

Meet the Ambassador – Uruguay

HE Mrs Dianela Pi, Ambassador of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay
in conversation with John Richardson

Wednesday 15 March: 5pm for 5.30-6.30pm AEDT at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

At the January 1 inauguration of Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, not one but three presidents from Uruguay were in attendance: the current leader, Luis Lacalle Pou, as well as former presidents José "Pepe" Mujica and Julio María Sanguinetti, historic rivals in Uruguayan politics, one from the left, one from the centre-right. At a time of polarisation and social unrest throughout Latin America, this show of unity highlighted Uruguay's stability.



The country has Latin America's highest per-capita income, its lowest poverty rate, and among its lowest levels of inequality. Uruguay's energy matrix is the region's greenest – it is a world leader in renewable energies - and its economy is forecast to grow a healthy 3.6% in 2023, more than double the Latin American average. International studies frequently portray Uruguay as the region's least corrupt country; the Economist Intelligence Unit ranked it the 13th strongest democracy in the world, ahead of the United Kingdom, Spain, and the United States, and well ahead of regional peers like Brazil, Colombia or Mexico.

Trade is the lifeblood of Uruguay's economy. Positioned between South America's two largest countries, Montevideo has relied on an outward-facing strategy to compensate for its small internal market, first through the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR), which includes Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, and looking to the future, applying for membership in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

2023 represents 75 years of diplomatic relations between Uruguay and Australia. What opportunities are there for further trade in areas such infrastructure, ag-tech and fin-tech? What can be done to enhance cooperation in energy transition, such as green hydrogen? How can people-to-people links be rebuilt post-covid?

In this next instalment of our *Meet the Ambassador* series, AIIA Victoria invites you to join Ambassador Pi to discuss the bilateral relationship and future opportunities.



HE Mrs Dianela Pi is a career diplomat with extensive experience in regional trade, and human rights, and has served as Uruguay's Ambassador to Australia since 2020. She formerly served as the Deputy Sub-General Director for Political Affairs and Director for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, having previously been Deputy Permanent Representative of the Uruguayan Mission to the United Nations in Geneva. Earlier roles were with the Uruguayan Mission to the UN in New York, where she was Facilitator and Coordinator of the Un Resolution of the Rights of the Child on behalf of GRULAC and the EU, and as Second Secretary, General Direction for Integration and MERCOSUR Affairs.

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