

# *NEWSLETTER CLAS & GRULAC- MALAYSIA*

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*A BRIEF APPROACH TO LATIN AMERICA*

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## INTRODUCTION

The CLAS-GRULAC newsletter is a great effort between the Center of Latin American Studies (CLAS) from the University of Malaya (UM) and GRULAC-Malaysia. The main idea of the CLAS-GRULAC newsletter is to spread information about Latin America in South East Asia, especially in Malaysia. However, the first volume and second issue of the CLAS-GRULAC newsletter have a total of eight articles. Each article presents diverse information about Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay. The first article in the CLAS-GRULAC newsletter explained the territorial conflict of Malvinas islands between Argentina and the United Kingdom until our days. The second article focused on the modern tropical gardening and heritage in Brazil and Malaysia by Robert Burle Max. The Third article describes the celebrations of the independence day of Chile. Subsequently, the fourth article is about the Colombian temporary protection statute for Venezuelan migrants. The Fifth article explains the participation of Cuba in the Olympic games in Tokyo 2020. The Sixth article introduces the ancient civilizations of Mexico. In the case of the seventh article described the Peruvian bicentennial activities in Malaysia. Finally, the last article explains the welfare state of Uruguay and its miracle success.

Dr. Mario Arturo Ruiz Estrada

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*Recovering effective exercise of our sovereignty over the Malvinas and the surrounding maritime and island areas, in accordance with international law and respecting the way of life of the islanders, is a permanent and unrenounceable goal of the Argentine people, as established in the First Temporary Provision of the Argentine Constitution*



From the beginning of its Independence process in 1810, Argentina, having inherited the Spanish territories in the South Atlantic, continuously exercised its rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. This archipelago of more than 200 islands is located less than 500 km from the Argentine mainland and almost 13,000 km away from the United Kingdom. In 1820, the Argentine flag was raised there for the first time and the Government also enacted legislation and established legal and administrative bodies to consolidate the full exercise of its sovereignty, including the promotion of trade activities and the establishment of settlements.

However, on 3 January 1833, the effective exercise of sovereignty was interrupted by an act of force by the United Kingdom, which illegally occupied the islands and expelled the legitimate Argentine authorities and the existing settlers. This usurpation disrupted the territorial integrity of Argentina, a situation to which no Argentine Government has ever consented in over 188 years of history. Since then, there has been a sovereignty dispute between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as recognized by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 2065 (XX), adopted in 1965.

Since the 1982 military conflict, which did not alter the nature of the sovereignty dispute, the international community has been reiterating the need for prompt resumption of bilateral negotiations, as stated in 10 UN General Assembly resolutions and in 38 resolutions of the Special Committee on Decolonization, in addition to several declarations issued at different regional and multilateral forums. The refusal to comply with the obligation to resume sovereignty negotiations has been aggravated by the United Kingdom's continuous unilateral actions, including the exploration and exploitation of both renewable and non-renewable natural resources and an unjustified and disproportionate military presence in the Islands, which Argentina has constantly condemned.

Recovering effective exercise of our sovereignty over the Malvinas and the surrounding maritime and island areas, in accordance with international law and respecting the way of life of the islanders, is a permanent and unrenounceable goal of the Argentine people, as established in the First Temporary Provision of the Argentine Constitution.



## ROBERTO BURLE MARX, KLCC PARK AND THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

*Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil in Malaysia*

On July 27, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee inscribed the Roberto Burle Marx Site in Brazil on the World Heritage List. This is the first time a modern tropical garden is inscribed on the List. That is an important landmark for Brazil, but it also reflects on Malaysia, as Kuala Lumpur houses the elegant KLCC Park, one of the last projects designed by Brazilian landscaper and artist Roberto Burle Marx. The Park was inaugurated a few years after his death.

In 1949, the artist bought a property in the State of Rio de Janeiro, at Barra de Guaratiba. There, he created the most important tropical flora collection in the world. Roberto Burle Marx transformed his rural property on the outskirts of the city of Rio de Janeiro into a laboratory for landscape experiments compatible with Brazilian modernism. In the process, he created the modern tropical garden and influenced the development of gardens worldwide.

As a landscaper, in fact, Burle Marx contributed to disseminate his vision of the ideal garden beyond the borders of Brazil. Besides KLCC Park in Kuala Lumpur, he landscaped parks in Caracas, Santiago, the UNESCO Indoor Gardens in Paris and Biscayne Boulevard in Miami, amongst other projects. His impact on modern landscaping cannot be overstressed and has now been recognized by UNESCO.

The KLCC Park is a reminder of how close Malaysia and Brazil are, in spite of the physical distance. The inscription, by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, of the Roberto Burle Marx Site on the World Heritage List is also a celebration of his vision, which culminated, at the end of his life, in the creation of KLCC Park.

*This is a shorter version of an article by the Ambassador of Brazil, HE Ary Norton de Murat Quintella, published in The Star on 10 August 2021.*



*The KLCC Park is a reminder of how close Malaysia and Brazil are, in spite of the physical distance*





## SEPTEMBER: CHILE 'S MONTH OF THE HOMELAND

✍ *Embassy of the Republic Of Chile in Malaysia*

Every year, September invites Chileans to celebrate the Month of the Homeland. Beyond the commemoration of the establishment of the First Government Junta on 18th September, 1810, the date calls for the celebration of the values and culture inherited generation after generation. Due to Chile's geographic location in the southern hemisphere, this month is the month when the first spring breezes blow through most of our long and narrow strip of land, inviting people and families to leave their homes after the winter months. What better an occasion to celebrate it in the "fondas" and "ramadas" (food stalls) that during these days called "dieciocheros" offer typical food, dance, games, and joy to those who attend?

Our gastronomy, abundant, tasty, and somewhat exotic, even for Latin American palates, delights our people and visitors. The classic "empanada" (stuffed turnover), shared with other countries, finds its particularity in Chile for its filling that mixes minced beef, onion, garlic, olives, raisins, and hard-boiled egg. Depending on the region of Chile, empanadas are also stuffed with seafood, cheese, or for those who need a healthy diet without losing the flavour, with vegetables from our generous land. In the same way, wines, stews and barbeques elaborated with products from our extensive land along the Pacific coast, nourish our anxious patriotic stomachs, to shout with energy ¡Viva Chile!

Should you wish to explore more about our gastronomy, we invite you to visit [http://recetasdechile.cl/index\\_en.html](http://recetasdechile.cl/index_en.html) and download the application "Recetas de Chile".



Street food at "Fondas" Chile  
Fuente: [www.latercera.com](http://www.latercera.com)



Bazaar at Kampung Baru.  
Fuente: Archivo del autor







## COLOMBIA AND THE TEMPORARY PROTECTION STATUTE FOR VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS (TPSVM): A COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

✍ Embassy of the Republic of Colombia in Malaysia



*In order to provide a comprehensive humanitarian answer to this crisis, the Government of Colombia established in March 2021, through Decree 216 of 2021, the Temporary Protection Statute for Venezuelan Migrants (TPSVM)*

*Photos: Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia*



According to the United Nations, the Venezuelan migration crisis is the second largest in the world after Syria in terms of number of displaced people with 6.7 million, followed by Myanmar with 1.1 million. Since 2015, more than 5.6 million Venezuelans have left their homeland, fleeing social and economic crisis, and out of those, more than 4.6 million currently remain in the Latin American region under conditions of great vulnerability. To date, Colombia has been the largest recipient, with a figure close to 1.8 million migrants – half of which are under an irregular and undocumented situation.

In order to provide a comprehensive humanitarian answer to this crisis, the Government of Colombia established in March 2021, through Decree 216 of 2021, the Temporary Protection Statute for Venezuelan Migrants (TPSVM).

The objective of the Temporary Protection Statute is to allow a transition of Venezuelan migrants present in Colombia, from a temporary protection status to an ordinary migratory status. To this end, the Venezuelan migrants who registered for the TSPVM will have a period of 10 years to acquire a resident visa. This measure aims to reduce the current and future irregular and undocumented immigration figures.

The first phase of the implementation of the TSPVM, which was opened on May 5, already has more than one million and sixty-five thousand people registered that will be covered by its benefits. These figures ratify the commitment of the Colombian government in the protection of human rights. The TSPVM is a strategy of the current Government which seeks to establish mechanisms and solutions that transcend time, based on the behavior of the migratory phenomenon and the protection of the migrant population's human rights, observing their current condition of vulnerability.



## CUBA AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES: PASSION AND PRIDE

*Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in Malaysia*

Despite being a small island in the Caribbean, Cuba is the Latin American country with the most medals accumulated in the Olympic Games. In 21 editions of the Summer Olympic Games in which Cuba has participated, it has obtained 241 medals.

Without going any further, in the recent edition that took place in Tokyo this summer, Cuban athletes won seven Gold medals, and the country was placed between the top 15 places on the medal table, with one of the smallest delegations in its history: just 69 athletes, who won 15 Olympic medals.

The Cuban Olympic history began in 1900, where the Cuban swordsman Ramón Fonst won gold and silver in different fencing modalities, which would be the first medals in the Olympic Games for Latin America. Since the Montreal Olympic Games in 1976, the Cuban delegation has always added more than a dozen medals in all the editions that it has been present.

Cuba has some world-renowned sports stars who have set unbeaten records so far. Iván Lázaro Pedroso has been the only athlete in the world to exceed 9 meters in the long jump. Alberto Juantorena was the first person to achieve the gold medal in the 400m and 800m, during the 1976 Montreal Games.

Of legend are also the members of the women's volleyball team that chained three Olympic golds in the Games of Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000. Among them, Regla Torres stands out, who holds the title of best volleyball player 20th century.

Mijaín Lopez is also Cuban. He is a four-time Olympic gold medalist, five-time World Champion, and is widely considered one of the greatest wrestlers of all time.

Cubans also excel in sports such as boxing, baseball and athletics, among others.

Cuban athletes have overcome the obstacles posed by the lack of resources in the face of the great powers of sport to star in great moments in sporting history.



*Cuban athletes have overcome the obstacles posed by the lack of resources in the face of the great powers of sport to star in great moments in sporting history*

*Photo: ACN*





## ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

✍ Embassy of the United Mexican States in Malaysia



To explain a bit about Mexican Civilizations, we have to start quoting one of the most prolific historians, Arnold Toynbee (born April 14th, 1889, London—died Oct. 22nd, 1975, York, North Yorkshire, Eng.), in his 12-volume *A Study of History*.

During his long research, Toynbee reached the conclusion that all the world civilizations started with 6 civilizations: Minoan, Shang, Indus, Egyptian, Sumerian and Andean; Mayan; Yucatec; Mexican. Toynbee put forward a philosophy of history, based on an analysis of the cyclical development and decline of civilizations. As the “Colegio de México” explains in the book *A Compact History of Mexico*: “Mexico is many Mexicos’.

This is so not only because of its dramatic social differences, but because of its ethnic roots, cultural traditions, and ecosystems, which vary enormously from one region to another. The oldest division, and one of the most significant for historical purposes, existed between an agricultural civilization that spread throughout the southern half of the territory and peoples devoted to shifting agriculture and hunter-gatherers who lived in the arid North.

Thanks to their demographic and political importance, southern peoples such as the Nahuatl, Zapotec or Maya were able to survive and integrate into the new order that arose because of the Spanish Conquest. The history of Mesoamerica is generally considered to have begun around 2500 BCE. This date marks the start of the first Mesoamerican period, known as the Pre-Classic, and its first stage, the Early Preclassic (2500 to 1200 BCE). While uniformity is the characteristic feature of the Mid-Preclassic, regional diversity dominates the Late Preclassic (500 BCE to 200 CE).’.



*The history of Mesoamerica is generally considered to have begun around 2500 BCE. This date marks the start of the first Mesoamerican period, known as the Pre-Classic*



On the celebration of the Peru's National Day on July 28th, all streets are decorated with red and white flags. This year, on occasion of its 200th Anniversary, the iconic KL Tower was lit up with in those tones as well, remembering the dreams of Peru's independence and the 35 years bonds of friendship between Peru and Malaysia.

In this occasion, we remember our flag's origin, a national symbol bequeathed by "libertador" Don José de San Martín, dating from the year 1820, inspired by what some attribute to an involuntary dream. Others consider that the flag was born from the fusion of the colours of other flags. However, Abraham Valdelomar, a renown Peruvian writer, wrote the story 'The dream of San Martín', which is the version that most convinces public opinion. In the story, it is narrated that Don José de San Martín, chose the colours red and white for the Peruvian flag because he dreamed of it while resting by a palm tree in the Paracas Bay after a long sea journey. In his dream, he heard a triumphal march and saw a beautiful, simple and eloquent flag in a limitless extension, waving with pride over a powerful people. When he woke up, a flock of parihuana (Andean flamingoes), with white body and red wings, was flying over the sky heading north towards Pisco, his temporary headquarters, disappearing in the distance. He told his generals "that is the flag of freedom that we will conquer".

Today Peru is a vigorous and energetic nation, democratic and sovereign, respectful of human rights and inclusive, which enters the 21st century with the vision of leading its people to a better quality of life and entering fully into the fourth industrial revolution. On July 28th, Mr. Pedro Castillo Terrones was sworn in as the new president for the next five years and will govern the destinies of the nation. Peru looks forward to continuing forging tighter and long-lasting relations with Malaysia for the mutual benefit of both nationals.



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Uruguay stands out in the Latin American and Caribbean region for having highly positive measures of well-being, such as the Human Development Index, the Human Opportunity Index, and the Index of Economic Freedom.

Our country is distinguished for being a egalitarian society, its low level of income inequality and poverty, its high per capita income and almost total absence of extreme poverty. In relative terms, its middle class is the largest in the region, representing more than 60% of its population.

The stability of the institutions and the low levels of corruption are reflected in the high degree of trust that citizens have in the Government. A strong social contract and economic openness underpin the path to poverty reduction and foster a shared prosperity that Uruguay has developed quite successfully for most of its history. Traditional inclusive social policies have, for example, allowed almost the entire population over 65 to have some coverage from the pension system, and this is one of the highest rates in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Strong institutional performance in other areas, such as trust in the government, low corruption, and a consensus-based political approach, as well as an emphasis on strengthening institutional structure, gives the country a firm foundation on which to support a relatively stable and gradual development path. All of the above are the fundamental elements that have enabled our nation to proudly claim the success of its vaccination campaign as of August 2021, finally being able to control the COVID-19 situation, something that is recognized as one of the best performances in the world.



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