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

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• **The Dominican Republic Works to Diversify Its Energy Mix**

- The IFC has arranged an \$80 million financing package for a 50MW wind farm on the north coast of the Dominican Republic, which is expected to become operational in early 2019, and will reduce 91,000 tons of CO2 emissions annually.
  - The Dominican Republic is vulnerable to many issues associated with climate change, such as, rising sea levels, coral bleaching, and the changing frequency in tropical storms. Therefore, it has set a target to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2030, with efforts to cut its reliance on fossil fuels.
- <https://www.windpowermonthly.com/article/1454710/financial-package-50mw-dominican-project>

• **New Initiatives to Fight Zika and Malaria Give Hope to the Dominican Republic**

- Bill Gates has pledged \$31 million to the Regional Malaria Elimination Initiative (RMEI), which brings the total of new funds to \$83.6 million, and will be used to tackle Malaria in the region, as well as to combat other mosquito carrying diseases, like Zika, Dengue, and Chikungunya.
  - Although Malaria cases in Central America have dropped 90% since 2000, there were more than 40,270 cases reported in 2016.
  - WeRobotics wants to use their drones to release sterile mosquitos into Latin America and the Dominican Republic, to curb the spread of Zika, Klaptoz, Dengue, Chikungunya, and Yellow Fever. The company has recently used drones to transport medicine and medical samples to Peru and the Dominican Republic.
- <http://www.businessinsider.com/r-gates-backs-central-america-malaria-elimination-plan-with-31-million-2018-1?r=UK&IR=T>  
<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/mosquito-packed-drones-could-give-extra-bite-zika-fight>

• **The Government of the Dominican Republic Awards Medals of Merit to 1,039 Public Servants**

-The Minister of Public Administration awarded 1,039 public servants with the Medal of Merit, and an additional 30 for their high qualifications in their evaluation performance.

<https://acento.com.do/2018/actualidad/8531123-gobierno-republica-dominicana-entrega-medalla-al-merito-1-039-servidores-publicos/>

- **Tourism Rises in the Dominican Republic in 2017**

-Visitor arrivals grew by 4.2% in 2017, with 56.4% of tourists coming from North America, 4.6% from Central America and the Caribbean, 12.8% from South America, and 25.9% from Europe.

-The Dominican Republic received more than 1.5 million cruise passengers during 2017, which is a record number of visitors, and is a 37% growth since 2016.

<https://acento.com.do/2018/economia/8529813-republica-dominicana-crecio-4-2-entrada-visitantes-2017/>

<https://acento.com.do/2018/economia/8525558-republica-dominicana-recibio-mas-1-5-millones-turistas-cruceros/>

- **Progress in the Dominican Republic Commercial Sector Leads to Growth in the Economy**

-The commercial sector represents 10% of the GDP, which has given rise to the Dominican Republic economy. It also employs 44% of people employed by micro, small, and medium-sized companies.

-The Dominican Republic passed a Law 187-17 last year, which defined business classifications and allowed the launch of a Digital Republic platform that will speed-up and simplify the applications for companies when applying for certain certifications.

-The government's next step will be a Simplified Taxation Program that will make it easier for businesses to file their taxes.

<https://acento.com.do/2018/economia/8528720-valoran-sector-comercial-genera-44-empleos-republica-dominicana/>

All the best,

Rebecca Benn

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