Beat: Travel

GATES OPEN TODAY FOR THE MILAN EXPO WORLDS FAIR

FIRST VISITOR TO ENTER AT 10:00 A.M.

Milan, Italy, 01.05.2015, 17:10 Time

USPA NEWS - The gates to the much-awaited Milan Expo 2015 world's fair opened for the first time to visitors today at 10 a.m. on the dot. The very first to enter was Marilena Basciani, from Como.

A reported 100,000 people flocked to the inauguration on Friday, said Agriculture Minister Maurizio Martina, whose brief includes Expo, launching the hashtag #let'ssuprisetheworld. Basciani said she was "very interested" to see the food-themed fair, which runs through October 31 under the banner Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life to focus on nutrition and fighting hunger worldwide. The Mayor of Milan Giuliano Pisapia was also enthusiastic. "We made it," he said at the beginning of his inauguration speech for the world's fair.

Organizers had vowed the massive Rho Pero site hosting Expo would be ready in time for the May 1 inauguration, despite construction delays on a number of pavilions. And officially opening the event on Friday, Italian Premier Matteo Renzi said Italy's "tomorrow starts today". "The most beautiful enterprise starts today," he added. "Let's demonstrate with Expo that Italy is proud of its roots, of its traditions," he went on. Renzi in particular thanked workers who have been working around the clock seven days a week to complete all the pavilions and give the final touches to structures at Milan's massive Rho Pero in time for the May 1 inauguration.

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