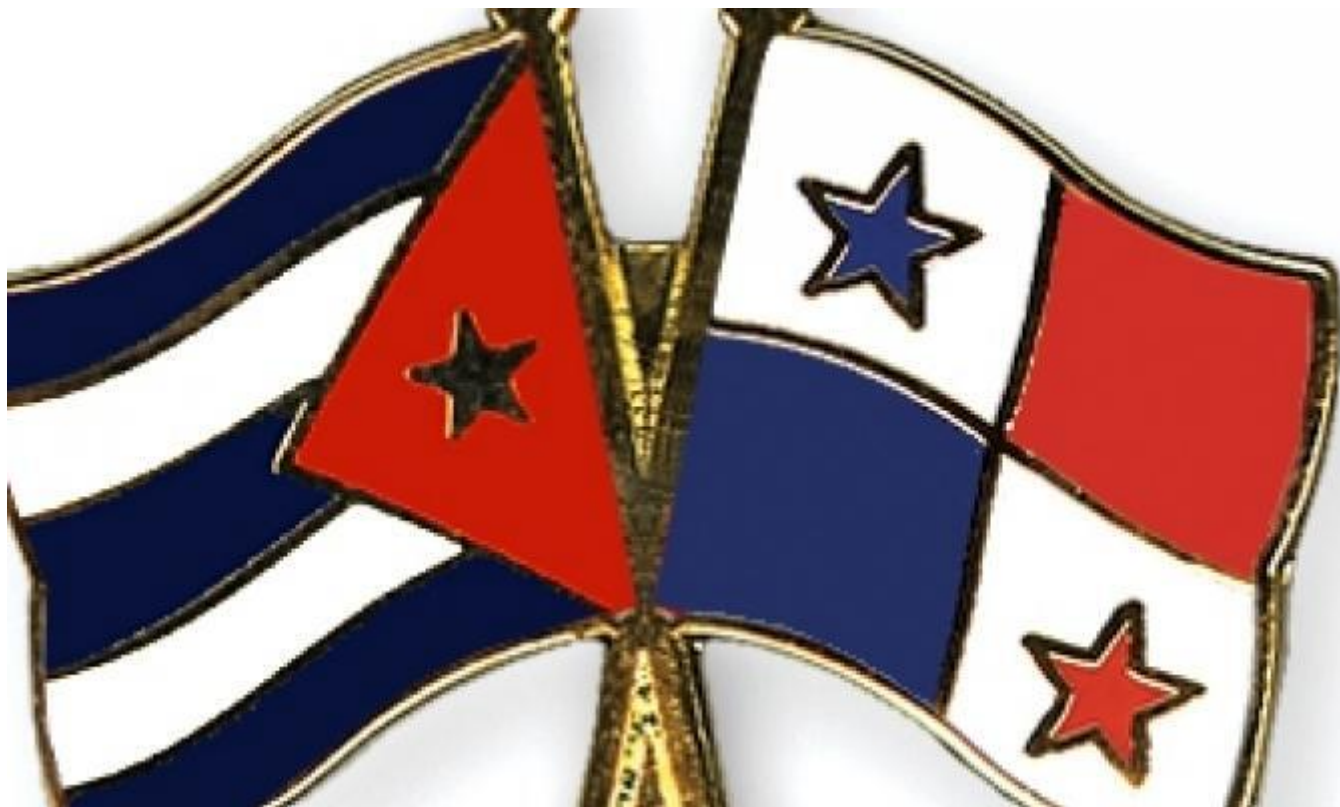


Cuba and Panama Sign Migratory Accord



Havana, September 10 (RHC)-- Cuba and the Republic of Panama signed a bilateral migratory accord toward facilitating travel between the two countries.

Visiting Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela said the accord, signed here in Havana by migratory authorities from the two countries, provides for changing 'authorized visas' into 'stamped visas.'

There are two types of visas for Panama, "stamped visas" and "authorized visas." The so-called "stamped visas" let some travelers enter Panama several times throughout the year. This type of visa is only available through a Panamanian embassy or consulate, and Panamanian authorities decide the length of the stay, which is usually 30 days per visit.

Citizens of some countries are required to have an "authorized visa," the most restrictive type of tourist visa. Like the stamped visa, this kind is only available through a Panamanian consulate or embassy. The officials will choose to either approve to decline the visa application, and will determine the length of stay.

President Juan Carlos Varela arrived in Havana Wednesday evening for an official visit. His delegation includes government officials and business executives.

On Thursday morning, the visiting dignitary paid homage to Cuban national hero José Martí at the Revolution Square. Other activities on his agenda include his participation in the Cuba-Panama Bi-National Entrepreneurial Forum, which begins Friday, aimed at strengthening bilateral economic and trade relations.

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