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Caracas, October 5 (RHC)-- The Venezuelan Ministry of Culture announced Wednesday the celebration of the XVI World Poetry Festival from October 13 to 20, with the participation of 35 foreign poets from some 30 countries, including Argentina, Cuba, Chile and Colombia.

This poetry festival is part of the tradition of the Bolivarian Republic's cultural policy and its days will be extended to the whole country, informed authorities in a press conference.

The sectorial vice-president of Communication, Culture and Tourism, Freddy Nájuez, pointed out that every night the Simón Bolívar Theater, in Caracas, will receive the bards with the reading of their works to summon and build bridges between cultures through the word.

He said that for more than a decade this event has transcended "the mere enclosure of books and bookstores to become a truly summoning power".

The Minister of Culture, Ernesto Villegas, expressed that once again Venezuela is summoning poetry through this International Festival that will reach "all corners of the country" with the verses of foreign guests, national poets and men and women lovers of this art.

He stated that his Ministry is counting on the collaborators of the Misión Cultura Corazón Adentro to fill all the spaces with poetry during the celebration of this call.

Villegas stressed that with this activity the South American nation reaffirms its commitment "to life, to joy, to the future, to faith and hope in a human humanity".

The President of the Andrés Bello Houses of Letters, William Osuna, recalled that this event arose as an initiative of Commander Hugo Chávez in the midst of a great political crisis, which needed a verb to go out to the streets and try to "place his shoulder to push towards a better society".

Osuna announced that the honoree in this XVI edition of the International Festival will be the national poet Ana María Oviedo, who exalts the Venezuelan lyric in "a maximum degree" to dialogue with any Hispanic or world poetry.

The National House of Letters, he pointed out, will organize a series of very important activities that will be translated into the taking of several key spaces in the center of Caracas.

He mentioned an anti-imperialist tribunal where more than 140 cultural activists among poets, singers and musicians will parade, in addition to conferences, book presentations and forums that have as central axis the 200 years of the poem *Mi delirio sobre el Chimborazo* by Simón Bolívar.

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