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## Importance of Cuba in Regional Trade Highlighted

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In a new regional economic correlation, Cuba is an important player of tourist destination and other fields, assured the president of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Panama, Carlos Fernández.

In a press conference on occasion of the 34th Expocomer Commercial Fair 2016, the businessman extolled the way in which the island is inserted in the world market, reason why it attends this edition of the Fair not only with its traditional products, but also with new ones.

Fernandez also referred as to how the devaluation of some currencies has a negative impact on strategic economies of the region like

Argentina, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Chile and Venezuela, situation that has its impact in the Duty Free Zone of Colon, where the prices of many goods and services increased.

Despite this, Panama has kept growing for over ten years and for this year, it is projected to maintain its growth rate near its potential, he added.

The president of the Organizing Committee of Expocomer, Raul del Valle, explained this year it is expected to have the participation of exhibitors and buyers of some 30 countries of America, the Caribbean, Europe and Asia, in the lookout for opportunities to diversify their businesses. He said the present version of the Fair will be the largest in size in its history, with an area of 17 thousand square meters, distributed in 700 exhibition stands.

Among the products with greater presence in the commercial venue stand out foods, beverages, accessories and textiles, services, state of the art technologies and heavy equipment; while the countries most represented will be India, China, Taiwan and Mexico.

DelValle stressed the presence for the first time of Slovakia, while Belgium will be present with a pavilion, and the

reason is that Â  
many countries see Expocomer as a new opportunity of doing business in Central America, South America and the Caribbean'.

He also said in this occasion they expect to exceed the number of visitors regarding last year that was 10 thousand 500, as well as transactions that in 2015 totaled

124 million dollars.

The president of the Organizing Committee also announced the presence of some 120 businesspeople from Central America and the Caribbean, who will participate in the third Business Round.

Parallel to the multisector fair, from March 9 thru 12, will be taking place other important events like the traditional launch of the National Prize to Business Innovation and the Forum Panama Venue of Multinational companies. Business Opportunities, present and future.

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