and is also in charge of the Dominican Center for Development and Women in Action in Boston. Hundreds of people attended the event, including city officials, such as Ms. Ayanna Pressley, the Boston City Councilor At-Large, and Mr. Luis Matos, who is the festival's director.



Working Hand in Hand with the Dominican Embassy at the Taste of the World DC Festival

August 25, Washington, DC

Washingtonians enjoyed the Third Annual Taste of the World Festival, an International Festival that celebrates the breath of traditions and cultures of Washington, DC's diverse communities as expressed by music, dance, traditional food, arts & crafts, vendors



and other cultural expressions. This year the Dominican Republic was the honored host country, and other nations, including India, Ethiopia and many Caribbean countries, were also celebrated in the annual event hosted by D.C. Mayor Bowser and D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). Mr. José Tomas Pérez, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic in Washington, DC, other representatives of the Dominican Embassy, diplomatic delegations of other nations, and authorities of the DC Mayor's Office and the DPR were amongst the special quests.





Washingtonians Enjoy the Taste and Culture of the DR with a Side of Baseball

September 10, Washington, DC

The Third Annual Taste of the World Festival continued with a special celebration at Nationals Park baseball stadium in Washington GFDD and the Dominican Republic Embassy in Washington represented the DR at a

stand featuring numerous food and drink samplings. Following the pre-game festivities, the local DC Nationals competed against the visiting Chicago Cubs. Mr. José Tomas Pérez, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic in Washington, DC, other representatives of the Dominican Embassy, diplomatic delegations of other nations, and authorities of the baseball community were amongst the special guests.



DominicanaOnline.org is the first comprehensive, detailed and interactive portal in both Spanish and English about the Dominican Republic that presents the country in all its facets to a national and international audience. It offers updated information on national life and at the same time compiles, in an objective and reliable manner, existing knowledge on the history, geography, education, culture, environment, tourism and society of the Dominican Republic.



> March 2018:

Launch of a new updated DominicanaOnline.org Portal

Dominican Introductions for Citizens and Foreigners Through Digital Platforms

> April 19-30:

The Internet's Impact on the Development of Culture and Tourism, Santo Domingo

> October 9-11:

Gastronomic Tour with Dominican Diaspora in New York City



Redesigned, upgraded and updated DominicanaOnline.org is launched

In March 2018 a new and the DominicanaOnline.org to enhance visitors' browsing experience. The redesigned website is full uses more modern and attractive graphics. The platform is also mobile friendly and has easy-touse drop-down menus so that viewers can learn about the Dominican Republic whether at home or on the go.



Dominican Introductions for Citizens and Foreigners Through Digital Platforms

For years DominicanaOnline has served as the center for introductions to Dominican culture, politics, geography and more. Every year hundreds of Dominican citizens in the country as well as foreigners from around the world visit the site to learn, explore and see all that the country has to offer. DominicanaOnline also offers workshops and carries out programs in the Dominican Republic and in the United States to educate the public on its services as well as the DR's rich culture and heritage.

Among the most frequently asked questions relate to:

- Information on services for citizens
- How to obtain a driver's license
- Requirements for a passport
- How to apply for Dominican residency
- How to apply for Dominican citizenship



- Dominincan embassies and consulates abroad
- How to invest in the Dominican Republic
- Embassies, consulates and foreign bodies
- Foreign diplomats in Dominican territory

Each question is analyzed and responded to by the DominicanaOnline team DominicanaOnline offers this introductory service to Dominican citizens and others completely free of charge as support to the Dominican Republic. In 2018 DominicanaOnline was visited by more than 5000 people and responded to their questions through different modes of communication. DominicanaOnline is the main point of reference on the Dominican Republic.

The Internet's Impact on the Development of Culture and Tourism

April 19-30, Santo Domingo, DR



During the 21st International Book Fair 2018 DominicanaOnline offered short meetings in which it shared information about the impact of the internet on the cultural development of the Dominican Republic.

During the events, the group spoke about the importance of new technologies to promote Dominican culture and tourism through the creation of online content. Students and professors

got to see some examples of successful cultural and tourism projects as well as some basic tips on how to begin digital projects on culture and tourism.

Dominicanaonline, in its commitment to the promotion of culture, tourism and the Dominican Republic through the internet, offers short workshops at schools, NGOs, community organizations and the general public about the proper use of the internet and technology as well as how to apply those tools for the promotion of culture and tourism in the Dominican Republic.

Gastronomic Tour Supports and Shares Dominican Cuisine with Diaspora in New York City

October 9-11, New York

Over a three-day period, food blogger and gastronomic journalist, Elaine Hernandez, led a tour of Dominican restaurants in New York City. Accompanied by many Dominican food lovers and supported by GFDD, Hernandez traveled to several restaurants where participants feasted on traditional Dominican snacks and meals including, empanadas, mofongo, Dominican style seafood and baked goods as well as much more.

The Dominican Gastronomic Tour was part of a series of events that took place in October in New York City supported by GFDD and its Dominicanaonline.org program. Alongside the tour were special workshops including Gastronomic Writing for Foodies and Online Communication and its Role in Promoting Dominican Gastronomy. These events were part of GFDD's mission to support Dominican culture and heritage as well as the Dominican diaspora living in the United States.







The Dominican Film Showcase contributes to the dissemination of the best contemporary films produced in the Dominican Republic, by Dominican filmmakers, about Dominican topics. In its mission to promote the knowledge and appreciation of Dominican culture as well as to inspire Dominican filmmakers to reach out internationally, GFDD partners with institutions worldwide and creates opportunities for wide audiences to learn about Dominican culture, enjoy its art, and engage in conversations with filmmakers.



> January 23 to February 20:

Dólares de arena, Death by a Thousand Cuts, La Familia Reyna, La lucha de Ana and Cristo rey at the Dominican Embassy in San José, Costa Rica

- > February 20: Sol Caribe in Washington, DC
- > May 21: Un acto de rebeldía, Santo Domingo, DR
- May 23, 24 and 28: Cacú: un cambio por la vida in New York
- > July 25: La Barbería at the Lincoln Center in New York
- > October 11: Hay un país en el mundo at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts
- > November 15: Un acto de rebeldía in Washington, DC
- > December 12: Hay un país en el mundo in Lawrence, Massachusetts



Dominican Issues, Heritage and Outreach



Costa Ricans Learn About Dominican Culture Through Film

January 23 to February 20, San Jose, Costa Rica

Over the duration of a month, the Dominican Film Showcase screened various films at the Dominican Embassy in Costa Rica. Interested citizens went to watch a variety of some of the best Dominican films, including: *Dólares de arena, Death by a Thousand Cuts, La Familia Reyna, La lucha de Ana and Cristo Rey.* Among the special guests present at the screenings and accompanying dialogues were Yvette Marichal, Director of the DR Film Commission (DGCine) Laura Amelia Guzmán, Dominican filmmaker and Danilo Reynoso, Dominican actor and film producer. Mr. Octavio Lister Henríquez, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic in Costa Rica and representatives of local authorities in San José were also present at the screenings.

"To witness my debut film at a special presentation and at Lincoln Center is such a special moment for me."

Waddy Jáquez – Director, La Barbería



"Sol Caribe" and Carlos Alfredo Fatule Brought Some Heat to Washington, DC!

February 20, Washington, DC

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In an intimate presentation about merengue, salsa, bachata and son and what it means to Dominicans, the Dominican Film Showcase screened the film *Sol Caribe* at the GFDD headquarters in Washington. The documentary is based on an unprecedented series of concert tours made by twelve pioneers of Dominican music and serves as a mechanism to introduce people all

around the world to the influential beats that developed in the cradle of America. After the screening the audience enjoyed a lively conversation with Carlos Alfredo Fatule, a professional Dominican singer, film and theatre actor with over 30 years of experience who has also produced, directed, and hosted numerous successful television and radio shows. Fatule explained to the fascinated spectators what dance means for him as a Dominican as well as its key role in Dominican culture and identity, especially when living abroad.





Young Dominicans Seek Ways to Prevent Gender Violence

May 21, Santo Domingo, DR

DREFF continued its mission to share local cinematographic talent and projects with a film showing of the short documentary *Un acto de rebeldía* at the Funglode Auditorium. After the movies presentation, the producer and director of the film, Nicole Coiscou and Isabella Bretón respectively, led a reflective discussion about the project's commentary concerning gender violence and micro aggressions towards women in Dominican society. The young filmmakers stressed that the goal of their initiative is to expose the constant threats that females face and to help lower gender violence statistics in the Dominican Republic.

"Cacú: Un cambio por la vida" Presented in Honor of World Turtle Day

May 23, 24 and 28, New York

Three different New York audiences were spectators to the film *Cacú: Un cambio por la vida* during a week-long celebration of World Turtle Day. The showings were held at the United Nations Headquarters, Yonkers' Middle School and Salomé Ureña School in New York City. The 79-minute documentary, directed by Guatemalan/ Dominican photojournalist Marvin del Cid, features the revealing story of five fishermen from the underprivileged community of Manresa, situated in the southwest section of Santo Domingo,



who transitioned from being sea turtle nest predators to full-fledged conservationists. Each screening was followed by a dynamic and educational discussion with the film director, Marvin del Cid, and Dominican marine biologist, Omar Shamir Reynoso, who spoke on the making of the documentary and the importance of working to conserve the world's turtle population.

Special Presentation of "La Barbería" at the Lincoln Center

July 25, New York

An enthusiastic audience packed Lincoln Center's Walter Reade Theatre to view the special presentation of the Dominican film La Barbería, Dominican film maker Waddys Jaquez' first feature film. The event included the



presence of the former President of the Dominican Republicand president of GFDD/Funglode, Dr. Leonel Fernández; Juan Marichal, Dominican National Baseball Hero; Natasha Despotovic, GFDD Executive Director; Guillermo Sención, Dominican Businessman; Roberto Cavada, journalist; Jimmy Sierra, Dominican filmmaker; Yvette Marichal, Director of DGCINE, and Omar de la Cruz, director of the Dominican Global Film Festival. Before the presentation of the film, Mrs. Marichal and representatives from the film participated in a panel discussion moderated by Omar de la Cruz. Producer, director and actor Waddys Jáquez, who made his debut as a film director with this feature film, confessed: "I couldn't believe it, to see an idea turn into reality and to see, for the first time, the public identify with the story. It's an experience that made my heart beat speed up. Thanks to Dr. Leonel Fernández, to the Dominican Global Film Festival, and to Omar de la Cruz for giving us the privilege of presenting *La Barbería* at the prestigious Lincoln Center." The film, directed by Jáquez and produced by Rafael Elías Muñoz and Juan Basanta, received a standing ovation following the showcase.



A Tribute to Dominican Heritage, "Hay un país en el mundo" Screened at Harvard University

October 11, Cambridge, Massachusetts

A tribute to Dominican heritage took place with the screening of *Hay un país en el mundo* (There is a Country in the World) at the

Smith Campus Center on the Harvard University campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. *Hay un país en el mundo* directed by José (Pinky) Pintor, is a walk-through of the natural landscape of the Dominican Republic, describing the country's historic, cultural and social values as explained by experts in specific areas of interest. The event was organized GFDD, the Student Diversity and Inclusion Program Student Affairs Office of the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) and Comunidad Latinx at HGSE in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month in the United States. Yamile Eusebio, Director of the GFDD office in New York, introduced the documentary to an excited audience full of Dominican community members from the Boston, Massachusetts area as well as Harvard University students. The event included musical performance of popular Dominican dance and song by a group of children from the Cultural Latina Dance Academy.



Bringing Attention to Violence Against Women with a Screening of the Film "Un acto de rebeldía"

November 15, Washington, DC

In commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, GFDD/Funglode held a free screening of the film *Un acto de rebeldía al día* (A Rebellious Act a Day) at the GFDD offices in Washington, DC. The audience of several dozen enjoyed

the eight-minute-long film, one of a series of short stories aimed at bringing the issue of violence against women to the public agenda in the Dominican Republic. After the screening, the producer of the film, Nicole Coiscou, explained the movie aims to empower Dominican women by demonstrating daily actions that help to combat machista culture. A series of panel discussions followed that featured international experts on gender and gender-related violence in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Hilary Anderson, Senior Gender Specialist at the OAS. Anderson and the other panelists argued that, although some progress has been made, much work remains, both in a cultural and policy sense, for the region to improve security and prosperity for women and girls. At the closing of the event, GFDD Executive Director Natasha Despotovic thanked the special guests, panelists and audience members for their participation and stressed GFDD's continued commitment to raising awareness of gender issues throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Huge Turnout at the Lawrence, MA Screening of the Documentary "Hay un país en el mundo"

December 12, Lawrence, Massachusetts

At the Lawrence Public Library in Lawrence, GFDD/Funglode and the Dominican bank BHD-León held a screening of the documentary Hay un país en el mundo (There is a Country in the World). The library's facilities were filled with enthusiastic guests -many of them members of the diaspora in Massachusettswas screened. Prior to the film being played, GFDD/Funglode Liaison in



Massachusetts, Katy Polanco Berndt, led a short cultural celebration. Among the activities carried out were a performance by a local dance team, Cultura Latina and tastings of traditional Dominican appetizers, donated by local restaurants. A number of local community leaders, including representatives from the Lawrence, MA Mayor's Office, were present to participate in the event and celebrate Dominican heritage.



The GFDD golf tournaments are attended by leading figures from the philanthropic field, prominent sports figures, and others who through the years have supported GFDD's programs. They are an opportunity to share time with partners and friends as well as to engage supporters, build community and promote fundraising efforts.



> March 5: 11th Annual Golf Tournament, Crandon Golf at Key Biscayne, Miami

> September 24: 12th Annual Golf Tournament, Glen Head, NY



11th Annual Golf Tournament to Support GFDD Initiatives and Programs

March 5, Miami

The 11th Annual Golf Tournament, a yearly fundraiser, was held at the impressive Crandon Golf at Key Biscayne in Miami-Dade Country, Florida with the participation of more than 90 golfers. The opening ceremony was headed by Juan Marichal, the first Dominican to enter the Baseball Hall of Fame, and Dr. Leonel Fernández, GFDD/Funglode's president and former president of the Dominican Republic. After the tournament, an awards ceremony was held, in which GFDD's Executive Director, Natasha Despotovic, thanked the participants. Dr. Fernández and Mr. Marichal then presented awards to the first-place winners.










12th Annual Golf Tournament at the Glen Head Country Club

September 24, Glen Head, NY

Approximately 100 golfers participated in the 12th Annual GFDD Golf Tournament to back GFDD programs and initiatives that promote the social, economic and democratic development of Dominicans. As in past years one of baseball's greatest legends, Dominican Juan Marichal, was the tournament's distinguished patron. After the sporting activities, an awards ceremony was led by President Fernández, who passed out trophies to the tournament's winners. Also present at the ceremony were Natasha Despotovic, GFDD's Executive Director; Yamile Eusebio, Director of GFDD's New York office; Rudy Fuertes, Kenia Hernández, Benny Rodríguez and Francisco Jorge, members of the tournament's organizing committee.



"We thank all of you for coming today to participate in our 12th Anniversary GFDD Tournment. We are always blessed and today is not an exception!"

Rudy Fuertes – Members of the Tournament's Organizing Committee







Publications



E ach year GFDD publishes books on topics relevant to the Dominican Republic and the world. Through its publications, GFDD brings new perspectives and innovative approaches and solutions to pressing issues and challenges of contemporary society in the Dominican Republic and the Americas, contributing to sustainable social, democratic, economic and cultural development. Books are available on the GFDD website, Amazon and iTunes.



> March 5: Launch of Dominican Cultural Dictionary Orlando, Florida

> Publications / Research and Ideas Series

Fundamentals of the Dominican Voluntary Sector Author Megan D. Beddow

Resident Perceptions of Whale Watching in the Dominican Republic Author Aireona Bonnie Raschke

Legal, Political and Social Reflections on the Dominican Environmental Framework Author Sergio Morales Muñoz

Analysis of Evangelical Christianity in the Dominican Republic Author Christina C. Davidson



Launch of "Dominican Cultural Dictionary" Author Jimmy Sierra

March 5, Orlando, Florida

The launching of the *Dominican Cultural Dictionary* was held in central Florida with the support of a large audience that turned out for the event. The *Dominican Cultural Dictionary*, published by Funglode's editorial house, offers readers a



summary of the biographies and key cultural events that have taken place throughout Dominican history. On his welcome remarks, José Zaiter, Funglode's representative in Florida and moderator of the launching, recognized the support of Noris Eusebio, director of Editorial Funglode and Leonte Rivera; president of Serigraf, the company charged with printing the book, for their collaboration on the elaboration and printing of the Dictionary. Dr. Leonel Fernández, former President of the Dominican Republic and current President of Funglode and the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD), who wrote the book's foreword, was also in attendance. The event was part of GFDD's efforts to connect the Dominican Diaspora in the United States with the culture and people of the Dominican Republic.



Publications / Research and Ideas Series

This year GFDD published four books through the Research and Ideas Series.

Fundamentals of the Dominican Voluntary Sector Author Megan D. Beddow

The Dominican Republic is home to thousands of nonprofit associations that represent a mixture of informal neighborhood groups, domestic startups, service-oriented collectives, and standardized international organizations. Along with offering representative data points, this report provides preliminary analysis of how external environmental factors and internal organizational characteristics shape the voluntary sector of the Dominican Republic.



Resident Perceptions of Whale Watching in the Dominican Republic Author Aireona Bonnie Raschke

The Dominican Republic possesses one of the oldest and most unique whale watching industries in the world, both in terms of the experiences that it offers travelers, and due to its innovative co-management strategy. This publication includes qualitative interviews that were administered in key Dominican, whale watching communities. It presents a number of educational opportunities as well as policy recommendations to maintain the social and environmental sustainability of whale watching in the DR.







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Section One: Study Introduction

20 Resident Perceptions of Whale Watching in the Dominican Republic

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Legal, Political and Social Reflections on the Dominican Environmental Framework Author Sergio Morales Muñoz

Climate change has developed over the past two millenniums and we are just now observing its impact and finding the tools to manage, control, and monitor it. This book involves several intertwined issues related to climate change and a number of policy options, such as environmental impact assessments, to address it in the context of the Dominican Republic.



III. Latin American Neoconstitutionalism

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Nonetheless, Linin American environmental constitutionalism dates back to years prior with the Mexican Constitution of 1917, which provided for environmental conservation.

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In relation to general view of EIAs, the first-question reveals that 100% of the respondents, and thus 100% of the three interviewed aritim, have a positive view of EIAs.





IX. Environmental Permits in the Dominican Republic and the Precautionary Principle

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To successfully establish EIAs and SEAs, an inter-administrative connection between ministers is needed with the interia soft to overlap or duplicate functions. To this end, a harmontating process should be absorated.

It is therefore necessary to set up a system of integrated environmental authorizations (IEAs) in the Dominican Bepüblic to be able to link the system together and harmonize it into a sole, synergetic process.

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In terms of the processionary primiple, is is part of the essence of environmental low and requires a dynamic procedure to be applied with a certain level of success. In relation to the principle's application, bridge

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Analysis of Evangelical Christianity in the Dominican Republic Author Christina C. Davidson

This publication provides a glance at two historical protestant churches with great presence in the Dominican Republic: the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Dominican Evangelical Church. The author uses historical documents and interviews with church leaders to analyze how the institutions have changed and adapted to societal shifts overtime.





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"In the Dominican Republic the institutional weaknesses, economic and social inequalities, and the lack of confidence in the political leadership are factors the significantly reduce the benefits of a civil society and the human development needed for an emerging and strong volunteer system."

Megan D. Beddow – GFDD Fellow



Websites, Portals and Blogs

















www.dominicanscreenings.org



Websites, Portals and Blogs







Diplomacy in Disguise: The Politics will of Sport procourses of the Politics pro-

In close association with the United Nations, the Mission of the Dominican Republic to the UN and South-South News, GFDD caparties regular meetings with UN Ambassadors and other prominent flugures in the international community in an effort to spread the

www.gfddglobalroundtable.org

All Websites and Portals Are Available in Both Spanish and English



Collaborators

American Chamber of Commerce in the Dominican Republic (AMCHAMDR) United Nations Association of the Dominican Republic (UNA-DR) Art Museum of the Americas, OAS ASOVEUSA AMALIA GOMEZ **BeachCorps** Biblioteca Infantil y Juvenil de la República Dominicana **Bimbo Bakeries** Bolivia Permanent Mission to the OAS BP Media + Partners Caribbean Traveling Network Casa Rubio Restaurant Inc. CBA Industries Inc. Center for Agriculture and Forest Development of the Dominican Republic Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Cinemateca Dominicana City University of New York (CUNY) Club de Madrid Colegio Dominico Americano **Colin Powell Elementary School** Corinthian Medical IPA Inc. Coordinationg Council for Dominicans Living Abroad (DORENEX)-Yonkers Comisionado Dominicano de Cultura en Estados Unidos Community for Learning Center in the Dominican Republic Confederation of NGO (CONGO) DC Environmental Film Festival (DCEFF) Dr. Fernando Taveras Dominican American National Roundtable Dominican Film Festival in New York Dominican Republic Embassy in San José, Costa Rica Dominican Republic Embassy on the United States of America Dominican Republic Mission to the OAS Dominican Republic Mission to the United Nations Dominicanos USA (DUSA)



DR. Film Comission (DGCINE) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) **EcoServices** Dominicana ECOSOC Ecuador Permanent Mission to the OAS Editorial FUNGLODE Edwin Travel Agency EU-LAC Exclusive Management Co.' FECOTUR Festival de Cine Pobre de Gibara Festival International de Cine Infantil (FICI) **Fine Fare Supermarkets** Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival Frito Lay Five Star Sparkle Cleaning Inc. Fundación Aprendiendo a Vivir Fundación Grupo Punta Cana **Fundación Propagas** Gala Theatre Galería 360 Mall General Trading Co. Inc. **Georgetown University Global Muners** Go Future Golf Destinaire Green Film Network Grupo Punta Cana Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Punta Cana Havana Film Festival Humboldt State University Iberoamerican Film Showcase LA Riverside Brokerage NWCT Latina Women Association 809 Bar & Grill/ Cirilo Moronta Empanadas Monumental 181 / Eliezer Bueno

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