Lisbon and her Port as a Gateway to the Multi-Cultural and Multi-Civilizational World

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The Tagus estuary is the largest in Western Europe. It has nearly 320 Kms$^2$.

The Port of Lisbon has always been important since ancient times.
In the leading process of transforming the Atlantic into a familiar Ocean, Lisbon played a key role as a port-city, has legend had it, was founded by Ulysses, the Greek hero.
Background information

- In the 12th century the Tagus river was so rich in fish, that common people said that only 1/3 of the river was water.
- This applied also to gold. The crown and the scepter of King Dinis, who ruled in 13th century, was made of gold extracted from the river banks.
Background information

- Due to her privileged location at the mouth of the Tagus, Lisbon’s city-port kept developing until it turned into a major worldwide centre in the 15th and 16th centuries.
Background information

- From her port hundreds of ships flying the Portuguese flag set out in quest of new worlds.
- Lisbon became a gateway to a Multi-Cultural and Multi-Civilizational World.
In these two centuries, Lisbon’s population was made up of peoples from different places in the world.

According to several scholars, nearly 10% of the residents were from other parts of the world.
Current situation

- Although Portugal and the Lisbon port-city has lost the preeminence of the 15th and 16th centuries, with the influx of immigrants from various parts of the world since the mid-1990s, Lisbon has become once again the gateway to a Multi-Cultural and Multi-Civilizational World.
The 1998 Lisbon World Exposition was held under the theme “The Oceans: An Heritage for the Future”.

It had nearly 11 million visitors in 132 days.

It led to the successful redevelopment of a 5 Km-wide strip in the eastern part of Lisbon by the Tagus river.
Current situation

- As of 2007, 188,516 foreign nationals had residence in the Greater Lisbon Metropolitan Area, which represents 8,44% of the total population.
- On the other hand, this represents nearly 43,26% of the 435,736 that resided in Portugal.
Current situation
Breakdown of Immigrants in Lisbon, 2007

- **Asia; 12,212**
- **Americas; 31,380**
- **Europe; 51,510**
- **Africa; 93,240**

Source: Home Affairs Office
Current situation

- The First Meeting of the Port Authorities of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries took place on 25\textsuperscript{th} and 26\textsuperscript{th} September 2008 in Oporto, in the northern part of Portugal.

- Eight Portuguese-speaking countries attended this meeting and they agreed to strengthen links amongst Port Authorities and to reinforce common technical standards.
Further readings


Proposed international logo for PUL

Port-city University League
OBRIGADO!

ありがとう!

THANK YOU!

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