

Colombia Independence Day Special

Active advocate of environmental protection

ANGELA DURAN
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF COLOMBIA



On the occasion of the 214th anniversary of independence, the Colombian government extends its warmest greetings to their majesties the emperor and empress, the imperial family, His Excellency Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and the people of Japan.

The National Development Plan 2022-2026 prioritizes strengthening and deepening our ties with the Asia-Pacific region. Against this background, Japan is a key strategic partner in areas such as economic cooperation, where the Japan Economic and Social Development Program has contributed to the consolidation of bilateral relations. Recently, the bonds between Colombia and Japan have been reinforced with initiatives, such as new mechanisms and memorandums of cooperation.

To further enhance these efforts, this week the two governments held their first political dialogue under the administration

of President Gustavo Petro. These consultations, aimed at reinvigorating and broadening the bilateral agenda, led to important contributions to the ties that so happily exist between our countries.

Also, the upcoming First Joint Committee on Trade, Investment and Industry, scheduled for September in Bogota, will allow Colombian and Japanese officials to explore new avenues for economic collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

The Colombian government is also dedicated to combatting climate change by promoting renewable energy, supporting

sustainable transportation and mobility, reducing deforestation while promoting reforestation, developing sustainable agricultural practices and implementing clean technologies, and improving energy efficiency, among other strategies.

Colombia is the most biodiverse country in the world per square kilometer, and an active promoter of environmental protection. This is further exemplified by its role as host of the upcoming 16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held under the slogan "Peace

with Nature." This conference, which will take place in the city of Cali from Oct. 21 to Nov. 1, aims to promote sustainable development practices and halt biodiversity loss, a fundamental step toward the protection and conservation of biological diversity in the world.

COP 16 will bring together decision-makers and experts who will discuss the world's achievements and challenges in complying with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which was agreed to at COP 15 in 2022. This agenda sets an ambitious road map for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by 2030, with four objectives and 23 goals, and it is expected that one of the outcomes of COP 16 will be the initiation of the "World Coalition for the Peace with Nature."



The Chiribiquete National Park FONTUR



Strong relations more important than ever

TAKEHIKO KAKIUCHI
CHAIR, JAPAN-COLOMBIA ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, KEIDANREN



On behalf of the Japan-Colombia Economic Committee of Keidanren, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the 214th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of

Colombia.

Colombia is an essential partner for Japan, sharing common fundamental values and principles such as freedom, democracy, the

respect for the rule of law and respect for human rights. Over the course of many years, our two nations have cultivated a relationship built on friendship and cooperation.

The international community is currently facing many severe challenges, and under such circumstances, we firmly believe that strengthening the partnership between our two countries has become more critical than ever. Moreover, to achieve sustainable growth through tackling multiple global issues, further innovations such as green transformation initiatives are now a necessity. The implementation of the joint credit mechanism would be one of many opportunities that Japan and the Republic of Colombia could cooperate on to accomplish such objectives.

In recent years, a bilateral tax convention has entered into force, and a memorandum of cooperation has been executed to establish a joint committee to promote trade, investment and industry between our countries.

To further strengthen economic ties between Japan and the Republic of Colombia, which is also a member of the Pacific Alliance, it is key that we continue engagements and discussions to implement additional frameworks to further boost bilateral trade and investment.

In closing, I offer my best wishes for the health and prosperity of the people of the Republic of Colombia and for the continued strengthening of the relationship between our nations.

Friendship continues to grow

TATSUMARO TERAZAWA
PRESIDENT, COLOMBIA-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



On behalf of the Colombia-Japan Friendship Association, I would like to congratulate the people of Colombia on their Independence Day.

Colombia has a constitutional history that dates back more than two centuries, building democracy and freedom based on respect for human rights and the freedom of expression. Despite facing social

challenges, such as the rise in insecurity caused by illegal armed groups in the latter half of the 20th century, Colombia has maintained steady economic growth and prosperity.

Japan and Colombia share political values and maintain a complementary economic relationship, and in recent years, both countries have further strengthened their bonds of friendship.

I hope that political and economic relations continue to strengthen, and that Colombia continues its development in the future.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Colombia on
Their Independence Day

We support the Colombian coffee industry
through our coffee concern

BROOK'S

Importer, roaster and seller of Colombian coffee

BROOK'S CO., LTD.

4-54-6 Utsukushigaoka, Aoba-ku, Yokohama 225-8539

Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Colombia on
Their Independence Day

 **Mitsubishi Corporation**