

Solar Panels and Home Improvement Supplies: Cuban-Chinese Trading Company Plans to Open a Store in Havana



The store will offer both wholesale and retail sales (Source: [Cubadebate](#)/AI-scaled)

Anyone looking to buy cement, tools, or solar panels in Havana usually has a hard time: Well-stocked hardware stores are few and far between on the island. That's set to change—with help from China. The Cuban-Chinese joint venture SUMAI S.A. is preparing to open a store in the Vedado neighborhood, as the news portal [Cubadebate reports](#). According to the company, there is no specific opening date yet, but based on photos, construction work appears to be well underway.

SUMAI S.A. was officially unveiled in January 2025 and is considered the first-ever joint commercial venture between Cuba and China. It was established as part of the Platform for Investment and Trade with Latin America (PICLA) and is part of the Cuban government's strategy to [attract](#) foreign capital to the wholesale and retail sectors.

Wide Range of Products for Businesses and Individual Customers

The store in Vedado is intended to handle both wholesale and retail sales and is located in the building that formerly housed “Ten Cents” at the corner of 23rd and 10th. The product range is expected to include renewable energy equipment, building materials, hardware, household goods, home appliances, food, as well as office and school supplies.

SUMAI S.A. could fill a gap for these products, which, while available online, rarely appear in large retail spaces. The company has pledged to collaborate with all suppliers and

manufacturers who can ensure a stable and sufficient supply for the Cuban market. This is likely to include established partners such as the Chinese online store [Dofimall](#).

Prices are listed in U.S. dollars, and payment can be made in cash or with cards authorized in Cuba. Separate terms and conditions are to apply to wholesale customers, though the exact details have not yet been disclosed.

Expansion Planned Across Several Provinces

During a pilot phase in Camagüey Province, SUMAI S.A. had already attracted attention, primarily by offering solutions to address the country's ongoing energy crisis. Among other products, the company sold monocrystalline solar modules with an output of 590 watts, as well as other equipment for harnessing renewable energy.

Beyond the store in Vedado, the company plans to establish a network of branches in several provinces across the country. SUMAI S.A. states that it aims to create both direct and indirect jobs and to provide the population with better access to consumer goods through competitive prices.

The company's opening comes during a period of far-reaching economic reforms in Cuba. The National Assembly recently [passed a package of 176 measures](#) designed to make the island more attractive to foreign investors and to capital from Cubans living abroad. ([Cubaheute](#))