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Festival Of Latin American and Caribbean Countries — Unity In Diversity

The Latin American and Caribbean Culture Festival has been held in Moscow for the fourth time. The event is focused on fostering cultural ties between the capital city of the RF and countries of the region. The festival was organized by the Department for External Economic and International Relations of Moscow and the Moscow Centre for International Cooperation, with support from the Department of Culture of Moscow, embassies of Latin American and Caribbean countries, the Russian State Film Fund, ROSIZO State Museum and Exhibition Center, the State Tretyakov Gallery, the House of Latin America, the Moscow Government University, Margarita Rudomino All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature.

On July 19 and 20 the Hermitage Garden was the central spot of the festival. The official opening ceremony featured Sergey Cheremin, Minister of the Government of Moscow, Head of the Department for External and International Relations, Stepan Orlov, Deputy Chairman of Moscow City Duma, Yelena Kudriavtseva, deputy director of the Latin America department of the RF MFA, Juan Genaro Del Campo Rodríguez, Ambassador of Peru to the RF.

The head of DEEIR expressed his gratitude to heads of diplomatic missions of the countries of the region for their help in setting the event up. “The Festival is traditionally held in the very center of Moscow, in the Hermitage park. And this year we prepared a lot of various events which will leave a lasting impression on our hearts”, — said Cheremin. He noted that the Festival was not limited to one site only. There were events at the VDNKH, at the Rudomino Library for Foreign Literature, at

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the “Illusion” movie theater, at the Engineering Building of the Tretyakov Gallery. “I believe this will be our contribution to strengthening friendship ties of the Russian Federation and the Latin American and Caribbean countries, between our capital cities”, — emphasized Cheremin.

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Juan Genaro Del Campo Rodríguez, Ambassador of Peru to the RF, spoke on behalf of the diplomatic corps of Latin American and Caribbean countries. He stressed that the Department for External and International Relations delivered on its ongoing commitment to strengthening cultural and humanitarian ties between Moscow and the region. “This festival is not just a feast, but a platform for dialogue and mutual understanding. It is a great honor to us to demonstrate to the Russian public the diversity of our peoples and lands, stretching from the shores of the Caribbean Sea to the Central America across the Andes to the southernmost lands of South America”, — stated the Ambassador.

The program continued with performances by music and dance groups. Visitors were greeted by a real kaleidoscope of rhythms and genres from different countries of the region. Havana Orchestra played Cuban music classics and originally arranged fiery jazz hits. Eduardo Breff & Su Son del Son group also played music from the same country. Vocal performance by Ecuadorian singer Karen Sosa Limones organically combined traditions of the academic school and Latin American music. Singer María Mulata presented Colombian regions in her performance. The concert program was filled with hot rhythms and dances, which the region is renowned for. Tangovsky project, a Russian-Argentinian group, whirled viewers away to Argentinian tango tunes. The Ibero-American folk ballet from Paraguay presented a bright palette of folk dance. "Samba Real" school dancers charged the audience with their energy.

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Many guests of the festival decided to learn something new and visited various master classes and lectures. For example, one could try out capoeira — an art, combining dance, music and martial skills. Visitors got a chance to feel like true sports stars at football freestyle master classes. Moreover, at arts master classes people could put together fashionable Cuban necklaces, weave dreamcatchers, paint carnival masks and put to life a unique fan design. At the lecture center listeners had an opportunity to delve into the history of the region's countries, find out about picturesque tourist routes, discover secrets of making traditional drinks and learn basic Spanish.

Visitors of any age would find an activity to their liking. Children were welcomed at a face painting area, presented with an action-packed animation program, immersing them in the atmosphere of Colombia and Mexico, a breathtaking “Indian Village” quest and many other activities.

The food court, where one could taste ceviche, delicious-smelling burritos and fajitas, freshly baked empanadas, was immensely popular with guests. Visitors enjoyed exotic fruit beverages, tasted premium chocolate from Venezuela and Ecuador. The food court also served cocoa and coffee, specially delivered to the festival.

To make the colorful moments of the festival memorable for a long time, one could make spectacular photos in photo areas and buy authentic products at the Latina Market. Theme booths offered a wide selection — from Mexican masks and national to ethnic jewellery to chocolate and spices.

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The feast of Latin American culture continued with movie sessions and a special educational program at the Rudomino All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature. Residents and guests of Moscow were shown 23 movies from 11 countries. Movies were shown at the Illusion movie theater, at the Engineering Building of the Tretyakov Gallery and at the ROSIZO. A family drama in Peru, fighting social problems in Costa-Rica, a Venezuelan singer success story, world of tango in Uruguay, comical situations in Argentina, — the range of subjects was as diverse as the region's countries. Visitors of the Library for Foreign Literature had a chance to visit events, participated by ambassadors from Ecuador, Colombia, Argentina and Mexico, Nicaragua and Paraguay, presentations of Brazilian novels, a tango show, a display of national Nicaraguan costumes and many others.

The Latin American and Caribbean Culture Festival gave visitors a festive mood, provided warm atmosphere and stunned with vivid colors. Here any guest had a chance to immerse into the Latin American culture without leaving Moscow. Guests of the festival listened to high-energy music, whirled around in vibrant dance rhythms, learned new facts and developed their creative skills. The festival offered a fresh perspective on the distinct character of each country, uniting people from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

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