

**Rebecca Benn**

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**From:** Rebecca Benn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 11:52 AM  
**Subject:** Dominican Republic News Update

I thought you might be interested in the latest developments regarding the Dominican Republic.

This material is distributed by Ballard Partners on behalf of the Dominican Republic. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

- **Haiti - DR: Agreement on Improving Bilateral Trade Relations**
  - The Dominican Republic and Haiti met to improve the business & investment climate between the two countries, strengthen the communication channel, and to help foster binational trade.
  - The Dominican Republic expressed interest in Haiti ratifying the Caribbean-European Union Economic Partnership agreement, which would help create free trade zones between the two countries.  
<http://www.haitilibre.com/en/news-22392-haiti-dr-agreement-on-improving-bilateral-trade-relations.html>
- **UAE's DP World & Dominican Republic Discuss Attracting FDI**
  - DP World CEO met with President Medina to discuss expansion of the Port of Caucedo and its logistics operations, in hopes the growth plan will attract more FDI.
  - \$400 million has been invested in DP World, and the company is now looking to expand further to build another 400m berth, to ensure its future as a major hub regionally and globally.
  - The government is also looking into an online trade service that will streamline the customs process and develop an electronic port community system.  
[http://www.zawya.com/mena/en/business/story/UAEs DP World Dominican Republic to attract foreign investment-WAM20171012091034989/](http://www.zawya.com/mena/en/business/story/UAEs-DP-World-Dominican-Republic-to-attract-foreign-investment-WAM20171012091034989/)  
<http://www.seatrade-maritime.com/news/americas/dp-world-to-expand-port-and-logistics-facilities-in-dominican-republic.html>  
<https://www.porttechnology.org/news/dp-world-to-build-dominican-republic-berth>  
[http://www.dailyshippingtimes.com/news-upload/upload/fullnews.php?fn\\_id=18052](http://www.dailyshippingtimes.com/news-upload/upload/fullnews.php?fn_id=18052)
- **Dominican Republic Irrigates Organic Bananas Using Solar Energy**
  - A new photovoltaic irrigation system has been installed in the Dominican Ecological Centre, and it is more efficient than the conventional irrigation system that wasted water and washed away important nutrients.
  - The new solar energy irrigation system eliminates the need to use the conventional system, which used a pump that ran on fossil fuels.  
<http://www.freshplaza.com/article/182996/Dominican-Republic-irrigates-organic-bananas-using-solar-energy>
- **President of Dominican Republic to Address UNWTO Conference in Jamaica**
  - President Medina pledged to increase the number of international tourists visiting the Dominican Republic to 10 million by 2022.
  - The Dominican Republic is acknowledged as the most popular tourist destination in the Caribbean.  
<https://stluciatimes.com/2017/09/28/president-dominican-republic-address-unwto-conference-jamaica>
- **Dominican Republic's First Energy Storage Arrays Help Island's Grid to Prevent Blackouts**

- AES Dominicana's new battery-based energy storage arrays helped maintain grid reliability during hurricanes Irma and Maria, showing the ability to work during extreme conditions.
- The arrays are the first of their kind in Central America and the Caribbean.
- The energy storage arrays not only improve efficiency and stability of the national electricity system, but the arrays also, save millions in state funds, which can be used for public health, education, and security.
- AES Dominicana's storage arrays help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while protecting vulnerable regions from blackouts during extreme weather.

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20171017005627/en/Dominican-Republic%E2%80%99s-Energy-Storage-Arrays-Island%E2%80%99s-Grid>

<https://www.energy-storage.news/news/dominican-republic-energy-storage-stayed-resilient-during-hurricanes-irma-a>

<https://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/3019366/aes-claims-grid-battery-prevented-dominican-rep-hurricane-blackouts>

[https://markets.ft.com/data/announce/detail?dockkey=600-201710170800BIZWIRE\\_USPRX\\_BW5627-1](https://markets.ft.com/data/announce/detail?dockkey=600-201710170800BIZWIRE_USPRX_BW5627-1)

<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2017/10/19/aes-deploys-20-mw-of-storage-in-the-dominican-republic/>

- **Dominican Republic Trains Central American Armed Forces**

- The Dominican Ministry of Defense is training Central American service members on human rights and international humanitarian law.

- More than 27,000 attendees have been trained since 2000.

<https://dialogo-americas.com/en/articles/dominican-republic-trains-central-american-armed-forces>

- **Free Trade Zones in the Dominican Republic Bring Unprecedented Rate of Exports**

- Free-trade zones in the Dominican Republic have led to \$5 billion worth of exports in the last year, which shipped to 131 countries, and accounts for 58% of the country's total exports.

- Currently there are 57 free-trade zones throughout the country and 565 companies, which create more than 160,000 jobs.

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?q=rn&id=20177&SEO=free-trade-zones-in-dom-rep-with-unprecedented-rate-in-exports>

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