

POTENTIALLY HABITABLE EARTH-LIKE EXOPLANET FOUND 40 LIGHT-YEARS AWAY

ISTANBUL – Astronomers have discovered a potentially habitable Earth-like exoplanet, Gliese 12b, situated 40 light years away, according to a recent study.

International teams using NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) published their findings last Thursday in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, opening up exciting possibilities in the search for extraterrestrial life and understanding planetary habitability.

Scientists have confirmed "Gliese 12b," an exoplanet orbiting a "cool red dwarf star every 12.76 days within the habitable zone (or Goldilocks Zone),"

with an "estimated surface temperature of 42°C (107°F)," which could support "liquid water."

At only "40 light-years away," Gliese 12b has been described as one of "the nearest, transiting, temperate, Earth-size world located to date," with a radius just "1.0 times" that of Earth, making it "one of the smallest exoplanets discovered."

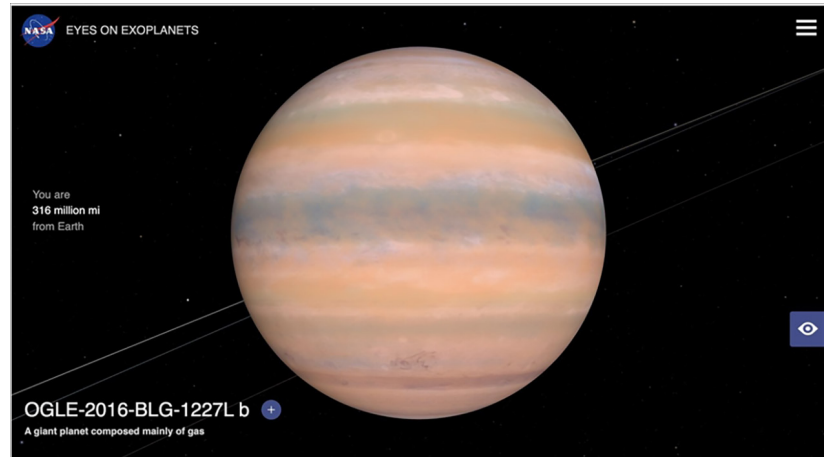
The study also revealed that Gliese 12b receives "less radiation than Venus" but might have "a similar surface temperature" due to potential atmospheric differences.

Studying this planet could provide insights into why Earth and Venus, de-

spite similarities, have such contrasting environments, according to the article.

While the size and location suggest potential habitability, the presence or composition of Gliese 12b's atmosphere remains unknown, astronomers are reportedly planning to use advanced telescopes like the James Webb Space Telescope to study the planet's atmosphere, which could reveal its "composition and suitability for life."

The discovery of Gliese 12b marks a significant step forward in the search for habitable exoplanets and our understanding of planetary system formation - Anadolu



New study reveals Earth-sized exoplanet 'Gliese 12b' in habitable zone with potential for liquid water and temperate climate.

Around 2,000 people buried under landslides in Papua New Guinea

ISTANBUL – Papua New Guinea has estimated that around 2,000 people were buried after landslides hit a remote village on Friday, May 24.

In a letter to the UN, the country's disaster agency "estimates that more than 2,000 people could be buried under the rubble," ABC News reported on Monday.

More than 150 houses have been buried in Yambali village alone, according to Serhan Aktoprak, an official of the UN migration agency mission in Papua New Guinea.

The affected areas are in the highlands of Enga province, north of the country in the southwest Pacific.

According to the UN office in the Pacific Island nation, around "670 people (were) missing but the exact number is



to be ascertained as search and rescue efforts continue."

It said: "Site's remoteness, ongoing terrain movement and damage to access roads is slowing relief efforts."

"Government authorities remain focused on clearing debris and improving access to the site," the UN office added. - Anadolu

US maintains opposition to unilateral recognition of Palestinian state

WASHINGTON – The White House reiterated its opposition Wednesday to any unilateral recognition of the state of Palestine after three European nations moved to open ties.

In response to action from Ireland, Norway, and Spain, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan maintained that any Palestinian state must be formed from direct negotiations with Israel.

The three European countries officially recognized a Palestinian state on May 28 in what marks a major blow to Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has long opposed a Palestinian state, rejecting it when he said Ire-

land, Norway, and Spain's recognition "is a reward for terrorism and will not bring peace."

He alleged that a Palestinian state would be a "terrorist state," affirming that his government "will not consent to this" and "will not stop it from defeating Hamas."

Bezalet Smotrich, his finance minister, separately threatened to take "harsh punitive measures" against the Palestinian Authority (PA) in retaliation for the recognition of a Palestine state. That includes cutting the authority's tax revenues.

The tax revenues – known in Palestine and Israel as "maqasa" – are collected by the Israeli government on behalf of the PA on Palestinian imports and exports, and Israel in return earns a 3 percent commission.

The revenues are estimated at around \$188 million every month and represent the main source of income for the Palestinian Authority.

When pressed on Israel's long-standing refusal to engage in any process that would lead to the creation of an independent Palestinian state, Sullivan said, "What the United States can do through hard, gumshoe diplomacy, led by the president, the secretary of state, myself, others is trying to put the pieces in place for a vision of an integrated region, of a secure Israel, of a two-state solution." - Anadolu



Japan eyes diplomatic efforts to ensure peace, stability of Taiwan Strait

Japan's government intends to continue pursuing diplomatic efforts to ensure peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait following the inauguration of Taiwan's new President Lai Ching-te.

In his inauguration speech, Lai refuted Beijing's claim that Taiwan is part of China, saying, "The Republic of China and the People's Republic of China are not subordinate to each other."

A Chinese government official criticized Lai's speech, saying the new president sent a dangerous signal that ignores public opinion, goes against the times, and undermines the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait. The official said the speech exposed Lai's nature of being "a worker for Taiwan independence."

Japanese foreign ministry officials say they are concerned that tensions could escalate if Lai ratchets up his rhetoric, as the new president hasn't recognized the "One China" principle espoused by Beijing.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hayashi Yoshimasa said ensuring the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait is important for the international community, including Japan. Hayashi said Japan's consistent stance is that the country expects issues related to Taiwan to be peacefully resolved through dialogue. - NHK

ICC prosecutor seeks arrest of Israeli and Hamas leaders

The chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court says people on both sides of the conflict in Gaza "bear criminal responsibility" for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Karim Khan is requesting arrest warrants for five men, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar.

Khan issued a statement from the court in The Hague, saying Israeli leaders are using starvation as a "method of warfare" and "intentionally directing attacks against a civilian population." Khan has also applied for an arrest warrant for Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. - NHK

Iran mourns President Raisi's death

Memorial ceremonies for Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi and other passengers killed in a helicopter crash have been held across the country.

All eight people aboard a helicopter that went down in the northwestern Iranian province of East Azerbaijan on Sunday were killed, including Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

Authorities are working to retrieve passengers' bodies and determine the cause of the crash, which state-run media has attributed to bad weather.

Mourners packed into the venues of memorial services held in Tehran and other parts of the country. Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei declared five days of national mourning. Funerals are planned in locations including Mashhad, a northeastern Iranian city where Raisi came from.

Officials said First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber will take over as interim president for the time being. Elections for a new president will be held on June 28. - NHK



In this photo provided by Fars News Agency, mourners gather around a truck carrying coffins of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his companions who were killed in their helicopter crash on Sunday in a mountainous region of the country's northwest, during a funeral ceremony at the city of Tabriz, Iran, Tuesday, May 21, 2024. (Ata Dadashi, Fars News Agency via AP)

News Breakers

Ukrainian president rejects Olympic truce

PARIS – Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky has rejected French leader Emmanuel Macron's idea of a truce during the upcoming Paris Olympic Games.

Zelensky told Agence France-Presse (AFP) in an interview, that he does not believe in the idea of an Olympic truce as it would "play into the enemy's hands". "Who can guarantee that Russia will not use this time to bring its forces to our territory?" Zelensky said. He earlier described Macron's initiative as a "dead story."

The French president's idea of an Olympic truce was discussed by President Vladimir Putin of Russia and President Xi Jinping of China during the Russian leader's visit to China. - TASS

G7 finance, banking chiefs discuss how to deal with frozen Russian assets

The finance ministers and central bank governors of the Group of Seven nations have begun discussions on Russian assets frozen as part of sanctions over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. The G7 finance and banking chiefs began their second day of talks on Saturday in Stresa in northern Italy.

Japan's Finance Minister Suzuki Shunichi and Bank of Japan Governor Ueda Kazuo are among the participants. The delegates are expected to discuss mainly the G7's support for Ukraine, including how to deal with frozen Russian assets.

False Claims Act complaint filed against international student recruiting firm for federal student aid programs submissions

The Justice Department announced that it has filed a complaint under the False Claims Act (FCA) against Study Across the Pond LLC (SATP) and its principal, John Borhaug. SATP, which is organized under the laws of Massachusetts, recruits American students to attend foreign schools in the U.K., as well as other countries. The complaint, filed in the District of Massachusetts, alleges that SATP and Borhaug knowingly caused UK schools to submit false claims to the Department of Education for federal student aid by demanding that the foreign schools enter into arrangements that violated the federal ban on incentive-based compensation.

Disbarred attorney pleads guilty to promoting \$9.5M cryptocurrency Ponzi scheme

A disbarred California attorney pleaded guilty to conspiring to operate a cryptocurrency Ponzi scheme that defrauded victims of more than \$9.5 million.

According to court documents, David Kagel, 85, formerly of Beverly Hills, conspired to fraudulently induce victims to participate in a cryptocurrency Ponzi scheme. Kagel and his co-conspirators promoted investment programs that falsely guaranteed high-yield profits and promised to use artificial intelligence trading bots to trade victims' investments in cryptocurrency markets.

City of Hope to honor Jay Marciano, chairman and CEO of AEG Presents, with 2024 Spirit of Life® Award

LOS ANGELES — City of Hope®, one of the largest cancer research and treatment organizations in the United States, announced that its Music, Film and Entertainment Industry (MFEI) fundraising group will present its most esteemed and prestigious honor — The Spirit of Life® Award — to Jay Marciano, chairman and CEO of AEG Presents. The award, which honors leaders for their notable contributions to their community and profession, will be presented at a gala dinner this fall in Los Angeles.

“City of Hope is proud to honor the notable contributions of Jay Marciano and celebrate our continued philanthropic partnership with the Music, Film and Entertainment Industry group,” said Kristin Bertell, chief philanthropy officer at City of Hope.

One of the most respected executives in the entertainment industry, Marciano began his remarkable career as a concert promoter in his late 20s — presenting shows from such legendary artists as Madonna and Tina Turner — before moving on to senior leadership roles at Universal Concerts, AEG Europe and

Madison Square Garden Entertainment, before returning to AEG in 2011.

Under Marciano’s oversight, AEG Presents has promoted tours from many of the music industry’s biggest artists, including stadium titans such as Elton John, the Rolling Stones, Taylor Swift and Ed Sheeran.

“City of Hope’s Music, Film and Entertainment Industry division and its board are so thrilled that Jay has accepted our invitation for him to lead the Spirit of Life campaign to benefit City of Hope,” said Alissa Pollack, executive vice president of global music marketing for iHeartMedia and MFEI board president.

Over the past 50 years, MFEI has brought together entertainment industry powerhouses and has generated more than \$150 million to improve outcomes for people with cancer and diabetes. Through the group’s support, City of Hope has made tremendous strides in raising awareness for its mission and continues to increase access to leading-edge, lifesaving cancer care for people across the country.



AEG Presents Chairman and CEO Jay Marciano has been named City of Hope’s Music, Film and Entertainment Industry fundraising group’s 2024 Spirit of Life® honoree. (Photo Credit: Liana Huth)

Hubble captures a bright spiral in the Queen’s Hair

This NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope image shows the jewel-bright spiral galaxy NGC 4689, which lies 54 million light-years from Earth in the constellation Coma Berenices. This constellation has the distinction of being the only one of the 88 constellations officially recognized by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) as one named after the historical figure, Queen Berenice II of Egypt.

The Latin word ‘coma’ references her hair, which means that NGC 4689 lies in the hair of a queen. Some people of Berenice’s time would have meant this quite literally, as the story goes that her court astronomer thought that a missing lock of Berenice’s hair had been catasterised (a word meaning ‘placed amongst the stars’) by the gods: hence the name of the constellation, Coma Berenices.

NGC 4689 holds an interesting — albeit less royal — place in modern as-



This Hubble Space Telescope image showcases the bright spiral galaxy NGC 4689. ESA/Hubble & NASA, D. Thilker, J. Lee, and the PHANGS-HST Team

tronomy. This image includes data from two sets of observations, one made in 2019, the other in 2024, and both are part of programs that observed multiple ‘nearby’ galaxies. - NASA

Cross reinstalled on Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris

The cross at the top of the Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris has been reinstalled five years after a devastating fire.

The 2019 blaze caused major damage to the cathedral’s spire and roof.

The 12-meter tall cross was a masterpiece of ironwork designed by a prominent architect in the 19th century. The cross was damaged while its ornaments were lost in the disaster.

Craftspeople and workers have completed restoration work on the cross.

On May 24, the restored cross was lifted into position by a crane after a prayer was offered by a priest.

People at the site applauded when it was fitted into place atop the cathedral’s framework some 40 meters above ground.

The spire has also been restored as reconstruction efforts have been stepped up before the scheduled reopening of the cathedral to the public on December 8.

Philippe Jost, who is in charge of



the reconstruction project, said that people who come to Paris for the Olympic Games in July will be able to see “the beautiful cathedral” before the reopening.

French media reports say the Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral may be part of the opening ceremony of the Olympics that will be held on the Seine River. - NHK

MAYOR BASS SIGNS EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT PETITION ALONGSIDE WOMEN’S RIGHTS CHAMPIONS

LOS ANGELES – On May 15, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass became the first Big City Mayor of California to sign the national petition in support of the Equal Right Amendment (ERA), a constitutional amendment to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sex. Mayor Bass signed the petition alongside former Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney as well as City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto, labor leader and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta, co-founder and President of the Feminist Majority Foundation Eleanor Smeal, and Executive Director of the Feminist Majority Foundation Kathy Spillar. The ERA underscores three key issues of reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence and economic fairness.

“We need an Equal Rights Amendment now more than ever,” said Mayor Karen Bass. “Our very rights as women are on the table, and we need to work relentlessly to ensure that they are protected. Thank you to my friend and former



colleague Congresswoman Maloney for all of your work championing this Amendment, and thank you to Dolores and to our City Attorney for joining me in this signing. Today we make a call to action for people across the country to join us in this important movement.”

Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada celebrates 83 years of community service

LAS VEGAS, Nev. -- Deacon Thomas Roberts is continuing a mission more than eight decades in the making.

“83 years this month, so 1941, which is a pretty remarkable year in the history of our country, was also the year Catholic Charities started here in Southern Nevada.”

Bishop Thomas Gorman established the organization as the Catholic Welfare Program. Initially created to facilitate adoptions, the mission evolved over the years to meet the Las Vegas Valley’s changing needs. - FOX5

SWITZERLAND STEPS UP EFFORTS TO COMBAT RURAL POVERTY WORLDWIDE

At its meeting on 22 May 2024, the Federal Council decided to support the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) with a total amount of CHF 49.5 million between 2025 and 2027. IFAD’s overarching goal is to drive forward the fight against poverty and hunger in rural areas. The Federal Council’s decision continues Switzerland’s support for IFAD, which has been ongoing since 1978.

CHF 47 million will go towards the replenishment of IFAD, which takes place every three years. A further CHF 2.5 million has been earmarked for IFAD’s newly created ‘additional climate contributions’.

NewsBriefs

Microplastic particles detected in fish brains in eastern Türkiye

ERZURUM, Türkiye – Microplastic particles were detected in fish brains during a scientific study conducted on aquatic creatures in Türkiye’s eastern province of Erzurum. Disposable plastics discarded in nature can turn into microplastic particles in water under the influence of waves, sun, and wind. These particles are then consumed by aquatic creatures and enter the human food chain.

U.S. sentences 31-year-old to 10 years for laundering \$4.5M in email scams

The U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) has sentenced a 31-year-old man to 10 years in prison for laundering more than \$4.5 million through business email compromise (BEC) schemes and romance scams.

Malachi Mullings, 31, of Sandy Springs, Georgia pleaded guilty to the money laundering offenses in January 2023. According to court documents, Mullings is said to have opened 20 bank accounts in the name of a non-existent company named The Mullings Group LLC., which served as a conduit to launder the fraudulent proceeds from at least 2019 to July 2021.

Brothers plead guilty to hostage-taking of unauthorized immigrants

SAN DIEGO – Two brothers from Guatemala are facing the possibility of life in prison after pleading guilty to holding three people hostage in a North County home. Virves Pablo-Francisco, a citizen of Guatemala, pleaded guilty in federal court, admitting that he and his younger brother, Nicolas Pablo-Francisco, kidnapped three unauthorized immigrants, including a boy from Afghanistan and a father and son from Ecuador, and held them for thousands of dollars in ransom in June 2023. Nicolas Pablo-Francisco pleaded guilty to similar charges in February.

Human trafficker pleads guilty to conspiring to transport illegal aliens

Damian Williams, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced the guilty plea of Mario Elpidio Chavez Millan, a human trafficker working with Mexican “coyotes,” for conspiring to transport illegal aliens throughout the United States. Chavez also admitted to his participation in a kidnapping conspiracy. Chavez is scheduled to be sentenced on August 7, 2024.

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Mother of the Year



DR. LUZ YUAGA MERLUZA

PROVERBS 31:31

*"Honor her for all that her hands have done,
 and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."*

LUZ WAS THE "LIGHT" OF THE HOUSEHOLD

A devoted wife and loving mother to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, Luz always lived her life full of joy and positive energy. With a great sense of humor, she enjoyed every moment as she participated in many community endeavors by sharing her gift of song and music thru regular programs on Radio Manila (KPSC /LA and KVOP/SD) and the Phil-Am Expo that enthralled audiences worldwide.

Known for warm and peace loving people, Atimonan, Quezon Province, Philippines was the birthplace of Luz who saw the light of day on March 20, 1934.

As a graduate of Dentistry and Optometry from the Centro Escolar University, Dr. Luz Yuaga Merluza served her patients with utmost care, something she learned at an early age from her parents: Jose Tamayao Yuaga and Antonia De Guia Arugay.

She grew up to become a beautiful lady who charmed her way into Celestino C. Merluza's heart (now deceased) and were blessed with two wonderful children: Ricardo and Celia.

LUZ YUAGA MERLUZA will be long remembered for her unconditional love and support for her family, generous spirit, compassionate heart and unwavering faith in God.

†On December 1, 2024, Luz was called home.†

She is survived by son Atty. Ricardo Merluza and daughter, Celia Merluza; daughter in law, Atty. Dana Merluza; grandchildren, Rashed Hassan, Ryan Hassan, Russell Hassan, Isabel Montserrat Merluza; and great grandchildren Riley Hassan and Xander Hassan.



I will endure a lifetime of missing you, for the privilege of loving you.

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 Award of Recognition
MOTHER OF THE YEAR
 given to
DR. LUZ YUAGA MERLUZA

† For her extraordinary qualities as a hardworking professional, her strength and courage to achieve her educational ambitions and face the vicissitudes of life; For her endearing qualities as a Loving Wife, a Caring Mother offering endless unconditional love for her entire family; For her generosity in helping the needy and sharing her talent in vocal artistry and performing arts with the community; and For leading the way towards long lasting peace and happiness by inculcating the value of true friendship and faith in achieving success in the completion of life,
MAKING HER TRULY UNFORGETTABLE
AND A MOTHER WORTHY OF ETERNAL RECOGNITION. †

Given by:

AWEE ABAYARI
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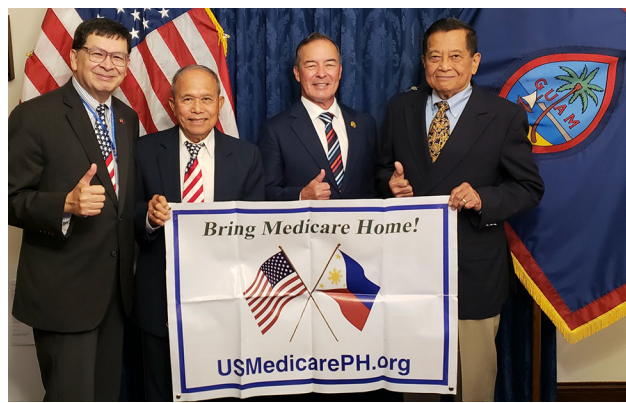
MAY 2024, WASHINGTON, DC

PH Medicare Portability campaign launched in the U.S. Congress

WASHINGTON, DC - Filipino American community leaders hailed the recent launching of the "Philippines Medicare Portability Study Act" campaign in Congress that could pave the way for elderly seniors to comfortably retire in their hometowns with American healthcare coverage.

The Portability Feasibility Bill, House Resolution 7442, was introduced in February by Guam's U.S. Delegate James Moylan (R). He said, "Our office is committed to setting the path to allow for Medicare portability, to allow those who retire ... and seek to relocate to the Philippines to be able to access Medicare." Northern Marianas Del. Gregorio Sablan (D) was also an original co-sponsor.

Moylan co-chairs the bipartisan Philippines Friendship Caucus with Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Newport News VA), also a bill co-sponsor. Several Congress members are co-sponsors: Rep. Ed Case (D-Hawaii) and Rep. Jen Kiggans (D-Virginia Beach VA).



"THUMBS UP!" (L to R) US Medicare Philippines advocates Eric Lachica, Apollo Inserto RN consult Guam Congressman James Moylan with their colleague Capt. Domingo Tucay PN ret. in Washington DC on May 6, 2024.

Republic of Korea to host the World Bank's International Development Association 21st Replenishment Final Meeting in Dec 2024

SEOUL —Donors are set to announce their pledges for the International Development Association (IDA) 21st replenishment cycle in Seoul, Korea in December 2024.

The pledging meeting is a vital opportunity to step up commitments and get the world back on track to eradicate poverty on a livable planet. IDA is the world's largest global solidarity fund for the poor. It helps countries chart their own future.

The Republic of Korea's journey from poverty to prosperity is a great example of IDA's impact. In just six decades, Korea has transformed from one of the world's poorest countries to a global powerhouse—from a GDP per capita of just \$158 in 1960 to \$32,254 in 2022. Within a decade, Korea graduated from IDA and became an IDA contributor by 1977.

The initial support from IDA played a catalytic role, propelling the country's rapid transformation into a global innova-

tion and technology giant.

As an IDA donor, Korea has supported development across East Asia and the Pacific Islands.

Over the last 10 years, its Ministry of Economy and Finance has worked closely with the World Bank in implementing the Korea World Bank Partnership Facility (KWPF), the country's flagship trust fund for official development assistance, and the Korea Green Growth Trust Fund (KGGTF), which supports sustainable growth strategies and investments.

Today, Korea works with IDA to support development by leveraging its funds, knowledge, and expertise to help developing countries learn from its experience.

Until the end of 2023, Korea contributed almost \$1 billion to the Trust Funds of World Bank Group and \$ 3.2 billion to IDA.

Further details and the dates in December will be announced later.

UN Tourism and Moldova launch project for female leadership in tourism

UN Tourism will work with the Ministry of Culture of Moldova to advance female leadership in tourism and boost the sector's contribution to gender equality.

The "Empowering Young Women: sustainable livelihoods through tourism" initiative aims to support women at every stage of their careers in the sector, while also advancing several of the Sustainable Development Goals, including those related to gender equality, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

The project will also count on the support of Invest Moldova Agency, and the Moldova State University, with funding from the Estonian Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia.

King Willem-Alexander opens Chemtech Center of Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

THE NETHERLANDS -- His Majesty the King opens the Chemistry and Technology Center, the ChemTech Center, of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in Pijnacker-Nootdorp on Friday afternoon, May 12. The OPCW is committed to a world free of chemical weapons and their threat and in which chemistry is used exclusively for peaceful purposes. In 2013, the OPCW received the Nobel Peace Prize. It is headquartered in The Hague.

Rapid developments in science and technology are creating new threats to the Chemical Weapons Convention. The ChemTech center enhances the OPCW's ability to conduct research and analysis to maintain inspection capabilities in the changing chemical landscape. In addition, the new center provides training facilities for OPCW and member state experts and is a platform for knowledge exchange on peaceful uses of chemistry. The construction of the ChemTech Center was made possible by donations from 56 countries, including the Netherlands and the European Union. In addition to a laboratory, the new building also houses a logistics center.

After the opening, the King will be given a tour of the center and speak with ambassadors about the importance of the OPCW and with staff members about their work.

Join the Delegation to the 10th SelectUSA Investment Summit June 23-26, 2024

We invite Hong Kong and Macau companies to join the delegation attending the 10th annual SelectUSA Investment Summit in Washington, D.C. from June 23-26, 2024. We welcome companies to submit an application.

The four-day SelectUSA Investment Summit is a "one stop shop" for prospective investors, in which they can get the answers they need and gain a deeper understanding of the U.S. business and investment landscape. Delegation members will connect with economic development organizations, industry experts, business professionals, service providers, investors, and government representatives from 55 U.S. states and territories and more than 80 international markets to make investment deals happen. SelectUSA attracts over 4,500 attendees from around the world, and in the past 10 years, it has facilitated more than US\$200 billion in investment in the United States.

Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLA)

The Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLA) builds linkages between young leaders across the hemisphere. YLA addresses the opportunity gap for youth, especially women, by empowering social entrepreneurs with the training, tools, networks, and resources they need to transform their societies and contribute more fully to economic development and prosperity, security, human rights, and good governance in the hemisphere.



3 MAY 2024: WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

Belgium joins the Media Freedom Coalition

According to Reporters Without Borders, 45 journalists worldwide died in 2023 while doing their job. Another 521 journalists are detained on arbitrary grounds related to their profession.

However, journalists are an essential part of a functioning and open democracy. In addition to informing, they also have a monitoring function and put social ills in the spotlight. Journalists can only fulfil their role if they can work in complete independence and safety, in an environment that respects freedom of expression.

World Press Freedom Day provides an excellent opportunity to highlight the vital role of a free press. Journalism faces increasing challenges as new digital channels are used to spread disinforma-

tion in an increasingly divided world. More than ever, a continued commitment to safeguard the right to freedom of opinion and expression, which includes freedom of information and press freedom, is needed worldwide. Our country, together with the EU, is committed to this.

Today, Belgium is going one step further: the minister of Foreign Affairs is pleased to announce that Belgium is joining the Media Freedom Coalition. This coalition is an alliance of more than 50 countries aiming to advocate for media freedom and safety of journalists worldwide. The Belgian affiliation offers new opportunities for various forms of cooperation with other members to protect media freedom and pluralism around the world.

Sports

Brazil to host 10th FIFA Women's World Cup 2027

The Brazilian government has welcomed the announcement that Brazil will host the 10th edition of FIFA Women's World Cup 2027. The decision was reached following the vote by FIFA's 211 affiliated associations and will bring the tournament to South America for the first time.

FIFA Women's World Cup 2027 in Brazil is a further step towards the promotion of women's football in the country, in line with the objectives of the National Strategy for Women's Football, established by Decree 11,458 of 2023. Both initiatives are aimed at creating favorable conditions for the development of the sport, using it as a means for social inclusion and the promotion of gender equality.

UN: Proclaiming May 25 as World Football Day 'a landmark' achievement:

WASHINGTON – Dennis Francis, president of the UN General Assembly, said that proclaiming May 25 as World Football Day was a "landmark and salutary" achievement.

"More so, because I understand that today marks 100 years, to the day, since the first international football tournament – held with the participation of all regions of the world for the first time – making this commemoration a special recognition of the symbolism and unifying magic, unifying magic of football," Francis told the Assembly on the World Football Day.

On May 7, the General Assembly passed a resolution proclaiming May 25 as World Football Day. The day marks the 100th anniversary of the first international football tournament in history with the representation of all regions as part of the 1924 Summer Olympic Games held in the French capital Paris, according to the resolution. (Anadolu)



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INM Book Choice

CHALLENGER: A TRUE STORY OF HEROISM AND DISASTER ON THE EDGE OF SPACE

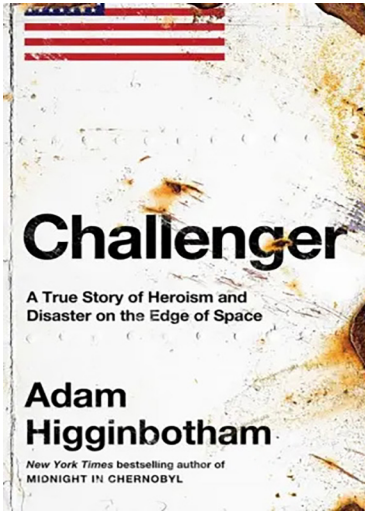
By ADAM HIGGINBOTHAM

- “Vivid...A true-life thriller.” —*The New York Times*
- “Gripping history.” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)
- “Dramatic...[A] moving narrative.” —*The Wall Street Journal*
- “One of this generation’s best nonfiction writers working at the top of his game.” —Garrett M. Graff

From the **New York Times** best-selling author of *Midnight in Chernobyl* comes the definitive, dramatic, minute-by-minute story of the Challenger disaster, based on fascinating in-depth reporting and new archival research—a riveting history that reads like a thriller.

On January 28, 1986, just seventy-three seconds into flight, the space shuttle Challenger broke apart over the Atlantic Ocean, killing all seven people on board. Millions of Americans witnessed the tragic deaths of the crew, which included New Hampshire schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe. Like the assassination of JFK, the Challenger disaster is a defining moment in twentieth-century history—one that forever changed the way America thought of itself and its optimistic view of the future. Yet the full story of what happened, and why, has never been told.

Based on extensive archival research and meticulous, original reporting, *Challenger: A True Story of Heroism and Disaster on the Edge of Space* follows a handful of central protagonists—including each of the seven members of the doomed crew—through the years leading up to the accident, and offers a detailed



account of the tragedy itself and the investigation afterward. Higginbotham reveals the history of the shuttle program and the lives of men and women whose stories have been overshadowed by the disaster, as well as the designers, engineers, and test pilots who struggled against the odds to get the first shuttle into space. A masterful blend of riveting human drama and fascinating and absorbing science, *Challenger* identifies a turning point in history—and brings to life an even more complex and astonishing story than we remember.

Difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day

The federal holidays of Veterans Day and Memorial Day are both designed to celebrate members of the U.S. military, but there are a few key differences. **Memorial Day**, which took shape after the Civil War, is considered a day to honor those who were killed in or as a result of participating in battle. **Veterans Day**, which materialized at the end of World War I, is a day to honor all service men and women, but especially those who remain with us to share their experiences.

History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day began as “Decoration Day,” a designated time to decorate the gravestones of many of the roughly 620,000 people killed in the Civil War.

It is unclear when and where this act of commemoration first took place: around 25 communities have been tied to the origin of Memorial Day, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, with one such event reportedly held as far back as October 1864 in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania. In 1868, the head of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans, established May 30 as Decoration Day, encouraging Americans to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers.

New York became the first state to designate Decoration Day a legal holiday in 1873, and by 1890, every other former Union state had followed suit. By the conclusion of World War I, the focus shifted from honoring those killed on Civil War battlefields to all men and women who had died while fighting for the United States. In the years that followed, the holiday became

more widely known as Memorial Day.

Famous Memorial Day Quotes

“We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue.” — James Garfield

“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.” — Harry S. Truman

Memorial Day Traditions

With schools and businesses closed for the holiday, many communities feature parades for service men and women as part of annual Memorial Day celebrations. Some people wear poppies as a symbol of the lives lost in service.

National commemoration of the holiday at Arlington National Cemetery reflects the holiday’s earliest tradition: gravestones of the interred are decorated with American flags, while a wreath is placed at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Per the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, flags are to be flown at half-staff from sunrise until noon, and then raised to the top of the staff until sunset. - *history.com*

DID YOU KNOW?



USA Population: 336,475,734
World Population: 8,049,520,445
 Source: Bureau of Census

GLOBAL HEALTH AND AGING

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that the aging population is progressively increasing across the globe. The population of people aged ≥60 years will reach 2.1 billion by 2050, and the majority will live in low and middle-income countries.

Aging is a natural process and is accompanied by various challenges. The biological process of aging is associated with the degeneration of organs, which results in different physical and mental health problems, including vision and hearing loss, cardiovascular diseases, physical and mental disabilities and musculoskeletal, neurological, gastrointestinal and endocrine disorders. These problems can reduce older people’s ability to independently perform their daily life activities, leading to their dependence on others, particularly their family members.

Dependence on family members is associated with the development of different needs and expectations among older people, including the need for support and respect. Support for older people has a crucial impact on their health and well-being.

The sources of support for older people vary, based on the immediate sociocultural context and healthcare approaches to aging. For instance, the

main source of emotional support for older people in the United States is informal support from friends, while in Asian transitional countries, family members are the main sources of support for fulfilling their expectations and meeting their physical, mental and emotional needs.

In general, older people greatly value living in their own private home, and consider it a source of identity and integrity. Living at home positively influences their health, well-being and autonomy. On the other hand, dependence and being a burden on family members and relatives can damage older people’s dignity.

Older People’s Need for Respect

Respect as a main need of older people is an important concept in geriatric care, human rights conventions and bioethics. The United Nations highlights that all human beings have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.

Specifically, there is a relationship between being respected and being depended on among older people. Caring situations leading to being dependent on others can be interpreted as disrespectfulness. Conversely, feelings of security, freedom and being hopeful for the future are the consequences of being respected. - *National Institute for Aging*

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Announcing Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSIs) for Student Leaders on the following themes of Civic Engagement and Environmental Issues. SUSIs are intensive short-term academic programs whose purpose is to provide groups of undergraduate student leaders (see eligibility section for complete requirements) with a deeper understanding of the United States while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills.

The five-week Institutes will tentatively take place from June 25 to July 31, 2024, pending availability of funds and award approval. Any changes will be shared at the time of selection. Meridian International Center will oversee the Institutes as the prime implementing partner and various university partners will serve as the respective host institutions. Should health, safety, and travel conditions pose significant challenges, the programs will pivot to a modified virtual format.

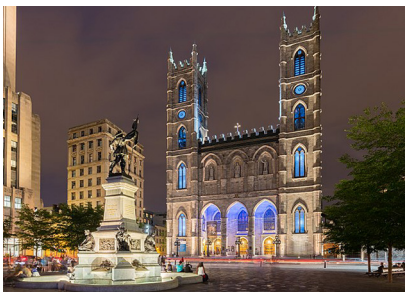
Each Institute will have up to 20 participants from across

Europe, with likely one spot for a Spanish student in each Institute. The Institutes consist of a four-week academic residency with a balanced series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations, and lectures. Site visits, leadership development, cultural activities, and community service complement the coursework and academic sessions. If conditions allow, the Institute will include a one-week integrated study tour in the United States. Note that if the program must take place virtually, participants will engage in similar activities but online from their home countries. Should conditions allow, the SUSIs for Student Leaders from Europe may begin with an opening forum in Washington, D.C., bringing together participants in various Institutes for networking, foundational leadership skills development, and exploring relevant topics from different perspectives.

Source: <https://es.usembassy.gov>



NOTRE-DAME BASILICA (MONTREAL)



Notre-Dame Basilica (French: Basilique Notre-Dame) is a minor basilica of the Catholic Church in the historic Old Montreal district of Montreal in Quebec, Canada. It is located at 110 Notre-Dame Street West, at the corner of Saint Sulpice Street. It is situated next to the Saint-Sulpice Seminary and faces the Place d’Armes square.

The interior of the church is amongst the most dramatic in the world and regarded as a masterpiece of Gothic Revival architecture. The vaults are coloured deep blue and decorated with golden stars, and the rest of the sanctuary is decorated in blues, azures, reds, purples, silver, and gold. It is filled with

hundreds of intricate wooden carvings and several religious statues. Unusual for a church, the stained glass windows along the walls of the sanctuary do not depict biblical scenes, but rather scenes from the religious history of Montreal. It also has a Casavant Frères pipe organ, dated 1891, which comprises four keyboards, 99 stops using electromagnetic action and an adjustable combination system, 7000 individual pipes and a pedal board.

Approximately 11 million people visit Notre-Dame Basilica every year, making it one of the most visited monuments in North America. - *Wikipedia*



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How does the Department of State help U.S. citizens during a crisis in another country?

The safety and security of U.S. citizens overseas is one of our top priorities. To keep you informed, we provide security updates on travel.state.gov and embassy and consulate websites, and send out Alerts when you enroll in our free Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP).

The actions we take depend on the nature of the crisis. In some instances, we may provide information on conditions in the country, such as warnings about areas of unrest, how and where to seek help, and other useful information.

In more severe situations, we may recommend that U.S. citizens leave the immediate area if it is safe to do so or even the foreign country. If commercial transportation is unavailable, and if we have consular officers at the embassy or consulate, and if the conditions permit, we will do our best to identify what transportation options may be available to help U.S. citizens travel out of the crisis location.

The best time to leave a country is before a crisis if at

all possible. Regularly scheduled commercial transportation is always the best option when local communications and transportation infrastructure are intact and operating normally. You should have a plan of action for crisis situations that does not rely on U.S. government assistance.

In extreme situations, if there are no commercial transportation options (planes, trains, boats/ferries, etc.) available, and if we have consular officers at the embassy or consulate, and if the conditions permit, we may help U.S. citizens seeking to depart by working with the host government, other countries, and other U.S. government agencies to identify – and in some cases arrange – available transportation.

Regardless of the method of transportation, or who provides it, U.S. citizens (and others who are eligible for U.S. government assistance) are generally responsible for reimbursing the government for the cost of their travel.

Source: Department of State

USCIS strengthens T Nonimmigrant Visa program and protections for trafficking victims

WASHINGTON—The Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced a final rule to strengthen the integrity of the T nonimmigrant status (T visa) and ensure eligible victims of human trafficking can access protections and stabilizing benefits on a timely manner. T nonimmigrant status enables certain victims of human trafficking to remain in the United States for an initial period of up to four years.

Human trafficking, also known as trafficking in persons, is a crime in which traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to compel individuals to provide labor or services, including commercial sex. Traffickers often take advantage of vulnerable individuals, including those lacking lawful immigration status. In some cases, people who are smuggled into the United States may become victims of human trafficking or exploitation during their journeys or upon reaching their destination.

T nonimmigrant status offers protection to victims and strengthens the ability of law enforcement agencies to detect, investigate, and prosecute human trafficking. This final rule clarifies T nonimmigrant status eligibility and application requirements and includes provisions to reduce potential barriers to victims and enable USCIS officers to adjudicate victims' applications more efficiently.

- USCIS

Justice Department and Department of Labor secure agreements with tech company to resolve discriminatory "whites only" job posting

The Justice Department and the Department of Labor announced separate agreements with Arthur Grand Technologies Inc. (Arthur Grand), an information technology services firm based in Virginia. The Justice Department's agreement resolves the department's determination that Arthur Grand violated the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) by posting a discriminatory job advertisement in March 2023 that restricted eligible candidates to "only US Born Citizens [white] who are local within 60 miles from Dallas, TX [Don't share with candidates]." (brackets in original). The Labor Department's agreement resolves its determination that Arthur Grand violated Executive Order 11246, which prohibits federal contractors from discriminating in employment based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin.



Driving Tips

DANGERS OF DRIVING INTO SUN

Driving on a beautiful sunny day can provide stunning scenery, but it can also create a hazard if the driver's view is compromised by a glaring sun.

Just after sunrise and before sunset the sun can shine directly into drivers' eyes, leaving many motorists driving with a glare. This glare can make it much harder to see the road ahead and potential hazards creating an added risk to drivers.

When sun glare is an issue slow down and use extra caution especially while driving through school zones.

So how can you protect yourself? AAA offers these tips for motorists when driving into the sun:

- Invest in polarized sunglasses – they can help reduce glare.
- Utilize your sun visor – it can help to block out the sun.
- Leave more following room – when the sun is in your eyes it can be hard to see what the car ahead is doing. This is one more time when it pays to leave more room between you and the next vehicle.



- Drive with your headlights on to increase your visibility to other drivers
- Additional tips:
- Keep your windshield clean, inside and out
 - Check your windshield for pitting and cracks
 - Avoid storing papers or other items on the dashboard
 - If having a difficult time seeing the road, use lane markings to help guide you.
- Rarely will visibility be absolutely perfect while driving, but if motorists know this and make the proper adjustments, you can minimize any additional risks that come with less-than-optimal visual conditions.

4 STEPS TO FOOD SAFETY

Did you know that an estimated 1 in 6 Americans will get sick from food poisoning this year alone? Food poisoning not only sends 128,000 Americans to the hospital each year—it can also cause long-term health problems. Keep your family safe from food poisoning at home by following these four simple steps: clean, separate, cook and, chill.

Clean: Wash Hands, Utensils, and Surfaces Often

Germs that can make you sick can survive in many places around your kitchen, including your food, hands, utensils, cutting boards, and countertops.

Wash your hands the right way:

- Use plain soap and water—skip the antibacterial soap—and scrub the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails for at least 20 seconds.
- Rinse hands, then dry with a clean towel.
- Wash your hands often:
 - o Before, during, and after preparing food
 - o After handling raw meat, poultry, seafood, or their juices, or uncooked eggs
 - o Before eating
 - o After using the toilet
 - o After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
 - o After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
 - o After touching garbage
 - o Before and after caring for someone who is sick
 - o Before and after treating a cut or wound
 - o After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
 - o After handling pet food

Wash surfaces and utensils after each use:

- Wash cutting boards, dishes, utensils, and countertops with hot, soapy water, especially after they've held raw meat, poultry, seafood, or eggs.
- Wash dish cloths often in the hot cycle of your washing machine.

Health News

10 Early signs & symptoms of Alzheimer's and Dementia

Memory loss that disrupts daily life may be a symptom of Alzheimer's or other dementia. Here are 10 warning signs and symptoms to watch for:

- Memory loss that disrupts daily life
- Challenges in planning or solving problems
- Difficulty completing familiar
- Confusion with time or place

- Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
- New problems with words in speaking or writing
- Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
- Decreased or poor judgment
- Withdrawal from work or social activities
- Changes in mood & personality

What is the difference between Alzheimer's and typical age-related changes?

Signs of Alzheimer's and Dementia	Typical Age-Related Changes
Poor judgment and decision-making	Making a bad decision once in a while
Inability to manage a budget	Missing a monthly payment
Losing track of the date or the season	Forgetting which day it is and remembering it later
Difficulty having a conversation	Sometimes forgetting which word to use
Misplacing things and being unable to retrace steps to find them	Losing things from time to time

Salmonella outbreaks linked to backyard poultry flocks

Key Points:

- 109 people from 29 states have gotten sick from Salmonella after touching or caring for backyard poultry. 33 people have been hospitalized and no deaths have been reported.
- In this outbreak, 43% of the people infected with Salmonella are under 5 years old.

- Backyard poultry can carry Salmonella germs even if they look healthy and clean. These germs can easily spread to anything in the areas where the poultry live and roam.
- You can get sick from touching your backyard poultry or anything in their environment and then touching your mouth or food and swallowing Salmonella

Public Affairs with AWEE ABAYARI



TOPICS :

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• PEOPLE • PLACES • EVENTS • ENTERTAINMENT •

Philippines Named Sustainable Dive Destination at Asia Dive Expo

The Philippines' participation in Asia Dive Expo (ADEX) Singapore, known as Asia's largest and longest-running dive expo, was a resounding success after a three-day business-to-consumer session, generating Php 197,219,062.09 in combined negotiated sales leads and actual bookings. This marked more than 300% increase from last year's negotiated sales leads.

The country was also named the Sustainable Dive Destination of the Year in recognition of its unwavering commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable practices in dive tourism.

"This recognition, alongside our long list of accolades celebrating the beauty of our nation, underscores our steadfast commitment to sustainable tourism practices," said Tourism Promotions Board (TPB) Chief Operating

Officer Maria Margarita Montemayor Nograls. "Participation in trade fairs like ADEX provides us a platform to promote the Philippines' diverse tourism products and experiences."

As the event's official country partner for the third consecutive year, the Philippine pavilion utilized a 90-square-meter booth space to feature some of the country's finest dive sites such as the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park in Palawan, the famed sardine run of Moalboal in Cebu, and the marine and natural park of Apo Reef in Mindoro. The Philippine delegation, led by the TPB, is composed of 16 exhibitors from the dive industry, accommodation, and tour operators, who offered dive and liveaboard packages in the top and emerging dive destinations in the Philippines.



Philippines named the Sustainable Dive Destination of the Year at the Asia Dive Expo

• People • Events •

Jane Seymour is LA Press Club's Public Service Awardee

Actress, producer, artist and philanthropist Jane Seymour has been named the Los Angeles Press Club's 2024 Bill Rosendahl Public Service Awardee.

"While Jane Seymour has entertained audiences through memorable film and TV roles, she also has made many contributions off-screen," said LA Press Club President Lisa Richwine. "She encourages kindness and helping others through the Open Heart Foundation and has inspired women by speaking up about ageism."

Ms. Seymour is a multiple Emmy and Golden Globe winner and recipient of the Officer of the British Empire (OBE). She has proven her talents in virtually all media, the Broadway stage, motion pictures and television. Her love of art and color has led to her great success as an artist and de-



signer.

Actively involved in numerous charitable causes, but maybe most known for her Open Heart Foundation, Seymour supports children in need, creates awareness for Women's Heart Health and much more.

She has six children and six grandchildren.

Basketball star and childhood obesity control champion Pau Gasol joins Walk the Talk Geneva

"I am excited to announce that I will be at the Walk the Talk: Health for All Challenge. For me, it will be a great opportunity to show how healthy lifestyles can help overcome the global epidemic of obesity," said Gasol, who played for 18 years in the National Basketball Association as a power forward and was a six-time NBA All Star.

Gasol is among a range of sporting stars taking part in this year's annual Walk the Talk health promotion event.



US breaks ground for USA Pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka

On April 17, U.S. Ambassador Rahm Emanuel visited Osaka to break ground on the USA Pavilion site. Ambassador Emanuel celebrated the groundbreaking at an evening reception with Minister for World Expo 2025 Jimi Hanako and, earlier in the day, he joined Expo 2025 Commissioner General Ambassador Haneda Koji, Osaka Prefecture Governor Yoshimura Hirofumi, and City of Osaka Mayor Yokoyama Hideyuki for a ceremony at the pavilion site.



In celebration of this milestone, the United States is proud to announce that MGM Resorts International has signed a letter of intent to sponsor the USA Pavilion. MGM's support will help to create a Pavilion that reflects the United States' culture, creativity, artistry, and diversity.

GRAN CANARIA AWARDED BIOSPHERE CERTIFIED LABEL



The island of Gran Canaria, one of the Canary Islands, has been certified as a Biosphere Sustainable destination as of 2024, following three years of demonstrating its proven commitment to improving its sustainability practices.

The prestigious Biosphere certification, part of the Responsible Tourism Institute (RTI), is awarded to destinations with verifiably sustainable practices being carried out correctly.

Biosphere certification not only addresses a destination's environmental and economic commitments, but also its commitment to socio-economic sustainability.

LOS ANGELES COMMEMORATES AAPI HERITAGE MONTH

LOS ANGELES – The city of Los Angeles recently celebrated Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month on Sunday, May 19th. The event was co-hosted by Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, Los Angeles City Councilmember John S. Lee and AAPI LA, an initiative introduced by the city.

"Asian American Pacific Islander communities in Los Angeles are part of the vibrant cultural fabric of this city," said Mayor Karen Bass. "We hope Angelenos from all over the region will join us in recognizing Asian American Pacific Islander cultures and heritages at Smorgasburg - an annual event that showcases the diversity and talent within the AAPI communities."

The event included local AAPI chefs, restaurateurs and makers at Smroagasburg commemorating this month featuring savory bites, baked goods, pre-packaged foods, and merchandise. A percentage of sale proceeds will support AAPI LA's efforts to champion local AAPI non-profit organizations, amplify AAPI stories and concerns, and fuel greater collaboration among the City's diverse AAPI community.

AAPI LA brings together organizations, community leaders, and corporate partners to increase cross-collaboration and outreach.



STOCKHOLM

Stockholm's Old Town, known as Gamla Stan, is a small concentrated area where the city began in the middle of the 13th century.

Much of the medieval enclave remains, although in typical Scandinavian style, it is freshly brushed and painted regularly. Its charm is in the architecture along its narrow stone-paved lanes and cobbled streets around its squares, especially the main one, Stortorget, surrounded by old merchants' houses.

In this neighborhood, along with plenty of shops, restaurants, and cafés, you'll find the Nobel Museum, the Post Museum, the Royal Coin Cabinet, and several churches. It's also a good area to stay if you can find suitable accommodations, with options including luxury boutique hotels, guesthouses, and even affordable inns and hostels. - Planetware.com



Gamla Stan, Stockholm

PH Embassy hosts heritage talk for Fil-Am Masons of DC



Professor Tiongson delivers his presentation at the historical Philippine Embassy Annex Building, previously the office of the Philippine Commonwealth government in exile during World War II.



Post-event photo of Consul General Arribas, Professor Tiongson, and the members of Maynilad Lodge 1521.

WASHINGTON D.C. – The Philippine Embassy warmly welcomed the members of the Maynilad 1521 Lodge for a presentation of Philippine-American history in Washington, D.C. on 18 May 2024. This event aimed to deepen the understanding and pride in Philippine-American heritage among the members of Maynilad Lodge 1521.

"We are honored to host Maynilad Lodge 1521 and to celebrate our rich heritage together," said Consul General Eric Arribas. Delivered by Professor Erwin Tiongson, the presentation provided an insightful exploration of the shared history and cultural ties between the Philippines and the United States, emphasizing the contributions and legacy of the Filipino community in Washington, D.C.

Known for its active participation in community events and support for other Masonic lodges, Maynilad Lodge No. 1521 was chartered under the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and officially established on May 11, 2011. Its name references the year 1521, marking the arrival of Ferdinand Magellan in the Philippines, reflecting its strong Filipino heritage and connection.

PH's largest int'l investment show opens in Dubai

DUBAI, UAE – The much-awaited annual Philippine Property and Investment Exhibition (PPIE) made its grand return for its 10th year at the iconic Bristol Hotel in Dubai on Saturday (May 11), reaffirming its status as the Philippines' largest international investment show.

Since its inception in 2014, PPIE has remained dedicated to empowering overseas Filipinos by promoting financial literacy. This year marks a significant milestone as PPIE celebrates a decade of unwavering commitment to this cause. This year's PPIE introduces the exciting launch of #investPilipinas, #investPPIE campaign, kick-starting with a collaboration with Filipinos across the UAE. Dr. Remo launched the campaign, which aims to empower overseas Filipinos and their families in the Philippines, to make informed investment decisions.



MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER & HONOR



MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, is a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

From 1868 to 1970, it was observed on May 30. Since 1971, it is observed on the last Monday of May.

Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day to honor and mourn those who died while serving in the U.S. military. Many volunteers place American flags on the graves of military personnel in national cemeteries. Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer.

- Wikipedia