



ACTIVIDAD INDUSTRIA

Paraná, Marzo - Junio, 2023



ZONA LIBRE DE COLÓN

**“En la Zona Libre de Colón,
cada paso firme es una
semilla de crecimiento
y transformación”.**

Luisa Napoliitano



INTERVIEW SEGMENT



Colon Free Zone: Latin America's Logistics Heart Reinvents Itself

In the fast-paced world of international trade, the Colon Free Zone (CFZ) reasserts its position as the leading logistics and commercial hub in the region. As a cornerstone of Panama's economic development, this strategic platform not only connects global markets but also leads a profound transformation focused on efficiency, transparency, and innovation.

With the mission to consolidate its status as the largest warehousing and distribution center in the world, the CFZ has faced key challenges such as budget execution and supplier management. Yet thanks to a committed and disciplined administration, it

has strengthened its operational capacity, improved revenue collection, and promoted exemplary financial management. Agreements with the National Bank and audits under ISO standards have been instrumental in solidifying its role as a pillar of the national economy.

Legal strengthening has been another cornerstone. The recovery of more than 250 hectares of concessioned land, the execution of 144 field inspections, and the implementation of comprehensive forensic audits have marked a turning point. The approval of over 100 strategic procedures by the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee has eliminated historic arrears, while the digitalization of resolutions and increased regulatory outreach reinforce institutional transparency.



In terms of commercial activity, the CFZ continues to deliver solid results: B/. 24.933 billion in 2024, and B/. 9.422 billion as of May 2025. It has also contributed more than B/. 29 million to the country and welcomed thousands of international visitors.

Infrastructure upgrades are evident, with B/. 6.7 million invested in completed or tendered projects, including drainage systems, signage, and solar lighting. Meanwhile, human capital has been strengthened through training, improved working conditions, and a renewed sense of belonging.



Security is another pillar of this transformation. The video surveillance project is now 95% complete, featuring thermal sensors, panic buttons, and a monitoring center nearly finalized. Thanks to strategic vigilance and alliances with entities such as the National Police and Customs Authority, crime incidence has dropped by 85%. The digitalization of access passes and the launch of the Shopping Tourism Visa have further facilitated international visitor entry.

Technical training also plays a central role. An agreement with ITSE has enabled the development of micro-credentials in artificial intelligence, language skills, and

technology, available to Colón residents with a high school diploma. Collaboration with businesses supports the publication of job openings, while the rollout of the Single Window system, electronic invoicing, and digital clearance certificates advances digitalization efforts.

On the international stage, the CFZ is working to regain global leadership. It actively participates in trade fairs, associations, and alliances with chambers of commerce from the Americas, Europe, and Africa, attracting investment and developing new logistics platforms. In parallel, community responsibility has been reinforced through support to over 41 organizations and vulnerable communities in Colón.

The Colón Free Zone is not only modernizing—it is boldly projecting itself into the future. With transparency, innovation, and social commitment, it reaffirms its place as Latin America's logistics heart and the largest free zone in the world.



LIQUOR INDUSTRY SEGMENT



“Madure is Panama Bottled”

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW | INDUSTRY ACTIVITY *“Madure is Panama Bottled”: We speak with Aida Michelle Ureña de Maduro—the mind and heart behind the liquor that fuses tradition, honey, and family.*

In a cozy corner of the city, surrounded by sweet aromas and hints of oak, we’re welcomed by Aida Michelle Ureña de Maduro, founder of *Madure*, a Panamanian cordial that’s quickly capturing palates with a proposition as authentic as it is innovative. In this exclusive interview for *Industry Activity*, Aida shares the story, soul, and vision behind a venture that distills national identity.

Industry Activity (IA): Aida, how did Madure come to be, and what makes it stand out in the universe of Panamanian spirits? **Aida Michelle Ureña de Maduro (AM):** Madure was born from a family dream. After more than 20 years promoting Panama’s local industry, I felt it was time to create something of my own—something that carried

Panama's signature. So, together with my husband and daughters, we began this journey. *Madure* is not a traditional rum; it's a cordial made from aged rum infused with Panamanian honey. The name comes from our family names: Maduro and Ureña. It's a tribute to our roots and to what we believe in as a family.

IA: What sets Madure apart from conventional rum? AM: So much! While it's based on rum, Madure has a completely different profile. Its alcohol content is 25%, making it smoother and more approachable. Infused with honey, it delivers a sweet, aromatic character with notes of caramel, citrus, and oak. It's perfect enjoyed neat, over ice, or in cocktails. It's not a traditional sipping rum—it's a different sensory experience: more versatile and accessible to a wide range of audiences.





IA: What role does family play in this venture? AM: It's the heart and soul of the project. Each one of us plays a key role. Aida Gabriela, my younger daughter, leads cocktail development and marketing. Ana Cecilia, an industrial engineer, handles logistics. And my husband contributes his expertise in international marketing. *Madure* is a collective effort, where each of us brings our strengths. It's a great example of how a family business can be professional, creative, and globally minded.

IA: What about sustainability? AM: It's one of our pillars. We use honey from local producers, supporting Panamanian beekeeping, and we reuse white oak barrels for aging, reducing environmental impact. We want *Madure* to be not only a product of quality but also responsible with its environment.

IA: How do you see the future of *Madure*? AM: With lots of hope. Panama already has a name in the rum world, and *Madure* comes to offer something different—a drink that celebrates our heritage and dares to innovate without losing its essence. We

want people, when tasting *Madure*, to feel Panama in every sip. Because that's who we are: flavor, history, and family.

IA: One final question—how would you define *Madure* in a single phrase? AM: *Madure is Panama bottled—with the soul of honey and the spirit of family.*

With this proposal, Aida Michelle Ureña de Maduro has not only created a liquor, but a brand with purpose. *Madure* stands as a testament to how tradition and innovation can coexist, and how a family can turn an idea into a legacy.



Construction Industry Segment



Sharing Burdens and Distributing the Benefits of Development

Author: Architect Javier Humberto Arbeláez Luna javierharbelaez@yahoo.com

From the Editorial Desk of Actividad Industria We are pleased to introduce a contribution from architect **Javier Arbeláez Luna**, a professional with a distinguished career in urban planning, institutional strengthening, and territorial project management. He has led initiatives through the **Chamber of Commerce of Ibagué**, the **municipal government**, and various NGOs, in addition to working as a **university professor** and **sustainable development consultant**. His article, “Sharing Burdens and Distributing the Benefits of Development,” offers a critical and constructive perspective on equity in urban growth.

As a former mayor of Bogotá once said: *“Let’s play the pirinola,”* a game of chance where everyone puts in—and everyone wins. This simple yet powerful logic becomes a mathematical and social tool that promotes collective interest. Fortunately, **Law 388 on Territorial Development** adopts this principle and translates it into concrete formulas that enable development at multiple scales.

Local Perspective: The Case of Ibagué

To illustrate this principle, let me propose a practical example. Imagine I want to bring a medium-voltage power line to my property, but the nearest infrastructure is several meters away. What’s the first step? Calculate the cost and demand (measured in KVAs). The key lies in encouraging **neighbor participation**, sharing costs, and reaping joint benefits—allowing the work to be executed efficiently and fairly.

This type of mechanism is already contemplated by law and is implemented through planning and operational instruments such as **partial plans, comprehensive urban operations, and urban actions**. In the field of urban law, this deserves a more detailed explanation, but I will focus on a concrete and tested tool: **public works financed through the valuation system**. In many cases this process is procedurally exhausting, but what’s changing now is the emergence of **private initiatives**.

The Innovation: Private Initiative with Collective Vision

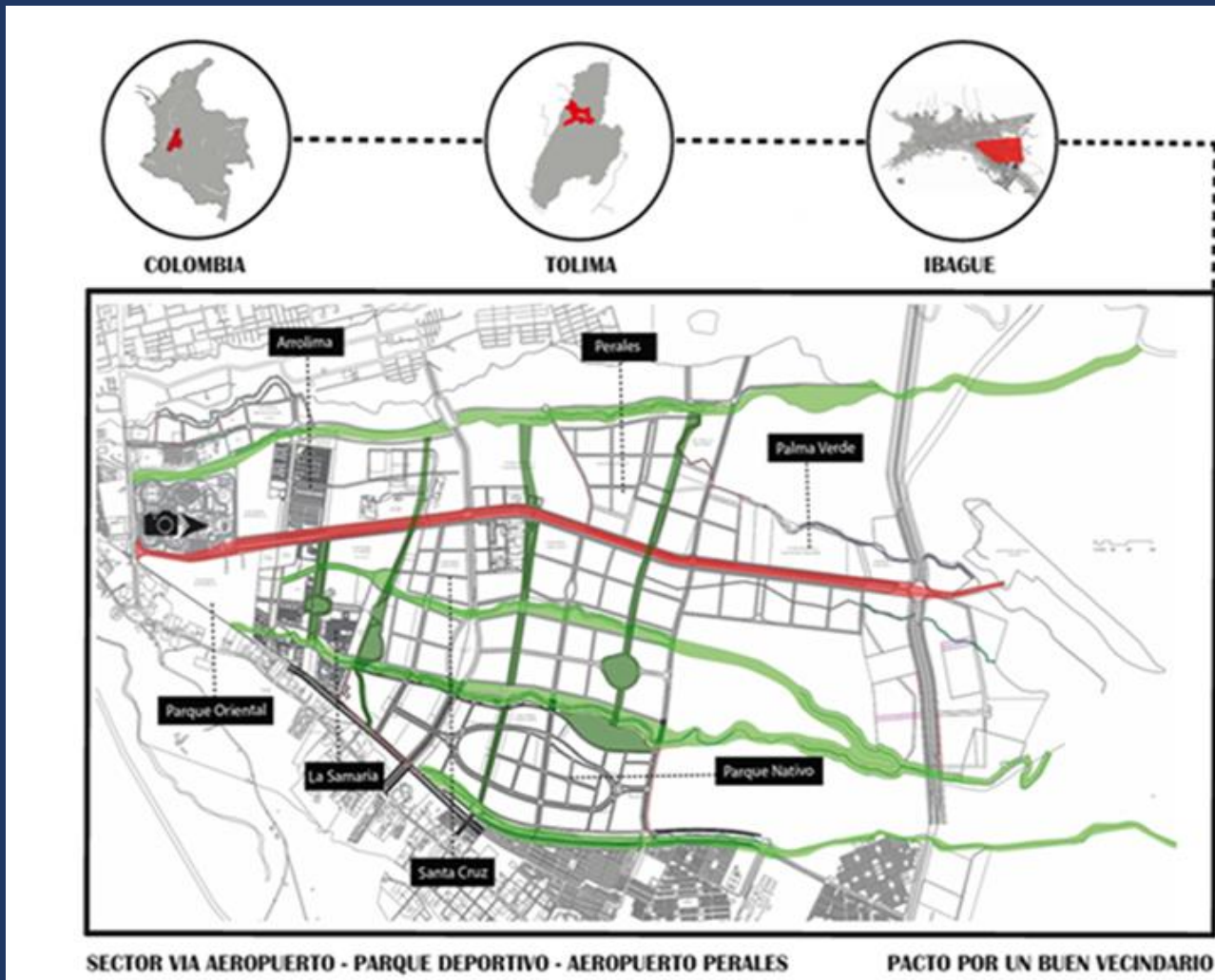
Let me share a specific case from **Ibagué**, on urban expansion land designated by the **Land Use Plan**. There, a group of landowners came together under a pact called **“El Buen Vecino” (The Good Neighbor)**, to propose a shared development vision for their lots.

This pact established priorities and shared elements:

1. A **structuring road**—the backbone of connectivity
2. Secondary roads and **environmental systems**
3. **Water infrastructure**: aqueduct and sewer networks

One of the most visible achievements is the construction of a road that now connects the **airport** to the **Sports Park**, two iconic locations in Ibagué. To make this possible, an

association was formed, enabling the project without resorting to compulsory land acquisition—avoiding delays and excessive costs.



This road was made possible through the legal instrument of **development rights compensation**, a tool that allows land to be generated in favor of public interest. Today, this road is one of the city's most important.

Public Urbanism and Ecological Structure

The second component involves **urbanism as a public function**, incorporating environmental criteria. The **linear parks system** forms part of the city's **main ecological structure**, acting as a unifying space for **urban burdens**: mandatory land contributions, collective infrastructure in development, and more.

Potable Water, Sanitation, and Land Value Capture

Finally, the third axis is the creation of a **potable water and sanitation district**, with infrastructure built via **private investment** and coordinated through the **land value capture mechanism** (*plusvalía*). This tool has helped finance municipal development and paved the way for more balanced urban growth.

For many, this marks the beginning of a **new city**. Partial plans such as **Arrolima, La Samaria, Santa Cruz, and Parque Oriental** are already underway—integrating vision, collaboration, and legal rigor in Ibagué's transformation.

**Javier Arbeláez Luna – Architect Territorial
Development – Project Feasibility – Urban Valuation**





Río Indio Reservoir

Author: Rosario Townshend

The Río Indio Reservoir project, promoted by the Panama Canal Authority (ACP), stands as one of the most strategic initiatives to ensure the country's water security and the operational continuity of the Panama Canal over the coming decades. In light of climate change and the growing demand for water—both for human consumption and vessel transit—this project emerges as a long-term structural solution.

What does the project involve?

The multipurpose Río Indio reservoir includes construction of a main dam measuring 840 meters long and 80 meters high, alongside three auxiliary dams and an 8.7 km transfer tunnel that will connect to Gatun Lake. The reservoir will have a storage capacity of approximately 1.5 billion cubic meters of water.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2027, with an estimated four years for the build and an additional two years for reservoir filling, placing its operational launch around 2033.

Strategic Advantages

Water Security: It will help maintain the Canal's operating levels during dry seasons, safeguarding its global competitiveness. Capacity could be extended for at least 50 years.

Human Consumption: More than 4 million people who rely on the Canal's water system for drinking water will benefit.

Energy Stability: The reservoir may also contribute to hydroelectric generation and flood control in the country's central region.

Regional Development: Improvements are planned in local road, sanitation, and education infrastructure, as well as new opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.

Obstacles and Challenges

Social Impact: Approximately 550 families (around 2,500 people) will need to be relocated, requiring a fair and participatory resettlement plan.

Environmental Sensitivity: The project will affect local ecosystems, demanding rigorous environmental impact studies and effective mitigation measures.

Community Acceptance: Although the ACP has begun consultation processes, some communities remain resistant, fearing displacement or the loss of livelihoods.

Development Proposals for the Area

To ensure the project is truly transformative, the following are recommended:

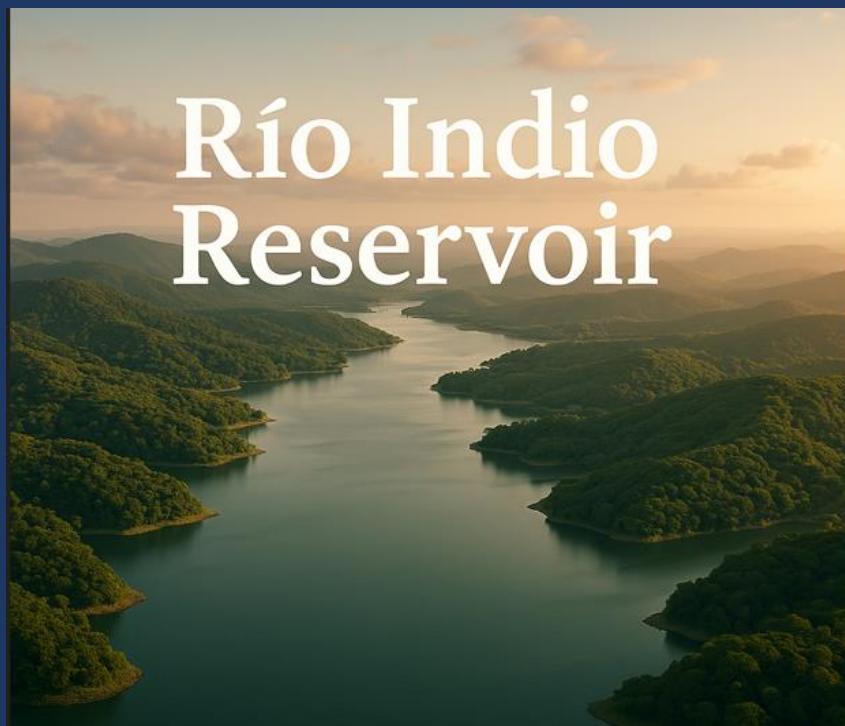
Agroindustrial Development Zones: Establish productive hubs leveraging access to water and connectivity to add value in agriculture and agroindustry.

Ecotourism and Community Tourism: Create sustainable tourism routes around the reservoir with active participation from relocated communities.

Training and Local Employment Programs: Set up technical education centers for construction, environmental management, and logistics services.

Compensation and Development Fund: Create a trust fund to ensure sustained investment in health, education, and entrepreneurship for affected communities.

In sum, the Río Indio reservoir is not merely a response to the Canal's water crisis—it is an opportunity to reimagine the territorial development of Panama's central region. Its success will hinge on transparency, social equity, and a forward-looking vision in its execution.





The Panama–David Railway: One of the Most Ambitious Infrastructure Projects in Panama’s Recent History

Author: Rosario Townshend

With an estimated investment of \$4.1 billion, the Panama–David railway is poised to span approximately 391 kilometers between Panama City and David, in the province of Chiriquí, reaching speeds of up to 160 km/h for passengers and 80 km/h for cargo.

Economic Stimulus and Job Creation

According to the Pro Tren Panamá Committee, once operational, the project could contribute up to 6.5% of Panama’s annual GDP. During construction and commissioning, it is projected to create more than 71,000 direct and indirect jobs, energizing sectors such as construction, manufacturing, services, and technology.

Importantly, 80% of the investment will be directed toward provinces outside the capital, helping to decentralize economic development, traditionally concentrated in the interoceanic corridor.

Logistics Connectivity and Cost Reduction

The railway will directly connect the provinces of Coclé, Herrera, Veraguas, and Chiriquí with the logistics backbone of the Panama Canal, facilitating the transport of goods and significantly lowering operating costs for producers and exporters. Currently, shipping a container from the Tierras Altas region to Colón can cost more than shipping it to Europe. The railway would streamline cargo consolidation and enhance the competitiveness of Panama's agro-export sector.

Tourism and Territorial Cohesion

From a tourism perspective, the train would unlock new access routes to destinations such as Boquete, Volcán, and Bocas del Toro, reducing travel times and enriching the visitor experience. A 2.5-hour trip between Panama City and David would redefine domestic connectivity.

The project also carries a strong social and territorial integration component. Many areas most affected by poverty are those with the lowest connectivity. The train would link these communities to major economic hubs, fostering inclusion and access to services.

Sustainability and Regional Vision

The railway represents a firm commitment to sustainable mobility, reducing reliance on road transport, easing traffic congestion, and lowering carbon emissions.

Finally, the project has regional reach. Extending the line to the Costa Rican border opens the door to future Central American rail integration, bolstering Panama's position as a regional logistics hub and expanding its commercial influence across the isthmus.

A Key Complement: The Interior Multimodal Logistics Center (CLMI)

To maximize the railway's impact, a proposed CLMI, strategically located near major

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Sustainability and Regional Vision

The project represents a firm commitment to sustainable mobility and could extend to the Costa Rican border



A Key Complement: The Interior Multimodal Logistics Center (CLMI)

The CLMI would serve as a consolidation point for products, support tourism, and provide affordable housing

stations in Veraguas and Chiriquí, would integrate logistics, tourism, storage, and community development. Here's how:

1. **Regional Logistics and Distribution Hub** The CLMI would serve as a consolidation point for agricultural, fishing, and industrial products from inland regions. With cold storage, free trade zones, and direct rail access, it would allow local producers to export more efficiently and cost-effectively.

2. **Storage Centers and Agroparks** Tech-enabled agroparks would provide storage, processing, and packaging for farm and livestock products—adding value at the source, boosting rural employment, and reducing post-harvest losses.
3. **Intermodal Tourist Terminals** Stations connected to complementary transport (buses, e-bikes, tourist taxis), plus local restaurants, artisan markets, and interpretation centers, would incentivize tourism to Santa Fe, Boquete, Las Lajas, and Boca Chica.
4. **Sustainable Housing Development** Affordable, eco-friendly housing near rail stations would promote planned urban growth, ease demographic pressure on Panama City, and support decentralization.
5. **Technical Training and Employment** A Railway and Logistics Innovation & Training Center would prepare hundreds of youth in railway maintenance, logistics management, safety, languages, and tourism services—fueling a new generation of skilled talent.

Together, this complementary ecosystem would make the train a true catalyst for regional development, fusing physical connectivity with social and economic progress.





Growing Sales Without Losing Liquidity: The Art of Expanding With Financial Intelligence

By Eng. Alejandro Sarabia, Co-Founder of Atasoft Devaico | www.devaico.com

In the business world, growing sales is both a legitimate and necessary aspiration. However, doing so without compromising liquidity is a challenge that demands strategy, discipline, and foresight. Over more than 35 years as a consultant to over 400 companies in 12 countries, I've learned that true success doesn't lie in simply billing more—but in maintaining a healthy cash flow. Because ultimately, growth without liquidity is growth with risk.

Here are eight key strategies to achieve sustainable growth without jeopardizing your company's financial health:

1. Optimize Inventory Management

Inventory equals immobilized capital. To unlock liquidity, it's essential to:

- Use forecasting tools like NASH CGO, one of the top purchasing and inventory software platforms in Latin America
- Keep stock levels at the necessary minimum, aligned with real demand
- Liquidate slow-moving products with discounts, prioritizing cash sales
- Conduct regular inventory reviews to enable agile decision-making

2. Sell With Intelligence

Not every sale adds value. Focus on:

- High-turnover, high-margin products
- Avoiding promotions that hurt cash flow
- Steering clear of scaling with low-demand or low-margin products

3. Automate Key Processes

Automation is no longer a luxury—it's essential. Implementing solutions like NASH enables:

- Automatic order generation
- Stock level optimization
- Reduction of unnecessary purchases and shortages

4. Finance Growth Responsibly

Do not use working capital as an expansion fund. Every investment must yield a clear and measurable return. Plan with foresight and avoid disrupting daily operations.

5. Proactively Manage Accounts Receivable

Accelerating collections improves liquidity directly. To do so:

- Establish clear credit policies
- Invoice immediately and accurately
- Maintain consistent follow-up and offer early-payment incentives
- Diversify payment methods to simplify collection

6. Control Expenses and Eliminate Waste

Every expense should be evaluated for its liquidity impact. Regularly review costs and seek operational efficiency without compromising quality.

7. Manage Working Capital

Understanding the cash conversion cycle is vital. Forecast cash flow and maintain an emergency fund for unforeseen events.

8. Monitor Key Indicators

Essential metrics include:

- Inventory turnover and accounts receivable turnover
- Operating cash flow
- Current ratio and acid-test ratio
- GMROI (Gross Margin Return on Investment) and cash conversion cycle

In uncertain times, the balance between liquidity and growth becomes increasingly critical. The key lies in striking equilibrium: selling more without running out of operating cash. Because, as my experience has consistently shown, managing cash flow is more important than simply increasing revenue.

Until next time.



Agricultural Industry Segment



Panama Makes Its Mark at World of Coffee Geneva 2025 and Opens the Doors to World of Coffee Panama 2026

Panama, June 30, 2025 – Panamanian coffee continues to establish itself as a global icon of excellence. Specialty coffee producers from Panama were active participants in World of Coffee Geneva 2025, held from June 26 to 28 at the Palexpo convention center in Switzerland. Their goal: to showcase the richness of Panamanian specialty coffee to buyers, roasters, baristas, and coffee professionals from across the globe.

During this international gathering, the Specialty Coffee Association of Panama (SCAP) and the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (CCIAP) unveiled opportunities for participation in the highly anticipated World of Coffee Panama 2026, scheduled to take place October 23–25, 2026 at the Panama Convention Center. This

edition will not only mark the first time the event is held in Latin America—it will also host the World Barista Championship, the most prestigious competition in the coffee world.

While in Geneva, the Panamanian delegation presented ways to engage in this landmark global event, with spaces available in the Roaster Village, Cupping Rooms, and general exhibition area, among others.

A Coffee Origin with History, Biodiversity, and Global Vision

Grown in the highlands of Boquete, Tierras Altas, and Renacimiento, Panamanian coffee emerges from a unique natural setting: volcanic soil, ideal altitudes, and microclimates shaped by the proximity of two oceans. These conditions, coupled with sustainable farming practices and the dedicated work of generations of producers, give rise to coffees with floral, fruity, and exotic profiles—celebrated by cuppers and experts worldwide.

Panama doesn't just produce coffee; it offers a fully traceable, sustainable, and identity-rich experience.

World of Coffee Panama 2026: The Future of Coffee Has a New Home

Thanks to its infrastructure, connectivity, tourism offering, and coffee tradition, Panama has been selected by the Specialty Coffee Association (SCA) to host the World of Coffee in October 2026—the most important event on the global specialty coffee calendar. This historic milestone will strengthen Panama's standing as a hub of coffee excellence and innovation in Latin America.

The event's organization is backed by a cooperation agreement signed in January 2025 between CCIAP and SCAP, reflecting a shared vision to position Panama as a regional hub for conventions, international fairs, and value-rich business tourism experiences.

In addition to commercial exhibits and educational activities, the event will feature the World Barista Championship, attracting top baristas from around the globe who will compete before an international jury in a high-level environment of technical skill, creativity, and passion.

An Invitation to the Global Industry

From Geneva, Panama extended an open invitation to brands, roasters, producers, and coffee businesses worldwide to take part in World of Coffee Panama 2026. Registration is now open for various exhibition areas, offering a chance to connect with a global audience in a vibrant, sustainable, and opportunity-filled setting.

Panama doesn't just export coffee. It exports excellence, knowledge, and hospitality.

For more information on participation opportunities for World of Coffee Panama 2026, please contact: woc@scap-panama.com



Business Segment



Thinking of Starting a Business in Panama? Discover the Essential Steps

Panama has become a key destination for regional investment thanks to its economic stability and competitive tax regime. However, legally establishing a business requires following administrative, legal, and tax procedures. ESCOFIN guides its clients through the entire process, ensuring regulatory compliance and efficiency.

- 1. Choose the Type of Business Entity** The first step is deciding whether to operate as an individual or a legal entity. The most common forms are Corporation (S.A.) and Limited Liability Company (S.R.L.), depending on your business model and desired level of liability.
- 2. Reserve Your Trade Name** It's necessary to verify the availability of the desired name and then reserve it with Panama's Public Registry. This precedes the drafting of the Public Deed of Incorporation.
- 3. Legally Establish the Company** With legal support, the Deed of Incorporation is drafted, defining the corporate purpose, capital, partners or directors, domicile, and duration. It is then notarized and officially registered.

4. Obtain the R.U.C. (Taxpayer Registration Number) The company must register with the General Directorate of Revenue (DGI), enabling it to issue invoices, pay taxes, and manage fiscal procedures.

5. Issue the Notice of Operation Through the Panama Emprende platform, the company applies online for a Notice of Operation, authorizing formal business activity.

6. Register with the Municipality and Social Security Fund Once the notice is obtained, the business registers with the local municipality and the Social Security Fund (C.S.S.) as an employer, if hiring staff.

7. Open a Corporate Bank Account It's recommended to open a corporate bank account by submitting legal documentation, references, and due diligence forms.

Professional Advisory Services ESCOFIN offers legal advisory services, drafting of legal documents, assistance with DGI, CSS, and Panama Emprende processes, as well as support for foreign nationals and investors. They serve both individuals and corporations with personalized attention, transparency, and discretion.

***Lic. Gastón Jiménez Specialist in Taxes and Taxation Financial Strategy and Control
Office Tel. (507) 216-8006 Mobile (507) 6949-4885***



CAMCHI Segment



Strengthening Trade and Investment: CAMCHI Holds Strategic Session in Panama City

By: Roxana Saldaña

Chiriquí, July 9, 2025 – In the presence of members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Panama, National Assembly deputies, and a robust group of business leaders, the Chiriquí Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Tourism (CAMCHI) successfully held its 2025 Expanded Board of Directors Session in Panama City, reaffirming its commitment to transparency, trade development, and investment promotion in the region.

The gathering served as a platform to present a comprehensive report on CAMCHI's accomplishments and its national and international impact, while also highlighting progress on short-, medium-, and long-term strategic projects driven by both public and private sectors—initiatives poised to transform the region. Among them is Puerto Barú in David, a \$250 million project expected to generate over 1,200 jobs, with its first phase slated to begin in the coming months.

Another landmark initiative is the Panama–David Railway, considered the flagship infrastructure project of the National Government. According to Manuel Arias Vallarino, Deputy Secretary of the Railway Secretariat, the megaproject is expected to generate 50,000 jobs. Its design includes 14 stations across 475 kilometers, stretching from Panama City to the Costa Rican border, with an estimated investment of \$500 million. This railway is expected to be a strategic asset for the region’s logistics future and a driver of Central American integration.

Jorge Tovar Vargas, CAMCHI President, expressed his satisfaction with the event, emphasizing the strategic role the Chamber plays in fostering investment and regional development.

“This meeting is key for our members to understand the coordinated interinstitutional efforts underway. It benefits not only our region, but all of Panama and neighboring countries due to its significant impact,” said Tovar Vargas.

The expanded session also hosted the signing of two major collaboration agreements, aimed at enhancing synergies and business development. CAMCHI also unveiled its institutional project portfolio and outlined the scope of various initiatives designed to strengthen the business ecosystem. These include:

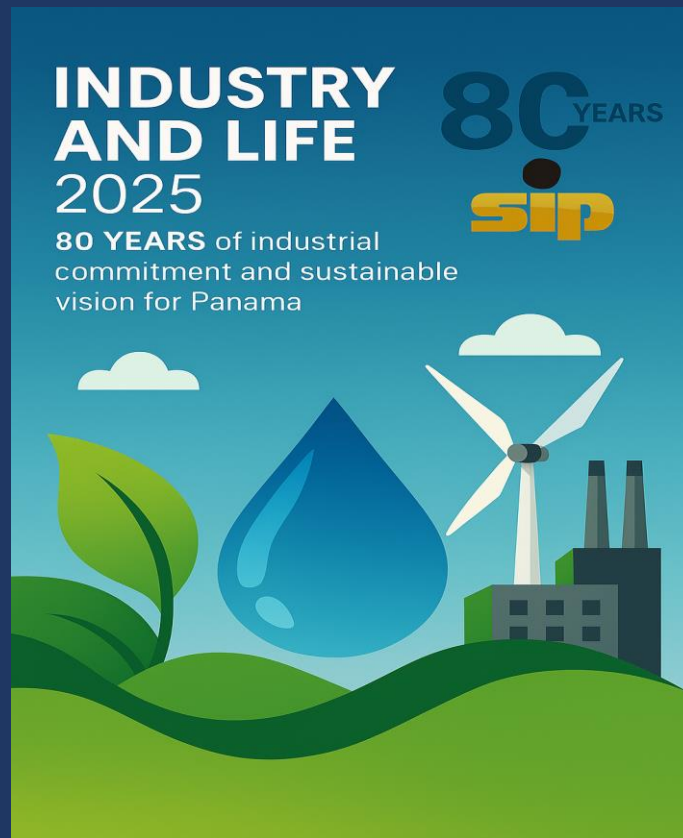
- Business Roundtable, a key event for networking and growth, set for its 13th edition from August 20–21 at the Federal Mall Convention Center in David
- Entrepreneurial Mother and Businessperson of the Year 2025, initiatives that promote and celebrate leadership and innovation in the sector

The event also showcased the success of the Contacto Empresarial program—the sector’s informative window—recognized nationally as the first open-broadcast television program in Panama spearheaded by a corporate chamber.

With this strategic session in Panama City, CAMCHI officially closes its 2025 national and international tour agenda, which included prominent meetings in Costa Rica and Colombia, underscoring the Chamber’s key role in coordinating efforts to position the region as a thriving hub of development and opportunity.



Meetings and Conventions Industry Segment



Industry and Life 2025: 80 Years of Industrial Commitment and Sustainable Vision for Panama

In August 2025, the Panamanian Industrialists' Union (SIP) will commemorate its 80th anniversary with a special edition of the event Industry and Life, held under the theme “United for a Sustainable Panama: Transforming Energy, Preserving Water.” This celebration not only honors eight decades of guild leadership but also projects a strategic vision for the future of the national industrial sector.

The event will take place from August 26 to 28 at the Sheraton Grand Panama Hotel, bringing together business leaders, academics, government authorities, and technical

experts to address the most pressing challenges facing the productive sector. The core themes will focus on energy and water, two vital resources whose efficient management is essential to industrial sustainability and national operational security.

Discussions will center on energy transition, renewable sources, industrial process efficiency, the water crisis affecting the Panama Canal, and the national roadmap to meet SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation. The event will also showcase success stories, emerging technologies, and public policy proposals aimed at fostering a more resilient and competitive industry.

Industry and Life 2025 will serve as a platform to strengthen public–private partnerships, promote innovation, and encourage the digital transformation of the sector. In a global context shaped by climate change and pressure on natural resources, SIP reaffirms its commitment to sustainable development, productivity, and social well-being.

The celebration of SIP’s 80th anniversary not only honors its legacy, but also inspires a new generation of industrial leaders to build a stronger, greener, and more future-ready Panama.





Palma de Oro Award 2025: Panama Celebrates Environmental and Journalistic Excellence

By: Rosario Townshend

As part of its 80th anniversary celebration, the Panamanian Industrialists' Union (SIP) presents the 2025 edition of the Palma de Oro Award, a recognition that honors commitment to sustainability, innovation, and environmental awareness in two fundamental fields: business and journalism. Over the years, this initiative has earned national prestige, becoming a benchmark in promoting responsible practices and transformative narratives.

The award is presented in two categories: Circular Economy and Environmental Journalism Contribution. In the business category, companies are recognized for successfully implementing sustainable projects in their production processes, services, or products. These range from micro-enterprises to large corporations and are evaluated by a technical committee based on indicators such as impact, energy efficiency, waste reduction, and use of clean technologies.

In journalism, the award honors works published between January 2024 and August 2025 in national media, across print, television, radio, and multimedia formats. Evaluation criteria include narrative quality, ethical approach, originality, and contribution to solving environmental issues. Special consideration is given to pieces that promote active citizenship and constructive discourse.

Winners will receive a handcrafted statuette made from recycled metals—symbolizing the spirit of the award—along with a cash prize of \$1,000. The award ceremony will be held on August 26, 2025, at the Sheraton Hotel, where the names of the honorees will be revealed. The winners will be selected by an independent jury composed of representatives from academia, media, and civil society organizations.

The Palma de Oro Award not only celebrates excellence but also promotes a national vision that is more conscious, resilient, and future-oriented. In a time of transformation, this recognition becomes a platform for showcasing the talent, responsibility, and positive impact that Panama has to offer the world.





World Expo Fair of the Colón Free Zone 2025: Panama Connects the World Through Its Logistics Hub

Organized by: World Expo Fair ZLC 2025 Committee

The World Expo Fair of the Colón Free Zone (ZLC) 2025 positions itself as a strategic platform to strengthen international trade from Panama. Scheduled to take place August 26–28 at the Panama Convention Center, the event aims to connect international buyers, importers, and distributors with wholesale companies based in the ZLC—one of the hemisphere’s most dynamic commercial epicenters.

Why Panama? Panama is more than a destination—it’s a global gateway. Thanks to its privileged geographic location and the Panama Canal, the country links the Americas, Europe, and Asia through key maritime and air routes. Participating in this fair means gaining direct access to a consolidated, modern, and efficient logistics network.

Why participate? The fair offers professional networking opportunities, direct access to ZLC infrastructure, strategic alliances, market expansion prospects, and competitive advantages such as indirect tax benefits and reduced operating costs. ZLC-based companies offer warehousing, distribution centers, and optimized customs and

financial services tailored for international trade. Attendees will enjoy an immersive experience in an environment that fosters creativity, commercial exchange, and innovation.

Product Offerings The fair will feature a broad exhibition across sectors including technology, textiles, jewelry, cosmetics, automotive, hardware, logistics, home decor, toys, food, pharmaceuticals, sports goods, school supplies, and more.

With opening hours from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., the World Expo Fair ZLC 2025 promises to be a key event for those looking to expand markets, discover new suppliers, and solidify commercial relationships from Latin America's most relevant logistics hub.

