

MIA Hosts Protocol Symposium



L-R: U. Desmond Alufohai; Rene Pika, Consul General of Suriname in Miami; Sarah Eller, PDI-POA's Executive Director, Retha Boone-Fye, presenter, Catherine Wilson, PDI-POA's President; Ralph Cutié, MDAD's Director & CEO; Leslie Lautenslager, luncheon keynote speaker; Darrel Montrope, Consul General of St. Lucia in Miami, Mrs. Rose Hedgemond, presenter; Geanilda Antonia Vázquez Almanzar, Consul General of the Dominican Republic in Miami, and Oliver Maier, Consul General of Jamaica in Miami.

More than 50 participants attended the Protocol Symposium hosted by the Protocol and International Affairs Division and the Protocol & Diplomacy International - Protocol Officers Association (PDI-POA). The successful Symposium was held in MIA's Auditorium on September 12, 2024. Catherine M. Wilson, President of PDI-POA and Sarah Eller, Executive Director of PDI-POA also attended the Symposium. They were in Miami for site visits and to commence preparations for PDI-POA's 24th Educational Forum which will be held in Miami, July 21 – 25, 2025.

Leslie Lautenslager, PDI-POA's past president and author of the book entitled *"My Time with General Colin Powell: Stories of Kindness, Diplomacy & Protocol,"* was the Symposium's keynote luncheon speaker. Ms. Lautenslager chronicled her working relationships with her late boss, General Colin Powell. She shared insights and anecdotes about her time with him. She also reiterated her gratitude to MIA's Protocol Division for the assistance they provided to General Powell at MIA. She narrated her "pickle" experience at MIA, which is detailed on page 74 of her book.



Leslie Lautenslager, luncheon Keynote Speaker addressing attendees during the Protocol Symposium.

2024 Best Airport Industry Leader Award Recipient



Ralph Cutié, Director & CEO, Miami-Dade Aviation Department was named [2024 Best Airport Industry Leader](#) by [FXExpress Publications, Inc., publisher of Global Traveler](#). The superlatives precede Mr. Cutié, as he leads the now second-largest airport in the country for international passengers and eighth-largest for international passengers globally. In addition to overseeing operations at [Miami International Airport](#), Mr. Cutié is also responsible for four general aviation airports in the Miami area. All together, the airports generate \$118 billion in business revenue and support more than 700,000 direct, indirect, related, and induced jobs. The future is bright for MIA under Cutié's direction.

SEPTEMBER 2024

Division Director's Message



U. Desmond Alufohai
Director

Protocol & International Affairs Division
Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)

The meaning of September comes from ancient Rome: *Septem* is Latin and means seven. The old [Roman calendar](#) started in [March](#), making September the seventh month. When the Roman senate changed the calendar in 153 [BCE](#), the new year started in [January](#), and September became the ninth month. As the ninth month of the year, it marks the beginning of autumn in the northern hemisphere. It is a time of reflection, gratitude, and new beginnings. In many ancient cultures, September was a time of harvest and abundance.

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to PDI-POA for their collaboration with the Protocol Symposium held in Miami International Airport on September 12, 2024. We extend our kudos to Mr. Ralph Cutié, Director & CEO, Miami-Dade Aviation Department as recipient of the 2024 Best Airport Industry Leader Award. We also congratulate Dr. Matt Swanson, SelectFlorida's Interim President and Gerard Philippeaux, ITC's Executive Director, on their promotions, and welcome the new members of the Protocol team, Airport Protocol Officers Nancy Dominique, Emmanuel Lopez, and Axel Tullmann.

We commend Hispanic and Latino Americans for the significant contributions they have made in the United States, and we salute the nations celebrating their Independence or National Day this month. As always, please be safe.

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DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

Annual Consular Corps of Miami - Airport Operations Seminar (August 29, 2024)

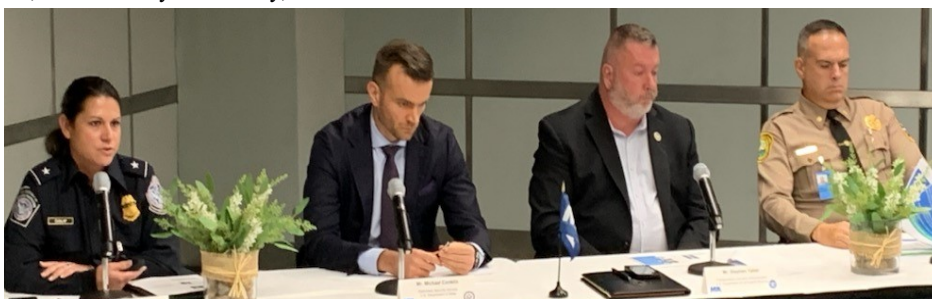


L-R: Speakers - Ralph Cutié, Director & CEO, Miami-Dade Aviation Department; HE Gilbert Antoine Boustany, Consul General of Antigua & Barbuda in Miami & Dean of the Consular Corps of Miami; Abelardo "Piro" Hernandez, Director of Sales & Events, Miami International Airport Hotel; Semcha Malick Ledad, President, Airline Management Council @ MIA; Raul Lopez, Vice President of Marketing & Communications at Baptist Health International, and Shannon H. Eisenhut, Regional Director, Office of Foreign Missions, U.S. Department of State



Panel 1 – Overview of MDAD's Operations at MIA & Local Partners

L-R: Panelists - Bridgett Johnson, Sergeant, Miami-Dade Corrections & Rehabilitation Department, Ana Finol, Assistant Director for Facilities Development, MDAD, Jeff Plant, Assistant Aviation Director, Operations, MDAD, and Mark O. Hatfield, Assistant Aviation Director, Public Safety & Security, MDAD.



Panel II – State, Federal Agencies, Partners and Stakeholders

L-R: Panelists - Sara Dunlap, Assistant Port Director, Passenger Services, U.S. CBP, MIA Field Office, Michael Conklin, Special Agent, Acting Diplomatic Security Service, Miami Field Office, U.S. Department of State, Stephen Taber, Federal Security Director, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Miami International Airport, and Major Juan Villalba, Jr., Miami-Dade Police Department.

The Protocol and International Affairs Division, MDAD, organized its annual Consular Corps of Miami – Airport Operations Seminar on August 29, 2024, at MIA's Concourse D Auditorium. The Annual Airport Operations Seminar for diplomats is unique to MIA. It provides the opportunity for members of the Consular Corps to network and interact with Airport representatives, state, local and federal agencies, partners, and stakeholders at the Miami International Airport.

The seminar had two panel discussions. The first panel focused on the operations of MIA and its local partners, while the second panel highlighted the state and federal agencies' operations at MIA.

The event was attended by more than 100 participants. Baptist Health International sponsored the event lunch. Mr. Raul Lopez, Vice President of Marketing & Communications at Baptist Health International gave the luncheon keynote address.

Right:

Guests at the seminar engaged in networking.

Far Right:

Mr. Kazuhiro Nakai, Consul General of Japan in Miami, makes a comment.



AVIATION, CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & PROTOCOL TIDBITS

Culture, Etiquette and Protocol

Bad Table Manners That Everyone Is Guilty Of

Whether hosting an event as a host or attending as a guest you have encountered bad table manners when meals are involved. There are those who immediately commence eating when they are served first without waiting for others to be served and those who eat like a hungry animal thereby spoiling the dining experience. Below are some bad table manners to avoid:

Using cellphones at the table

Means you are distracted, and the host is not as important as the person you are speaking with on the cellphone. If you must use your phone, particularly in cases of an emergency, excuse yourself and return to your table after your call.

Clogging up the table with personal items

People often set their cell phone and other items like a purse and keys next to them at the dinner table, which is already crowded enough.

Digging in early

Eating before the host gives the go-ahead. It's rude to start eating before everyone else. Touching all the bread in the bread basket before choosing one is not recommended.

Being greedy by grabbing big portions

Don't be selfish and serve yourself big portions, give others the opportunity to enjoy the food as well. Be courteous to ensure everyone has had a chance to have a first round.

Stirring up controversial conversations

Try not to discuss controversial topics such as politics and religion. Have plenty of other conversation topics ready to talk about.

Interrupting

Don't interrupt someone before they finish their sentence. Allow them to finish first before bringing the conversation back to yourself.

Cutting up all your food before eating

Cut only one piece of food at a time, especially a piece that can fit in your mouth (not a big piece).

Picking your teeth at the table

Don't pick at your teeth at the dining table in front of everyone. Instead, first excuse yourself and go to the bathroom to take care of the issue.

Talking with your Mouth full

It's difficult to understand what someone is saying when they talk with their mouth full.

Neglecting your host

Always thank and compliment the host for the invite and for their hard work.

Spitting out food from your mouth on your plate

If you must remove food items from your mouth, do it gracefully by excusing yourself from the table. Blowing your nose at the table and/or removing food items from your mouth is considered distasteful.

Sources: [Town & Country](#); [MoneyTalksNews](#).

Aviation Briefs & Facts

Airplanes are amazing inventions. Prior to airplanes, travelers had to rely on horses, buggies, trains, and ships, which took days, weeks, or even months for commuters to arrive at their destinations, whereas the longest nonstop flight is a little over 18 hours. This record is held by Singapore Airlines on a flight that travels 9,534 miles from Singapore to Newark, New Jersey. Approximately 25% of the American population has flying anxiety, while up to 6.5% of the world's population suffers from [aviophobia](#), or the fear of flying.

The sky is akin to a desert: Ever wondered why your throat and nose dries out while flying? Perhaps your skin has lost some of its luster. Airplane cabins are pressurized. The humidity level in an airplane cabin is normally set to 20%, while the skin is accustomed to a minimum of 40% humidity. Not only that, but the humidity levels in an airplane is drier than the Sahara Desert, which has about 25% humidity. So, technically, you are flying in a desert climate.

Airplanes can be fixed with tape: Back in 2015, a popular reddit user posted a viral photo of an airline technician seemingly fixing an aircraft with duct tape. This duct tape is what is known as speed tape, which has the hefty price tag of about \$700 per roll. Speed tape is an aluminum adhesive used to temporarily repair superficial damage until a permanent replacement is available. Another fun fact is that in Finland, it's common to refer to duct tape as "Jesus" tape because "it saves a person."

Commercial jets are more fuel efficient than your car: Michael Sivak of the University of Michigan's Transportation Institute studied fuel economy in cars versus airplanes. He discovered that most cars use twice the energy needed to fly unless the car averages around 45 miles per gallon (MPG). For example, the Boeing 747 averages about 0.2 MPG, while the average car only receives about 25 MPG. When the number of passengers is included in figures to determine MPG, planes get 100 MPG per person.

Your tastebuds are reduced by around 30% during flights: Cabin pressure numbs tastebuds and dries out food. What's even stranger is only sweet and salty flavors are affected, but passengers can still taste anything spicy and bitter. This makes "Bloody Marys" a popular choice during flights. Wines taste more acidic for those who like to avoid sweet-tasting alcohol.

The world's largest air traffic control tower is as tall as a skyscraper: All airplanes need an airfield to land in. This requires the assistance of airport beacons and runway lights. One of the most important aspects of any airfield is the air traffic control tower, which manage ground traffic. The new Bangkok International Airport in Thailand's air traffic control tower is 434 feet tall, which is the equivalent of a 40-story building.

It's illegal to point a laser pointer at an airplane or helicopter: Pointing a laser at an aircraft is a federal crime because it can disorient the pilots. In fact, laser light shows are coordinated with air traffic control and the military to make sure they are not interrupting flights.

References:

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=airplane+pic+art&form>
<https://www.halibrite.com/aircrafts/amazing-airplane-facts/>

BRIEFS & NOTES

Dr. Matt Swanson is SelectFlorida's new Interim President



Matt Swanson, Ph.D., is proud to support Florida's economy, communities, and workforce as Chief Operating Officer (COO) at FloridaCommerce. He prioritizes effective operational collaboration agencywide that enables the agency to empower its team of over 1,500 employees as well as Floridians and their communities, to flourish. Matt continuously ensures the department's resources, including its \$2.3 billion budget, are deployed efficiently and effectively. He provides strategic direction and operational leadership throughout the agency, fostering a culture of innovation and learning, while driving initiatives to enhance operational effectiveness and agility. He is driven by complex challenges and thrives on reimagining possibilities to achieve results.

In his role as COO of FloridaCommerce, Matt also serves as the Interim President of SelectFlorida, Florida's international commerce agency, and as Vice President and Treasurer of the Florida Opportunity Fund, Florida's venture capital organization. In these roles he supports business development and advancement, Florida's economic development goals, and ensures strategic alignment among programs. Matt translates organizational vision into actionable plans, driving performance improvement and delivering added value to stakeholders.

Prior to his appointment as COO, Matt was the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Enterprise Florida. He was instrumental in several key initiatives including the implementation of H.B. 5, which streamlined Florida's economic development programs, consolidated Enterprise Florida, and the Department of Economic Opportunity into a new Florida Department of Commerce, and established SelectFlorida. At Enterprise Florida Matt improved employee recruitment and retention through the development of new benefit and leave programs. He also led the charge in modernizing operations and implementing structures designed to drive business and economic growth throughout the state.

Matt previously served as the Controller for Bravado Health and held key leadership positions in public and private higher education, including Vice President of Finance and Business Operations for Jacksonville University and Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer for Fletcher Technical Community College. Matt holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management, a Master of Business Administration, and a Doctor of Business Administration.

Originally from Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, Matt lives in Tallahassee, Florida with his wife, Emily. In his spare time Matt enjoys spending time with family and friends, supporting Florida's local restaurants, and visiting Florida's beaches. Matt is a baseball fan, favoring the Baltimore Orioles, and is working toward a goal of attending a game in every major league baseball stadium.

Gerard Philippeaux appointed Executive Director of the International Trade Consortium (ITC)



Gerard Philippeaux is the Executive Director of the Miami-Dade County International Trade Consortium. As such, he oversees the division responsible for promoting Miami-Dade County as the Global Gateway.

Prior to assuming his current position, he served as Senior Advisor for trade and intergovernmental affairs at the office of Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III. He identified, analyzed, and advised the Chairman of any trade and economic development opportunities for consideration and policy implementation. He also assisted the Chairman with any intergovernmental affairs related to Miami-Dade County at the federal level.

Mr. Philippeaux also served as the Manager for Seaport Strategic Initiatives at Port Miami. As a member of the Public Affairs and Marketing division of PortMiami, he assisted in the development of innovative marketing strategies to better promote the port, in the research for the elaboration of new maritime opportunities, and the fostering of new partnerships.

Starting with Miami-Dade County in 2002, Mr. Philippeaux has advised County Commissioners in the areas of policy, specifically Transportation, Community development, public affairs, and Media relations. In 2011, he became Chief of Staff to the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners for Miami-Dade County. Throughout the course of his career, Mr. Philippeaux has used his knowledge of policy processes to assist elected officials with fostering growth and development for their communities. His understanding of operating business standards and strategic planning has helped policymakers in the elaboration of proactive policies for the enhancement of their localities.

Preceding his employment with Miami-Dade County, Mr. Philippeaux was a member of the Republic of Haiti's foreign service, having served at the Haitian missions to the United Nations, the Organization of American States and in Canada. In addition, he worked for various international governmental agencies such as USAID, OAS in the capacity of senior advisor to government officials.

Mr. Philippeaux is a graduate of John Jay College of the City University of New York (CUNY) with a degree in Public Administration and Government Affairs. He is a board member for Project Medishare; the Haitian American Leadership Organization (HALO) and Global Ties Miami. He is fluent in French, English and Creole.

BRIEFS & NOTES

New Airport Protocol Officer Nancy Dominique



Mrs. Nancy Dominique joined the Protocol & International Affairs Division team on July 8, 2024. Prior to coming to the Airport, she spent thirteen (13) years working within the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) office and served two chairmen of the Board. She also has a background in early education and is proficient in English, French, and Creole.

New Airport Protocol Officer Emmanuel Lopez



Emmanuel Lopez joined the Protocol & International Affairs Division team on August 5, 2024. Prior to joining the Protocol Division, Mr. Lopez worked as a Customer Service Specialist for Florida Power & Light (FPL) from 2016 – 2019, and as Administrative Assistant/Special Assistant to the Director-General at the Taipei Economic & Cultural Office (TECO) in Miami from 2019 – 2024. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations from Florida International University (FIU) in 2016, with a Certificate in Asian and Latin American studies. He is proficient in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and has basic understanding in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean.

New Airport Protocol Officer Axel Tullmann



Axel Tullmann joined the Protocol & International Affairs Division team as an Airport Protocol Officer on September 16, 2024. Prior to this role, he worked as an Airport Operations Specialist in the Miami-Dade Aviation Department. From November 2021 until September 2024, Axel worked in a variety of settings at the airport. Including the Terminal, the Federal Inspection Services (FIS) area, Lost & Found, and the Airport Operations Center (AOC).

Mr. Tullmann holds an equivalent of a Bachelor of Science in Architecture (Architect ETH) and began his career in the airline industry with Swissair. The newly established ground handling company Swissport offered him opportunities to work in various locations, including Johannesburg, South Africa, New York, San Juan, Puerto Rico and at their Zurich headquarters. After five years in various roles at Visa, Inc., a global financial services corporation, Mr. Tullmann returned to Swissport at Miami International Airport. In 2017, he joined the Lufthansa Group account, where he obtained his Operations certification for the Airbus A380. Throughout his career, he has collaborated with several airlines, including Swiss, Austrian, Delta, Singapore Airlines, LOT Polish and Emirates Airlines, where he also assisted VIPs and foreign dignitaries among other responsibilities. Mr. Tullmann is proficient in German, English, Spanish, and French, and has a basic understanding of Portuguese and Japanese.

International Day of Sign Language - September 23, 2024

2024 IDS Logo,
World Federation of the Deaf



On December 19, 2017, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution [A/RES/72/161](#), which proclaimed September 23rd to be recognized as the [International Day of Sign Languages](#), to spread awareness of the importance of sign language as a means of communication among communities of people just like any spoken language, and to preserve and celebrate the cultural and linguistic diversity that exists within sign languages.

Just like spoken languages, sign languages are natural languages equipped with their own unique visual structure. There are over 300 different types of sign languages used globally, where over 80% of the varieties can be found in developing countries and differ based on factors such as local dialects as well as facial and body expressions. For example, despite English being spoken both in the United States and the United Kingdom, there is the regional [“American Sign Language \(ASL\)”](#) used in the U.S. and Canada, while there is “British Sign Language (BSL)” used in the U.K. Moreover, the French-speaking population of Canada uses “Quebec Sign Language (LSQ)”, which is closely related to “French Sign Language (LSF)” and carries elements of ASL as well. There is even an “international sign language” used in international meetings, not as structurally complex so that a member of any deaf community can understand the message being conveyed.

These attributes allow deaf communities all over the world to carry a sense of pride and unique identity and culture, as do regular spoken national languages and dialects. It was not until 2018, after the adoption of this resolution, that the first International Day of Sign Languages was officially celebrated worldwide. The International Week of the Deaf, a global event honoring deaf culture and uniting deaf communities also in September, now incorporates this special day in its week-long celebration. September 23rd was chosen as it aligns with the date the [World Federation of the Deaf](#) (WFD) was founded, an international organization whose main goals are to spread awareness of the cultures represented in deaf communities and to support the notion that the need for sign languages is crucial to making sure the human rights of people who are deaf are fully met.

The [National Deaf Center](#) notes that according to the 2021 American Community Survey (ACS), about 3.6% of the U.S. population, or about 11 million individuals, consider themselves deaf or have serious difficulty hearing. The [Hearing Loss Association of America](#) (HLAA) estimates that 48 million Americans have some degree of hearing loss.

Sources: [United Nations](#); [American Sign Language](#).

BRIEFS & NOTES

National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2024



Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated each year from September 15 to October 15. It began as a week-long celebration in 1968 under President Johnson and was expanded to a month by President Reagan 20 years later in 1988. The month-long celebration provides more time to properly recognize the significant contributions Hispanic/Latino Americans have made in the United States.

Hispanic Heritage Month does not cover one single month but instead begins in the middle of September and ends in the middle of October. The timeframe of this month is significant because many Central American countries celebrate their independence days within these dates, beginning on September 15 with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. By aligning with these independence dates, Hispanic Heritage Month honors the resilience and determination of the Hispanic community. Other [key Independence Days celebrated within the Hispanic Heritage Month](#) include September 16 – Mexico, and September 18 – Chile, and September 21 – Belize.

Hispanic Heritage Month provides an additional opportunity to explore the incredible impact Latinas and Latinos have had on the United States for generations. The Latino presence in America spans centuries, predating Spain's colonization of what is now part of the United States, and they have been an integral part of shaping our nation since the Revolutionary War. Through the [Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo](#) and the [Treaty of Paris](#) that followed the Mexican American and Spanish-American wars, the United States gained territories in the Southwest and Puerto Rico. This incorporated the people of this area into the United States and further expanded the presence of Hispanic Americans.

Today, the Latino population in the United States is over 60 million, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This makes up 18.9% of the total population and is the largest racial or ethnic group. Latinos continue to help fuel our economy and enrich our nation as entrepreneurs, athletes, artists, entertainers, scientists, public servants, and much more. The theme for this year's observance is *"Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together,"* which celebrates past and present Hispanic trailblazers who drive positive change for a more inclusive future. [Click here to view President Biden's Proclamation on National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2024.](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)

What is the difference between Hispanic and Latino?

Hispanic and Latino are the two [most used terms](#) to describe Americans with Latin American and Caribbean ancestry. You may often see these terms used interchangeably, but different people understand and use these terms differently. [The National Museum of the American Latino](#) uses the term "Latino" to describe the diverse residents of the United States with cultural or ancestral ties to Latin America or the Caribbean. For many, the term "Latino" also creates room for acknowledging Black, Indigenous, Asian, and other heritages on equal terms with European ancestry. The term "Hispanic" is used to signal a connection to Spain or the Spanish language.

Source: [National Museum of the American Latino.](#)

Autumn Equinox (Sunday, September 22, 2024)



[Autumn is here!](#) It might not feel like it here in South Florida, but on Sunday September 22 at 8:44 AM the sun was directly over the equator. At this very special time of the year, sunlight is equally distributed from pole to pole. The term ["equinox" is Latin for "equal night"](#), meaning that the day and night will be the same number of hours. The reason why we have equinoxes and seasons has to do with the tilt of the Earth. As the Earth revolves around the sun, the apparent position of the sun as viewed from Earth changes. Our summer is the Southern Hemisphere's winter, and vice-versa.

When the Earth is at the maximum tilt relative to the Sun, it is Summer Solstice in one hemisphere and Winter Solstice in the other hemisphere. Equinoxes are when both poles are at the same angle to the Sun. Many people think that during

the summer the Earth is closer to the sun, but most of them are wrong. This is because more people live in the Northern Hemisphere. The [Perihelion](#), or closest point that the Earth is to the Sun, happens in early January – winter for the majority of the world's population. If you live in the Southern Hemisphere, then you are correct.

[Equinoxes and solstices hold deep significance to humans](#), going back to prehistoric times. If you can be at [Stonehenge for the dawn of the Summer Solstice](#), you will see the Sun rise directly above Heel Stone. Machu Pichu in Peru has a stone called *"Intihuatana"*, positioned perfectly so that at noon on each Equinox the stone does not cast a shadow. [Chichén Itzá in Mexico](#) is famous for a serpent like shadow visible only on the Equinox on the Temple of Kukulcan. In present day New Mexico, ancient Puebloan people carved markings on canyon walls to mark the seasons, the solstices at Chaco Canyon are marked by a "Sun Dagger" to this day. Ireland has Newgrange, a site dating back to 3200 B.C. During the Winter Solstice a small interior room is illuminated by sunlight. And at the Great Sphinx and Pyramid of Khafre in Egypt, Equinoxes are marked by the Sun setting over the right shoulder of the Sphinx and the southern corner of the Pyramid of Khafre. Happy Equinox, and welcome to Autumn!

BRIEFS & NOTES

Escort Officer positions available for the Airport Escort Screening Courtesies Program

The Airport Escort Screening Courtesies Program (AESC) assists qualifying foreign government officials with airport security when transiting and departing from certain airports in the United States. The program is operated through the Office of the Chief of Protocol at the United States Department of State.

The program is currently looking for individuals to serve as Escort Officers. Escort Officers are independent government contractors who are responsible for coordinating all aspects of the departure or transit of a dignitary with the foreign mission, TSA, and other airport officials as necessary. When at the airport, the Escort Officer escorts high-ranking foreign officials past security checkpoints for departures from 19 U.S. Airports.

The position calls for a high level of tact and diplomacy and involves physical demands, as AESC Officers walk long distances through airports at a rapid pace. Officers must be able to adapt to changes in travel arrangements, which may occur with little notice. AESC assignments occur 7 days a week and AESC officers must be flexible and adaptable to flight schedules and changes that may occur. While the program operates out of multiple U.S. airports, the program is currently seeking individuals to escort at Miami International Airport, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, and Palm Beach International Airport.

Requirements:

- ◆ Ability to obtain a “SECRET” level security clearance
- ◆ Military, law enforcement, protocol, or airport background
- ◆ Experience engaging with high level foreign diplomats

If you are interested in this position, please contact: **Ms. Molly Devine**
DevineM@state.gov; Tel: +1 (771) 210-0526.

**Application deadline
October 18, 2024.**



World Bamboo Day - September 18, 2024



September 18, 2024, was [World Bamboo Day](#). It was a day of celebration to increase awareness of bamboo globally. Where bamboo grows naturally, bamboo has been a daily element, but its utilization has not always been sustainable due to exploitation. The [World Bamboo Organization](#) is a diverse group consisting of individual people, commercial businesses, non-profit associations, institutions, and allied trade corporations that all share a common interest = BAMBOO.

Bamboo, is one of the most abundant plants in tropical and subtropical regions between 46°N and 47°S. These woody-stemmed grass species are known as some of the fastest growing plants in the world, and one native plant in Asia plays an important economic role in the livelihoods of local people living in this area. Bamboos are characterized as a superior herb and they are used in almost 1500 commercial goods, which are utilized in many ways, from construction materials, food profiling, and musical instruments, to the production of paper pulp, fencing, basketry, water pipes, utensils, bicycles, bridges, and low-rise housing.

According to the [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#), in 2010, bamboo covered more than 31 million hectares of forestland around the world, and more than 60% of it is located in China, Brazil, and India. Generally, 80% of bamboo forests are in Asia, 10% in Africa, and 10% in Latin America. China, often called “The Kingdom of Bamboo,” has more than 500 species in 39 genera and more than 6.01 million hectares of bamboo forests. This amazing herb famously has different local names in Asia and is called “friend of the people,” “wood of the poor,” and “the brother” in China, India, and Vietnam, respectively. In general, bamboo plays a considerable role in human life, and they cover a wide range of human needs from environmental protection to use as home appliances.

Bamboo has great potential for use in construction because it has nodes, which improve bending and tensile strength. It has greater strength than concrete and steel by weight due to the thickness of the fiber in the sclerenchyma tissue. Bamboo is a renewable bioresource that can have a short period of growth with a high CO₂ fixation rate. Bamboo can absorb approximately 3.73 cubic meter of CO₂, which means it can absorb the equivalent of carbon dioxide emissions from approximately 2 cars in one day. A characteristic of the lignin found in bamboo fibers has allowed the textile industry in recent years to develop antibacterial and UV absorbing bamboo clothing.

Bamboo is edible. Bamboo shoots could be used as food. From a long time ago, bamboo shoots have been a tasty food with a high fiber content and have been eaten by the local people in southern Asia, especially in China. Bamboo shoots are powerful sources of fiber, known as dietary fiber, with low fat and calorie contents. Bamboo also has necessary amino acids, potassium, antioxidants, selenium, vitamins, carbohydrates, and protein.

Bamboo, as a green and sustainable material, has an important role in new architecture, so that in the future, architecture based on green buildings will be built with bamboo as one of its most important materials. In this case, bamboo is very familiar among scientists because of its energy savings, zero fossil emissions, and environmentally friendly nature. Many studies have reported that bamboo, as a forest product, has potential for use as a biofuel, along with other woody plants.

Sources: [World Bamboo Organization](#); [National Library of Medicine](#)

INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (SEPTEMBER)

September 1, 1991 – Uzbekistan: On this date, Uzbekistan gained independence from the Soviet Union.

September 2, 1945 – Vietnam: In early 1945, Japan ousted the French administration in Vietnam. Hours after Japan had formally surrendered to the Allies on September 2, 1945, Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam's independence from France.

September 6, 1968 – Eswatini: Swaziland, as Eswatini was known until April 2018, achieved independence from the UK.

September 7, 1822 – Brazil: Prince regent Dom Pedro declared Brazil's independence from Portugal on September 7, 1822.

September 8, 1991 –North Macedonia: A referendum endorsed independence from Yugoslavia in 1991.

September 9, 1991 – Tajikistan: Following the breakup of the Soviet Union, Tajikistan gained its independence.

September 15, 1821 – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua: On September 15, 1821, envoys from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua signed the Act of Independence of Central America, proclaiming their independence from Spain.

September 16, 1810 – Mexico: Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a Catholic priest, and the father of Mexican independence, urged his fellow Mexicans to take up arms against the Spanish. His proclamation, known as the "Grito de Dolores" marked the start of the Mexican War of Independence. Although the war did not end until 1821, September 16, is celebrated annually as Mexico's Independence Day.

September 16, 1975 – Papua New Guinea: On this day, Papua New Guinea was granted independence from the Australia-administered UN trusteeship.

September 18, 1810 – Chile: In 1810, a group of Santiago residents met in open council to name a governing board, taking the first steps towards independence from Spain. Although independence was not officially declared until February 12, 1818, and the last Spanish stronghold did not fall until 1826, September 18 is celebrated annually as Chile's Independence Day.

September 19, 1983 – St. Kitts and Nevis: In 1967, the island territory of Saint Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla became an associated state of the United Kingdom with full internal autonomy. After Anguilla seceded, the remaining islands achieved independence as Saint Kitts and Nevis on September 19, 1983.

September 21, 1964 – Malta: Malta was a British colony from 1814 until it gained independence in 1964. Since December 13, 1974, Malta has been a republic.

September 21, 1981 – Belize: British Honduras, a British colony since 1862, was renamed Belize on June 1, 1973. On September 21, 1981, Belize gained its independence from the United Kingdom.

September 21, 1991 – Armenia: On this day, approximately 95% of the population voted for independence from the Soviet Union and the establishment of an independent state.

September 22, 1908 – Bulgaria: Prince Ferdinand declared Bulgaria's independence from the Ottoman Empire.

September 22, 1960 – Mali: As the colony of French Soudan, Mali was part of the Federation of French West Africa. In 1959, Soudan and Senegal joined to form the Mali Federation, which became fully independent within the French Community on June 20, 1960 which collapsed two months later when Senegal seceded. On September 22, 1960, Soudan proclaimed itself the Republic of Mali and withdrew from the French Community.

September 23, 1932 – Saudi Arabia: King Abdulaziz proclaimed the unification of the country as a kingdom.

September 24, 1973 – Guinea-Bissau: Declared independence from Portugal.

September 27, 1991 – Turkmenistan: From 1924 until regaining its independence on October 27, 1991, Turkmenistan was a Soviet Republic. Since 2018, Independence Day has been officially celebrated on September 27.

September 30, 1966 – Botswana: In 1965, after 80 years as a British protectorate, Bechuanaland attained self-government as the independent Republic of Botswana.

ABOUT US

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