



LA LAGUNA



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AFTER THE STORM

€1.5 million in emergency aid

On the third weekend of November, gigantic waves rolled up to eight metres high towards the Canarian coasts, causing severe storm damage, especially in Garachico, Tacoronte and the coastal areas of La Laguna.

Fortunately, the damages were mainly material in nature. Only one person was injured, in Puerto de La Cruz, where a 70-year-old slightly injured his head and leg when a high wave at the lighthouse ripped him from the pier onto the concrete blocks below. He was lucky and was rescued. The residents of 67 apartments in the Mar y Sol building in Mesa del Mar, Tacoronte were evacuated and escaped unharmed, although on the first two floors of their building, the waves swept away some balcony railings, smashed window panes and seawater was able to enter some of the lower apartments unhindered.

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↑ Local politicians inspect the level of damage in Garachico

MOST ADMIRED KNOWLEDGE CITY

Canaries wins MAKCi award

“Knowledge itself is power”, as the English philosopher Francis Bacon wrote in the 16th century, and the Canary Islands are coming out on top for development in this area.

Knowledge is a common word, sometimes transcribed as wisdom, which has lost none of its topicality in the 21st century. The organisation World Capital Institute (WCI), which sees itself as a large think tank, is also concerned with knowledge and how it can be used to develop regions. Every year the institution distinguishes cities that stand out as places of knowledge. This year, the Canary Islands are among those recognised.

“Every woman and every man is an island. With birth begins our personal ‘island existence’. Each one develops his or her own intelligence, consciousness and identity, which ultimately define us and are the greatest human capital”, said WCI President Javier Carillo at the opening of this year’s award ceremony.



↑ Fernando Clavijo (r) accepts the award on behalf of the Canary Islands

The celebration of the eleventh international congress and the Most Admired Knowledge City Awards (MAKCi) were brought to Tenerife thanks to the commitment of the Humboldt Cosmos Multiversity, led

by its founder Dr. Günther Koch and Vice-President Rodrigo Trujillo González, lecturer at the University of La Laguna, and the support of the Canary Islands Government. The Humboldt Cosmos Multiver-

sity, founded six years ago and based in Tacoronte, regards Tenerife as a think tank from which new multidisciplinary impulses for the economy, science and society emanate. Due to the HCM activities, high-ranking and experienced scientists, artists and managers visit the island and exchange their knowledge with counterparts in Tenerife and with the younger generation.

The renowned natural scientist Alexander von Humboldt is a symbol for understanding the world through different approaches and therefore the namesake of the Multiversity. “Next year will see two anniversaries: Humboldt’s 250th birthday and his first research visit to Tenerife 220 years ago. I consider Humboldt to be such an important universal scientist that he could also be the namesake of this conference. He could be defined as a ‘knowledge researcher’ according to current thinking,” explained Dr. Günther Koch.

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BE A
DUKE!

THE
DUKE
SHOPS

COSTA ADEJE. TENERIFE

opening soon





INTO THE FUTURE

Sharing and caring



The three winners of MAKCi 2018: Canaries, Singapore and Vancouver

Continued from front page

What does a Knowledge City need?

The award recognises the development of a city or region in terms of eight factors:

1. It must have an identity of its own, meaning the ability of a city or region to develop an urban personality.
2. Intelligence - the capacity to anticipate and respond appropriately to developments and events.
3. The ability to regenerate and maintain a stable financial situation.
4. Healthy relationships, including ethnic diversity
5. A focus on people as individuals and assessment of how well they can develop from a biological and psychological basis.
6. The well-being of the human collective, which includes, for example, health care, population development, birth rates/percentages and social security systems.
7. Instrumental-material development, which includes the development of a first-class infrastructure using local conditions, climate and geographical location or cultural heritage.

and respect, security, strong family structures and good external relations.

8. Intangible assets are also considered. This means the ability to impart knowledge and introduce innovative support in all important areas of urban life.

Eleventh award ceremony - a Canary Islands' success

The three winners, who were honoured for their development as knowledge cities in 2018, were: Singapore in the Metropolis category, Vancouver in the City/Region category and the Canary Islands in the Emerging City/Region category. The Canary Islands beat the nominees: Arequipa in Peru, Bento Gonçalves in Bra-

zil, Lund in Sweden, Nancy in France, Britain's Newcastle upon Tyne, Manama in Bahrain and Panama City to get the award - strong competition indeed!

For Canary Islands President Fernando Clavijo, the award is recognition that in addition to strengthening tourism, strategies in other areas are being sought and promoted. Rafael Rebólo, Director of the Astrophysical Institute of the University of La Laguna, highlighted the important role of universities in development and growth. In the Canary Islands there are two large universities, in Gran Canaria and Tenerife, each with an international reputation. "The Canary Islands are on a path towards social, economic and scientific development," he stressed. They are on the way to establishing themselves as a benchmark in many ways. This was also underlined by the participants, who came from many different parts of the world, with a focus on business and research. More details about the Canary Islands' candidacy and the aims of the institution can be found on the www.worldcapitalinstitute.org website. ■

RESTORATION

Rainy day blues

Continued from front page

The Atlantic was also thundering once again at Garachico, which suffered particularly badly. The coastal road was closed to traffic as it became a raging river. The Castillo next to the natural swimming pools stood like an island in the middle of the Atlantic floods. The municipal swimming pools and local football ground were severely damaged by the waves. On the Saturday evening at 10pm, 24 people had to be evacuated from a building in Calle Esteban Pons after the waves reached the elevator. Firefighters led the evacuation. Only a few hours later, at around 2am, they were called back into action because in Calle Tomé Cano, waves had destroyed a third floor balcony.

A total of 39 people had to leave their homes in Garachico that night and were partly accommodated by family members. The remainder were taken to the gymnasium for the night. In Adeje in the south of Tenerife, the waves penetrated the restaurant at a hotel in Calle La Lava, where several guests were having dinner. Two cars, one in Bajamar and another in Puerto de la Cruz, were washed into the sea.

Damage limitation

Canary Island President Fernando Clavijo and Island President Carlos Alonso gained an impression of the devastation the following day walking through the scene of destruction in Garachico. The damage there amounts to around €800,000. Among other things, the sewage treatment plant was affected and had to be immediately repaired and restarted. In Tacoronte and La Laguna, the material damage is currently estimated at €400,000 and €350,000 respectively. In view of the immense devastation involving apartments, shops and public areas, President Clavijo assured immediate aid amounting to one and a half million euros. "It's our top priority to carry out the necessary repairs as quickly as possible so that everyday life can return to the communities affected" he stressed. President Alonso promised to include €400,000 in aid in the 2019 budget. He also called for risk assessment to be carried out and for measures to be taken if possible so that a similar scenario is not repeated. ■



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