

DOMINICANTODAY

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Rainieri's "green alliance" benefits Dominican Government, business alike



Airport, Punta Cana.

SANTO DOMINGO. - Tourism industry mogul Frank Rainieri wants the government and the private sector to forge a "green alliance" by developing a national recycling plan to protect the environment and generate new businesses and jobs.

Rainieri, president of the Punta Cana Group yesterday presented the solid waste comprehensive handling plan his company applies at the complex's International Airport, with which he affirms garbage collection expenses have fallen 56 percent, in addition to selling the recycled material and producing organic fertilizer for its golf courses.

He urged the government to secure low taxes to motivate imports of recycling equipment, and noted that when they imported fluorescent lamps to replace the incandescent light bulbs, they had to pay even higher taxes than the lamps which consume more energy.

The recycling project was presented in a conference in the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (Funglode) by the sanitary engineer Victor Ojeda, who said the program began in the airport, where 1,586 metric tons of waste are produced yearly, of which 985 will be recycled and 602 incinerated.

In that regard Julio Brache, president of Renaepa, a business network to protect the environment, asked industrialists and the government to weigh Punta Cana's initiative, and that faced with cost increases, Dominican companies must look for ways to generate income.

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