

GLOBAL HORIZONS

A communications platform for MIA's Protocol and International Affairs Division



JANUARY 2026

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ABOUT US

The core mission of MDAD's Protocol and International Affairs Division is to *facilitate the movement of official guests, delegations, dignitaries, and VIPs through MIA and support the airport's international programs and initiatives.*

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AUSTRALIA “The Land of Down Under”

Type of Government: [Federal](#) parliamentary [constitutional monarchy](#)

Heads of State:

The Monarch: [King Charles III](#)

The Representative: Governor-General Sam Mostyn

Head of Government: Prime Minister Anthony Albanese

Capital: [Canberra](#)

Population: 28.1 million (estimate 2026)

Currency: Australian Dollar (\$) – AUD.



Australia, officially the Commonwealth of Australia, is a country comprising the mainland of the Australian continent, the island of Tasmania, and numerous smaller islands. It has a total area of 7,688,287 km², making it the sixth-largest country in the world and the largest in Oceania. Australia is the world's smallest continent.

Continent of Australia: In many English-speaking countries and most international standards, Australia is recognized as its own continent. Technically, the "Australian continent" (sometimes called Sahul) includes mainland Australia, Tasmania, the island of New Guinea (which includes Papua New Guinea and the Indonesian provinces of Papua and West Papua), and surrounding islands. Outside the English-speaking world, particularly in many Latin American and European countries, Oceania is considered the continent, with Australia serving as its largest continental landmass. In this broader model, Oceania includes Australia, New Zealand, and thousands of Pacific island nations scattered across the regions of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

Australasia: This term is sometimes used to refer to the subregion comprising Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, and neighboring Pacific islands. Geologically, Australia sits on its own tectonic plate, the Australian Plate, which is distinct from the plates carrying other continents.

Some fun facts about Australia:

Australia is a land of unique extremes, from its massive geographic features to its one-of-a-kind wildlife. Here are 10 fun facts about Australia for 2026:

More Kangaroos Than People: As of 2026, Australia's human population is approximately 28.1 million, while there are more than 50 million kangaroos roaming the continent.

The World's Longest Golf Course: The Nullarbor Links spans 1,365 kilometers (848 miles) across two states, with holes located in different towns along the Eyre Highway.

More snow than Switzerland: The Australian Alps typically receive more snowfall each year than the Swiss Alps, making the region a major hub for skiing between June and September.

A "Moving" Continent: Australia is the fastest-moving continental landmass on Earth, drifting north toward South Asia at a rate of about 7 centimeters per year.

World's Largest War Memorial: The iconic [Great Ocean Road](#) was built by returning soldiers between 1919 and 1932 as a memorial to their fallen comrades from World War I.

Ancient Air Quality: The island of Tasmania is home to the cleanest air in the world, with air quality so pure that it serves as a global benchmark.

Invisible Giant: While famous for its height, roughly 2.5 kilometers of the massive sandstone monolith Uluru is hidden underground.

Cubic Droppings: The wombat is the only animal in the world known to produce cube-shaped poop, which helps the territorial marsupials mark their boundaries without the droppings rolling away.

The Great Dingo Fence: Australia maintains the world's longest fence, stretching 5,614 kilometers (3,488 miles), longer than the Great Wall of China, to keep wild dingoes away from fertile sheep-grazing land.

A Lifetime of Beaches: With over 10,000 distinct beaches along its coastline, it would take a person approximately 27 to 29 years to visit a new one every single day.

Australia is home to the world's largest coral reef system: The Great Barrier Reef, composed of over 2,900 individual reefs and 900 islands, is stretching over 2,300 km (1,430 miles) along the coast of Queensland, this incredible natural wonder is so large that it can actually be seen from space.



U. Desmond Alufohai

Division Director II

Protocol & International Affairs Division
Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)

Division Director's Message

As we begin a new year, I extend my sincere appreciation for your continued support and engagement. This community of readers remains the cornerstone of our work, and your commitment inspires us to strive for excellence every day.

The year ahead promises to be truly historic for Miami-Dade County. Our region will take center stage globally as host to two major international events: The FIFA Men's World Cup, the world's most-watched sporting event, will be held from June 11 to July 19. The G20 Summit of Heads of State, the foremost forum for international economic cooperation, will be convened on December 14 and 15.

These landmark occasions - one celebrating the universal language of sport, the other shaping the future of global economic collaboration - present Miami-Dade County with an extraordinary opportunity to demonstrate leadership, strengthen international partnerships, and inspire communities worldwide.

We are also honored to welcome two distinguished diplomats to our community: Ms. Karla Elizabeth Jubis, Consul General of El Salvador in Miami, FL, and Mr. Kentaro Mizuuchi, Deputy Consul General of Japan in Miami, FL. Their presence further enhances our region's global engagement.

Finally, we extend our warm congratulations to all nations commemorating their Independence Anniversaries or National Days. Join us to explore our refreshed format and remain engaged, as we move forward into 2026, a year of progress, unity, and global connection.

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR RELATIONS

Karla Elizabeth Jubis, Consul General of El Salvador in Miami



Ms. Karla Elizabeth Jubis serves as Consul General of El Salvador in Miami, Florida, with jurisdiction over Florida and Puerto Rico. She assumed her post on November 3, 2025, following a progressive career within the Salvadoran Foreign Service and a strong professional background in economics and finance.

An economist and financial professional, Consul General Jubis began her career in the private sector, where she developed a solid foundation in financial analysis, management, and strategic thinking. She entered public service in 2022, joining the Salvadoran Foreign Service as Vice Consul at the Consulate General of El Salvador in Doral. Her steady growth within the same mission reflects continuity, institutional knowledge, and a deep commitment to public service. She was promoted to Consul in July 2024 and later appointed Consul General in November 2025.

She is fluent in Spanish, English, and French, which supports her focus on dialogue, cooperation, and meaningful engagement across cultures. In her current role, Consul General Jubis places special emphasis on strengthening consular services, maintaining close ties with the Salvadoran diaspora, and promoting El Salvador's expanding opportunities, particularly in tourism and investment. She also considers it a priority to ensure that El Salvador maintains an active and visible presence within the consular and diplomatic community, fostering relationships with fellow representations and reinforcing the country's institutional standing abroad.

She highlights that El Salvador is experiencing a defining moment, marked by important national transformations that have enhanced the country's international profile and opened new avenues for collaboration. Through her work, she seeks to ensure that this evolving reality is clearly understood and recognized by the international community.

Consul General Jubis is committed to representing El Salvador with professionalism, clarity, and a forward-looking vision, while building bridges that reflect the country's renewed confidence and potential.

New Deputy Consul General of Japan in Miami, Florida



Mr. Kentaro Mizuuchi currently serves as the Deputy Consul General at the Consulate General of Japan in Miami (since December 2025). With over two decades of experience in diplomacy and international development, he has held key positions across Africa, the Middle East, the Pacific, and Asia.

Prior to his current role, he served as Chargé d'Affaires and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Japan in the

Republic of Sudan (2023–2025), where he oversaw bilateral relations during a critical period. From 2021 to 2023, he was Counselor at the Embassy of Japan in the Federated States of Micronesia, strengthening Japan's engagement in the Pacific region.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Kentaro held leadership roles within Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Deputy Director of the Global Environmental Division (2017–2020) and Deputy Director of the Economic Cooperation Planning Division (2013–2017). His expertise in economic cooperation and sustainable development was further demonstrated through assignments as a First Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in Zimbabwe (2010–2012) and as an Economic Cooperation Advisor at the Embassy of Japan in Ghana (2008–2010).

Before joining the diplomatic corps, Mr. Kentaro contributed to international development through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), serving as Project Formulation Advisor in Jordan (2003–2005) and Associate Expert (2002–2003). His early career included consulting roles with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and other firms, focusing on strategic and economic projects.

Academically, Mr. Kentaro holds an M.A. in International Relations from Waseda University's Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies (2002) and an M.Sc. in Physics from Kyushu University (1996).

AVIATION, CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & PROTOCOL TIDBITS

Aviation Global Outlook 2026

The global aviation industry is projected to reach a significant milestone in 2026, with total industry revenues expected to surpass \$1 trillion for the first time. This growth is driven by projected passenger traffic of 5.2 billion and a net profit margin of approximately 3.9%.

Key Market Drivers & Financials

- **Record Profits:** Global airline profits are forecast to hit \$41 billion in 2026. While revenues are rising, profit margins remain thin due to high labor costs and regulatory burdens.
- **Regional Growth Leaders:** India, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia are emerging as the primary engines of growth. These regions have a combined order backlog of over 3,000 aircraft.
- **Supply Chain Constraints:** Aircraft delivery backlogs at major manufacturers like Airbus and Boeing are now extending for over 11 years, maintaining high lease rates and keeping older aircraft in service longer than previously planned.

Sustainability & Energy Transition

The transition to Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) is a central theme, though adoption remains in its early stages.

- **Mandates:** 2026 marks a pivotal year for policy, with the EU and UK implementing 2% SAF blending requirements.
- **Volume Challenges:** Despite these mandates, SAF is projected to cover less than 1% of total global fuel consumption in 2026.

Technological Innovations

- **Advanced Air Mobility (AAM):** 2026 is slated to be the "takeoff" year for commercial electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. Companies like Archer and Joby are targeting commercial launches in major hubs, including New York, Los Angeles, and South Florida.
- **AI Integration:** Artificial intelligence is moving from experimental use to operational reality, specifically in "AI admin" for ultra-personalized passenger experiences and predictive maintenance (MRO) to reduce aircraft downtime.

Major Operational Events

- **2026 FIFA World Cup:** This event will represent a massive test for North American aviation infrastructure. Airports across the US, Canada, and Mexico are preparing for an estimated 5 million extra visitors during the summer tournament.

Protocol and Etiquette: 2026 Professional Presence: The Quick-Start Guide

1. Digital Demeanor

- **Prioritize Warmth:** Use clear subject lines and brief greetings. Efficiency is great; abruptness is not.
- **The 24-Hour Rule:** Aim for a response within one business day. Silence in a digital space is often misread as a lack of professionalism.

2. Hybrid Meeting Mastery

- **The 2-Minute Lead:** Log in early to troubleshooting tech and ensure your "digital stage" (background and lighting) is ready.
- **Strategic Visibility:** Keep cameras on to signal engagement but use the mute button religiously when not speaking to minimize distractions.

3. Intentional Dress

- **Visible Polish:** For virtual work, focus on "waist-up" professionalism. Neat collars and natural lighting are your best tools.
- **The Confidence Rule:** Dress for the authority you want to project, even if the office is your living room.

4. Composure & Clarity

- **The Power Pause:** Replace filler words like "um" or "like" with a purposeful pause. It signals confidence and gives you time to choose your words.
- **Feedback Framework:** Use a "Compliment-Suggestion-Compliment" structure to keep critiques constructive and respectful.

5. Professional Kindness

- **Acknowledge Often:** A quick "thank you" email or a public shout-out for a colleague's win builds social capital that lasts longer than any technical skill.

6. Navigate Human-AI Collaboration with Integrity

- **As AI becomes a standard collaborator, transparency is your new currency.** Be open about when and how you use AI tools in your work to maintain trust with human colleagues.
- **Respect the human need for focus** by prioritizing clear, asynchronous messages over constant real-time pings.

Pro-Tip: Modern etiquette is less about "following the rules" and more about making others feel respected. When in doubt, choose the action that minimizes friction for your team.



BRIEFS AND NOTES

Why New Year's Resolutions Are Thousands of Years Older Than You Think

If you're planning to sleep better, eat healthier, or finally cut down on doom-scrolling this January, you're participating in a tradition significantly older than gym memberships, digital wellness apps, or modern self-help books. The practice of making New Year's resolutions stretches back thousands of years, woven through ancient rituals, religious customs, and the complex evolution of modern culture.

The idea of pausing to reflect and committing to self-improvement is truly ancient. Historians trace the earliest known version to Babylon around 2000 B.C., when people celebrated the spring planting season with a massive 12-day festival called Akitu. During this time, the Babylonians would crown a new king or reaffirm their loyalty to the reigning monarch. As part of the festivities, they made solemn promises to their gods—most notably pledging to return borrowed farming equipment and pay off any outstanding debts. These vows weren't called "resolutions" in the modern sense, but the underlying spirit of clearing the slate for the year ahead was unmistakably similar to our own.

The Romans eventually took the concept further and made it more formal. They tied the practice specifically to January 1, a date dedicated to Janus, the two-faced god of beginnings and endings. With one face looking back at the past and the other peering into the future, Janus represented the ultimate spiritual threshold. Romans exchanged symbolic gifts of dates and honey, and they made solemn promises for the year ahead to ensure divine favor from the gods. According to historian Alexis McCrossen, this is the closest direct ancestor of the modern resolution: a personal promise made at the specific threshold of a new calendar year.

Other cultures adopted their own unique versions over the centuries. Medieval Europeans, for instance, held the "Vow of the Peacock," a chivalric ritual in which knights renewed their oaths of gallantry and bravery by placing a hand on a roasted peacock during a Great Feast. Later, early American figures like John Quincy Adams kept detailed New Year reflections in their personal diaries, blending deep spirituality with a rigorous sense of personal accountability. These journals served as a mirror for the soul, allowing them to track their moral progress and character flaws over several decades.

Yet despite these long-standing traditions, January 1 wasn't widely celebrated as the start of the year in the U.S. until the early 20th century. England and its colonies didn't even adopt the Gregorian calendar until 1752, and decades afterward, the date held very little cultural weight. It was primarily a fiscal marker, a day for settling accounts, renewing labor contracts, and buying fresh financial ledgers. In the antebellum South, it was even known as "Hiring Day" or "Heartbreak Day," a somber and tragic time when enslaved people were bought, sold, or reassigned, often tearing families apart at the start of the new fiscal year.

The shift toward celebration, and resolutions, as we know them, eventually came from two major influences. First were Watch Night services, late-night gatherings in Baptist and Methodist churches that emphasized repentance and renewal at the stroke of midnight. This tradition took on even greater significance on December 31, 1862, when Black Americans waited for the Emancipation Proclamation to take effect. Second was the arrival of German immigrants, who brought with them lively New Year's Eve festivities known as *Silvesterabend*, complete with music, dancing, and midnight toasts. These vibrant traditions helped popularize the idea of marking the exact moment the year turned with joy rather than just business.

By the early 1900s, with electricity lighting up major cities and the Times Square ball debuting in 1907, New Year's Eve had become a full-fledged cultural event. Newspapers began publishing stories about resolutions, some earnest, some humorous, and the practice steadily secularized. A 1947 Gallup poll showed familiar goals: improving character, being more efficient at work, quitting smoking, and saving money. Interestingly, health-related resolutions like losing weight or sleeping more ranked near the very bottom, a stark contrast to today's wellness-driven culture that prioritizes physical optimization and biometric tracking.

While the motivations behind resolutions have shifted, moving from religious duty to personal betterment. The human impulse remains the same: using a symbolic moment to reset, reflect, and recommit. McCrossen suggests reviving one older tradition: using January 1 as a day to reconnect with others, whether through visits, calls, or handwritten notes. And she reminds us that resolutions don't need to wait for a calendar milestone. "Each day," she says, "one could do that." The power of January 1 lies not in the date itself, but in the shared energy of millions of people choosing to begin again.

International Day of Peaceful Coexistence – January 28



On January 28, the international community comes together to observe the International Day of Peaceful Coexistence. Established by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 79/269, this observance is more than a symbolic gesture; it is a strategic imperative for global stability. In a world increasingly defined by digital polarization, geopolitical fracturing, and social unrest, this day serves as a critical reminder that peace is not merely a passive state or the absence of war. Rather, it is a dynamic, participatory process that requires constant nurturing, dialogue, and negotiation.

The Urgency of the Mandate

Why has the United Nations designated a specific day for "Peaceful Coexistence" on January 28? The answer lies in the evolving nature of global conflict. Modern disputes are rarely contained within borders; they spill over into economies, digital ecosystems, and community relations. The rise of intolerance and the rejection of the "other" have become systemic risks to development.

This day emphasizes that living together in peace is about accepting differences and listening to, recognizing, respecting, and appreciating others. It calls upon member states to promote reconciliation and to ensure that peace is sustainable, not just enforced by treaties but upheld by the daily actions of citizens. According to the [United Nations Refugee Agency \(UNHCR\)](#), the global population of forcibly displaced and stateless people in 2024 was 129.9 million, an increase of 6 percent from 2023.

The Role of Institutions and Professionals

For the business and professional community, the International Day of Peaceful Coexistence offers a unique lens through which to view Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria. Specifically, it aligns with UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, which aims to promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies.

Organizations play a pivotal role in this ecosystem. Workplaces are often the melting pots where diverse cultures, religions, and political views intersect. By fostering an environment of psychological safety and inclusion, businesses not only improve their own retention and innovation rates; they also model the behavior necessary for broader societal peace. A company that creates space for peaceful coexistence is resilient against internal friction and better equipped to navigate a complex global market.

From Theory to Practice: How to Observe

Observing this day requires moving beyond rhetoric into actionable steps. Here is how individuals and organizations can participate:

- **Promote Media Literacy:** Misinformation is a primary driver of conflict. Encouraging critical thinking and verifying sources prevents the spread of divisive narratives.
- **Encourage Intercultural Dialogue:** Create forums, whether town halls or casual lunch-and-learns, where individuals can share their backgrounds without fear of judgment. Exposure to different lived experiences is the strongest antidote to prejudice.
- **Invest in Education:** Support initiatives that teach conflict resolution and emotional intelligence. The capacity to disagree without being disagreeable is a skill that must be taught and practiced.
- **Address Inequality:** Recognize that peaceful coexistence is impossible without justice. Advocating for equitable opportunities within your sphere of influence helps remove the structural grievances that fuel conflict.

A Call for a Shared Future

As we mark January 28, we are reminded that our interdependence is our greatest strength. The challenges we face, from climate change to economic instability, do not respect national boundaries or cultural divides. Solving them requires a united front. The International Day of Peaceful Coexistence is a call to lay down the weapons of judgment and pick up the tools of dialogue. It is an invitation to build a world where our differences enrich us rather than divide us.

References:

United Nations – General Assembly Resolution 79/269: [International Day of Peaceful Coexistence](#); Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16>; UNESCO – Intercultural Dialogue: [International Dialogue](#); UN Peacekeeping – What is Peacekeeping? [What is peacekeeping | United Nations Peacekeeping](#)

Ceremonial Guard Traditions Exist Across Every Major Region of the World



While none replicate the continuous, all-weather 24/7 vigil of the Arlington Sentinels, many share their discipline, symbolism, and role as guardians of national memory. The closest parallels are units that guard national tombs or perform honors for fallen soldiers, such as Greece's Evzones or India's ceremonial guards at war memorials.

At Arlington National Cemetery, a quiet yet powerful ritual has continued uninterrupted since 1937. No matter the weather, time of day, or national crisis, a Tomb Sentinel from the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Regiment, "The Old Guard," walks the black mat before the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Their vigil is a promise that America will never forget those who gave their lives without recognition or name.

America's Eternal Watch

Serving as a Tomb Sentinel is one of the most demanding assignments in the U.S. Army. Only a fraction of volunteers are accepted, and even fewer earn the Tomb Guard Identification Badge, one of the rarest honors in the military. The role requires total commitment. Sentinels spend hours preparing their uniforms and equipment before each shift, which lasts 24 hours, during which they perform a precise, symbolic routine.

Every movement is intentional. The 21-step march and 21-second pauses echo the 21-gun salute, the nation's highest military honor. Their uniforms bear no rank insignia, ensuring they never outrank the unknown heroes they guard. Even their equipment is specialized, from wet gloves for rifle control to ceremonial M-14 rifles and custom sidearms carried by relief commanders.

Though their presence is ceremonial, their purpose is not. The guards are there to protect the tomb, preserve its sanctity, and ensure that every visitor shows proper respect.

A Global Tradition of Ceremony and Memory

While no other nation maintains a continuous 24/7 vigil like Arlington's, many countries honor their history and identity through elite ceremonial guards.

- Vatican City's Swiss Guard protects the Pope with centuries-old traditions and iconic Renaissance uniforms.
- The United Kingdom's King's Guard performs world-famous ceremonies at Buckingham Palace, symbolizing the continuity of the monarchy.
- Greece's Evzones guard their own Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with expressive, historic movements.
- Denmark, Norway, and Canada maintain ceremonial units that blend military precision with national heritage.

Across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, similar units uphold national symbols and safeguard leaders. Egypt's Republican Guard, Morocco's Royal Guard, South Korea's Honor Guard, Japan's Imperial Guard, India's President's Bodyguard, and others perform highly disciplined ceremonial duties that reflect national pride and historical continuity.

What Makes Arlington Unique

Many ceremonial guards protect palaces, presidents, or national monuments. Only the Sentinels at Arlington dedicate their service solely to the unknown fallen, those whose names, ranks, and stories were lost to war. Their vigil is not for spectacle or tradition alone; it is an act of remembrance, discipline, and devotion. In a world full of ceremonial pageantry, the Tomb Sentinels stand apart. Their silent watch reminds us that sacrifice endures beyond identity, and that honor is owed to every soldier, known or unknown, who gave everything to their country.

INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (JANUARY 2026)

January 1, 1804 – Haiti: Two months after defeating the French forces, Jean-Jacques Dessalines proclaimed the independence of Saint-Domingue. He renamed it Haiti after the original Taíno-Arawak name for the entire island of Hispaniola, which they called Ay-ti, 'land of mountains'.

January 1, 1956 – Sudan: On this date, Sudan gained independence from Egypt and Great Britain.

January 1, 1960 – Cameroon: In 1960, French Cameroun gained independence from France, and the Republic of Cameroon was proclaimed. After an UN-supervised plebiscite on February 11, 1961, in British Cameroons, the south decided to join Cameroon, creating the Federal Republic of Cameroon, while the north joined the Federation of Nigeria.

January 1, 1962 – Samoa: On this date, Samoa gained full independence from New Zealand, becoming the first Pacific nation to gain independence. The holiday was moved to June 1 to avoid conflict with New Year's Day.

January 1, 1984 – Brunei Darussalam: Brunei Darussalam had been a British protectorate since 1888 and gained full independence from the United Kingdom on that date.

January 4, 1948 – Myanmar: Burma declared independence from British rule on January 4, 1948. In 1989, the military controlled the government, which renamed the country Myanmar. This name originated from "Mranma"; the name of the Bamar people who first started migrating from China to the Irrawaddy River during the 7th century.

January 22, 1918 – Ukraine: On this day in 1918, the Ukrainian People's Republic declared its independence from Soviet Russia, and on January 22, 1919, the Act of Unity briefly united the Western and Greater (Eastern) Ukrainian Republics. In 1922, the new Union of Soviet Socialist Republics reconquered Ukraine, and the country became one of the original republics of the USSR. On August 24, 1991, Ukraine regained its independence. January 22 remains an important day for Ukrainians and is celebrated as Unity Day.

January 26, 1788 – Australia: Australia Day commemorates the landing of the First Fleet in Port Jackson, New South Wales, on January 26, 1788. On this day, the British flag was raised for the first time, signaling both the beginning of the colony and the founding of Australia.

January 31, 1968 – Nauru: A 1919 agreement placed the island under joint British, Australian, and New Zealand rule. Nauru was granted self-rule in 1966 and achieved full independence in 1968, making it the smallest island country on Earth, and the third smallest in landmass behind only Vatican City and Monaco.

THE DIPLOMATIC PATH

