

Paraguay national day

Working together to build brighter, better futures for our nations

Naoyuki Toyotoshi
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF
PARAGUAY

On the occasion of the 201st anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Paraguay, and on behalf of the government of



President Fernando Lugo Mendez and the people of Paraguay, I would like to convey our respectful greetings, best wishes and health to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, members of the Imperial family, and His Excellency Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, members of the Japanese government and the people of the friendly nation of Japan.

One year has passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake and the resulting tsunami, the combination of which left vast devastation in its wake in the region of Tohoku. However, I am fully

confident that with wisdom and "kizuna (solidarity)" the Japanese people will not only overcome the enormous difficulties and recover, but also create a new and even stronger nation in the process.

Among the contributions received and transferred to the Red Cross and other NPO institutions, the Embassy of Paraguay participated actively in "the 1 Million Tofu Project." One million packs of tofu manufactured from Paraguayan nontransgenic soybeans were distributed to the victims of this unmerciful natural disaster.

The project started April 14, 2011, almost exactly one month after the Great East Japan Earthquake and delivered the first shipment to the city of Ishinomaki in Miyagi Prefecture and then subsequently to all other affected areas, and accomplished our target of distribution of one million of tofus on February 22, 2012.

This was made possible only with a call to action and strong



Food aid: One million packs of tofu made from Paraguayan soybeans have been distributed to the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake. EMBASSY OF PARAGUAY

collaboration of the government and people of Paraguay, and a private Japanese company (which voluntarily joined this humanitarian effort).

Notwithstanding the great challenges posed by this devastating tragedy at home, the Japanese government has continued extending its vital assistance to our development as a country, especially in the fields of agri-

culture, health and infrastructure, for which we take this opportunity to once again express our deepest and most sincere appreciation to the government and people of Japan as we continue with our struggle against poverty, and continue with our nation building into the future.

In this sense, we have no doubt that the creation of employment is our first priority, for

which we have extended invitations to potential Japanese investors not only in the agricultural business sector but also in other labor-intensive industries that require high-quality workers.

I have shared with many interested Japanese companies the set of uniquely strong combinations of variables that make Paraguay a highly desirable destination for investment.

The Paraguayan Laws of Investment the 60/90 and Maquila Law allows, among many other advantages, the complete exoneration of import duties on capital goods and equipment, and a substantial reduction in corporate income tax rates make Paraguay one of the most interesting and viable investment opportunities in South America. In addition, the majority of Paraguayans are young, hard working, and fast and willing learners, and as a whole our labor market is free from conflicts

Under these circumstances, I have had success in enabling a shipbuilding company to manu-

facture river barges, which are necessary to transport more than 80 percent of export and import goods in Paraguay.

Another manufacturing company produces parts for the auto industry in the Mercosur markets (mainly Argentina and Brazil). Additionally, more companies are in the process of discovering how Paraguay can help with their corporate and investment needs in the region.

Lastly, as ambassador of the Republic of Paraguay in Japan I would like to extend my gratitude to the Japanese government and people for their warm hospitality and support.

On this our anniversary as an independent country, and alongside my fellow Paraguayan citizens at home and living in Japan, we happily celebrate together with our Japanese friends and brothers, with whom we share the immense joy in our deep, long and sincere friendship and mutual respect, evidenced many times but especially during these difficult times in our host nation.

Congratulations

to the Republic of Paraguay
on the 201st Anniversary
of Independence



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