

Peru independence day/world

Common values, goals shape friendship

Juan Carlos Capunay
AMBASSADOR OF PERU

On the occasion of the 188th anniversary of the independence of Peru, it is an honor to present to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and the government of Japan the greetings of a friendly government and people, which this year share the 110th anniversary of Japanese migration to Peru and the first 20 years of Peruvian migration to Japan.



We have recently had the pleasure to receive in Peru Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Hitachi, who participated in a number of commemorative activities. These social and human ties are the platform on which bilateral relations develop and rely. They have contributed to the generation of an optimal relationship level between both nations.

It was a particular highlight April 13, when Prime Minister Taro Aso talked on the phone with Peruvian President Dr. Alan Garcia and asked him formally to begin conversations toward the establishment of an economic partnership agreement. Since then, there have been two negotiation rounds, in Lima and Tokyo. EPA crystallization will frame the following actions within our future bilateral relations.

This decision was preceded by the official visit to Peru of Prime Minister Aso, which coincided with the XVI APEC summit, titled "A New Commitment to Asia-Pacific Development," held in November 2008 in Lima. At this meeting, both leaders signed a Bilateral Treaty on the Pro-

motion, Protection and Liberalization of Investment, with the aim to promote investments and strengthen economic relations between both countries.

Under this perspective, "Peru Ten," an exhibit on commerce and investment opportunities, as well as on Peruvian culture, tourism and gastronomy, organized by the Peruvian government and the Japan External Trade Organization, was held this February. The event was opened by Peruvian Minister of Foreign Affairs Jose Antonio Garcia Belaunde and Minister for Foreign Trade and Tourism Dr. Mercedes Araoz. Among its participants were several Peruvian enterprises as exhibitors and Japanese trade companies. Seminars on investment and tourism promotion, among other activities, were organized as well.

Within this framework, the second Peru-Japan Economic Committee Meeting (CEPEJA) was also held. Furthermore, the Japanese government decided to reactivate the Japan-Peru Parliamentary Friendship League in the Diet, with former Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura as president.

Last April, Peru became the first Latin American country to adopt the Japanese-Brazilian digital television system. This will enable new communications developments in areas yet to be explored in the country.

On the cultural scene, after celebrating the first 50 years of Japanese contributions to Peruvian archaeology, two weeks ago the magnificent exhibition, "Precursor of the Inca Empire: The Golden Capital of Sicán," which flourished in the northern coastal region of Peru five centuries before the Inca civ-

ilization, was opened. This touring exhibition, organized by the TBS television network, the National Museum of Nature and Science, and the Asahi Shimbun, will travel to many cities around Japan displaying around 200 of the most representative pieces of golden metalwork, textiles and pottery of the Sicán culture.

The interest among the Japanese public toward ancient Peruvian civilizations, and in general toward the ancient traditions of my country is an element of additional contact and approach. TV programs about Peruvian monuments, landscapes, festivities and traditions are often broadcast. Machu Picchu, a marvel of the modern world, is an archaeological icon that the vast majority of Japanese people would like to visit. The recent nomination of Caral, the most ancient city in Latin America, as a UNESCO World Heritage site, will turn this area into a new fascinating site for the growing number of Japanese tourists visiting Peru.

Peruvians in Japan have been working toward new levels of organization and coordination. Many of the members of this community aim to become economic and commercial actors and producers in this country within the framework of the upcoming EPA. The government of Peru, through its embassy and consuls general, supports these personal initiatives by organizing seminars, and by establishing links between them and the authorities in Peru.

All these recent approaches ratify the ever-increasing relevance and potential that represents the relationship between Peru and Japan. Bound by the Pacific Ocean, we hope it turns into a Japanese gateway to South America. This should be based on

growing infrastructure and interconnections, a consistent economy, which continues growing despite the international economic crisis and for which growth of 4 percent in 2009 is forecast, an increasing national and foreign investment rate, an international treaty network that includes the United States, China, Canada and Singapore, and ongoing negotiations with Japan, South Korea, the European Union and EFTA countries.

In future, focusing on investments in Peru, this network will represent almost 50 percent of global market access.

This new national anniversary provides the opportunity to observe objectively with satisfaction and optimism our excellent bilateral relations with Japan, with which we share common values such as democracy, international security and peacekeeping, market economy and environmental protection.



Trade talks: Two rounds of negotiations have taken place since Peruvian President Alan Garcia and Prime Minister Taro Aso agreed in April to begin discussions on an economic partnership agreement. EMBASSY OF PERU

The historic and social ties, as a common base of this relationship, and the undeniable progress achieved in all areas are a good reason to celebrate with and thank Japan, an important international actor that has welcomed us, and offers us day by day its friendship and cooperation.

Cooperation, exchanges forge close ties

Masahiko Komura
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-PERU
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

As president of the Japan-Peru Parliamentary Friendship League, I deliver with great satisfaction a special greeting to the government and people of Peru on their 188th National Day anniversary.



Last February, on the occasion of the official visit of Peruvian Minister of Foreign Affairs Jose Antonio Garcia Belaunde, I had the pleasure to inform him about the

reactivation of the Japan-Peru Parliamentary Friendship League and its functions. This plural entity contributes, in a relevant way, to the main objectives of our bilateral agenda, particularly those related to economic and commercial exchanges by means of economic partnership agreement negotiations, and the adoption of measures toward consolidation of the bonds forged between our countries and peoples.

I would like to highlight that the excellent bilateral relationship between Peru and Japan was promoted to a huge extent by Peruvian President Alan Garcia's official visit to

Japan in March 2008. At that time, I was minister of foreign affairs, and I could directly assess the deep coincidences both countries share over the promotion strategy for growth and development, including the important coordination and approaches within APEC, and in general, our joint action in facing major global issues.

It is my wish that these significant guidelines, together with the close contacts among our peoples during the 135 years of diplomatic relations, and the permanent mutual interests on history, culture and traditions shall deepen and strengthen even more our bonds and cooperation into the future.

Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Peru on the 188th Anniversary of Their Independence Day



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Working to expand trade, investment opportunities

Shimpei Miyamura
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PERU BUSINESS
COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-Peru Business Committee, I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the people of the Republic of Peru on the occasion of the 188th anniversary of their Independence Day.



In 1973, Peru became the first country in Latin America to establish diplomatic relations with Japan. This year, we also celebrate the 110th anniversary of the first instance of Japanese immigration to Peru in 1899. These significant events have allowed both countries to enjoy a long and friendly relationship.

Despite the global economic crisis that began last year, Peru has achieved astounding

economic growth of 9.8 percent per annum, thanks to its abundant natural resources and exceptional market potential. It continues to maintain its status as one of the world's best investment opportunities. I would also like to express my appreciation for the strong leadership of President Alan Garcia and the support of the citizens of Peru during the APEC summit in Lima last November. The summit concluded with many accomplishments and has deepened mutual trust between the participating countries.

The Japan-Peru Business Committee was set up in 1993 to encourage a friendly working relationship, and to promote trade and investment between the two countries. After a lull in activities, President Garcia made a firm commitment to Peru's relationship with Japan and supported the committee's resumption of activities in October 2007, when I

was fortunate enough to be appointed chairman. In March last year, we welcomed key Peruvian members of the committee to Japan for our seventh joint meeting in Tokyo.

As a result of the meeting, a joint statement was released that encouraged sustainable development through vigorous investments in a variety of businesses, including those related to resources, manufacturing and fishing, etc. The statement called for the early conclusion of a bilateral investment treaty between the two countries. Shortly after this statement was released, thanks to the great efforts of both governments, a BIT was promptly signed during the APEC summit and is scheduled to be promulgated in the near future. The Subcommittee on Improvement of the Investment Environment described in the BIT will repre-

sent the governments and industries of Japan and Peru, and it will also address business practice issues related to investment in both countries.

This February, we held the eighth joint meeting of the Japan-Peru Business Committee in conjunction with the "Peru Ten" exhibition in Tokyo. A strong statement was issued to facilitate the conclusion of an agreement between Japan and Peru for an economic partnership agreement as the next step in increasing trade activities. Negotiations on the EPA began in May.

The committee hopes to take this opportunity to deepen economic relations between Japan and Peru with the goal of working toward the greater prosperity of both countries. The Japan-Peru Business Committee will continue to further the growth of economic relations and work for a prosperous future.

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