

Colombia Independence Day Special

Celebrating 115 years of friendship and trade

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



Colombia's independence this year marks a significant milestone for us, since our commemoration of one more year as a sovereign nation also marks 115 years of friendship with Japan.

On the May 25, 1908, diplomatic, commercial and cooperation ties were established with Japan for the first time through a friendship, commerce and navigation treaty, and strengthened by the establishment of the Japanese delegation in Bogota in 1954, and the Colombian mission in Tokyo in 1955, which became an embassy two years later.

Since then, strengthening political dialogue based on common values and fostering economic cooperation to promote trade and investment has been the main purpose of an alliance that has become stronger and more diversified with the passing of time, and that is of the utmost importance in Colombia's current path of

progressive change. This path comprises actions for a more sustainable, more inclusive and more peaceful society, and in undertaking these actions, Japan has become a key partner for Colombia honoring 115 years of friendship between our nations, highlighting its contribution to the materialization of total peace, the strongest commitment of President Gustavo Petro's administration.

In addition, Colombia and Japan share

forward-looking priorities in line with the global challenges ahead of us. Both countries are working toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, transforming our energy systems to produce cleaner energy, and implementing nature-based solutions that allow us to protect, use and sustainably manage our ecosystems.

Let this also be an occasion to highlight that Japan has recognized and supported Colombia's efforts to address the challenges that arose with the arrival of

more than 2.5 million migrants, both at the bilateral and multilateral levels, confident that the country's migratory policy is based on an approach of solidarity. Additionally, Japan has become a strategic ally for the achievement of peace through its support of social and productive development.

In this celebration of our nation and 115 years of friendship with Japan, Colombia looks forward to continuing to position key issues in the bilateral relationship, and continuing to have Japan as an ally for the meaningful transitions that we are now undertaking, aiming to achieve a society where everyone has a place and no one is left behind, echoing the U.N. sustainable development goals that Colombia skillfully helped craft some years ago.



A panoramic view of Medellín
PROCOLOMBIA

EPA key as growth goes green and digital

TAKEHIKO KAKIUCHI
CHAIR, JAPAN-COLOMBIA ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, KEIDANREN



On behalf of Keidanren's Japan-Colombia Economic Committee, I am honored to offer my warmest congratulations to the government and people of the Republic of Colombia on the 213th anniversary of their independence.

As we move into the post-pandemic era, the world is in a tough situation. While

battling inflationary pressures, economies need to squarely engage in green and digital transformation to achieve sustainable growth. For companies to continue actively developing their global businesses, it will be essential to maintain and strengthen a free and open international economic order.

Japan and Colombia have long enjoyed amicable and cooperative relations, however there are still many potential fields with scope for further collaboration. With the second-largest population in South America after Brazil, Colombia is an attractive investment destination for Japanese companies, and we have high hopes that economic ties will be strengthened under the leadership of President Gustavo Petro.

To this end, we eagerly anticipate the prompt conclusion of a Japan-Colombia economic partnership agreement, which will add impetus to our trade and investment relations with Colombia under free and fair rules. Although we are aware that the last push toward the summit will be the steepest and most challenging stage of negotiations between our governments, we are confident that an EPA will lay the foundations for developing bilateral relations.

In closing, I extend my very best wishes for the good health and prosperity of Colombians and reaffirm our committee's firm commitment to further enhance the economic cooperation between our countries.

Pushing for deeper bilateral ties

TATSUMARO TERAZAWA
PRESIDENT, COLOMBIA-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



On behalf of the Colombia-Japan Friendship Association, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the people of the Republic of Colombia on the

213th anniversary of their Independence Day.

Japan and Colombia have shared the same political values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule

of law and have enhanced their economic relations with improved security conditions.

I deeply hope for Colombia's strong economic growth and continuous development and the further strengthening of the political, economic and cultural relationships between our two countries.

The Japan-Colombia Friendship Association (a nonprofit organization) celebrates its 10th anniversary this year and will continue its utmost efforts at reinforcing bilateral ties.

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

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