

Panamanian president's visit

Improving Panamanian quality of life with Japanese technology

Ritter N. Diaz
AMBASSADOR OF PANAMA

I would like to welcome President of the Republic of Panama H.E. Juan Carlos Varela and the First Lady, Lorena Castillo de Varela, who are visiting Japan on an official visit. This visit follows the signing of a memorandum of cooperation between Panama and Japan last January to use Japanese transportation technology with the purpose of alleviating the heavy traffic congestion on the west side of Panama City.



During this visit, President Varela and the first lady will be received by Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and will later hold a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister H.E. Shinzo Abe to exchange views on a range of bilateral issues, including the signing of an exchange of notes and other related documents for the financing and construction of Line 3 of the Panama Metro.

I am glad to mention that, thanks to the international cooperation of Japan, Panama will be able to utilize high-quality Japanese monorail technology to improve the transportation system on the west side of Panama City with the first Japanese monorail to

be operated in Panama and the whole American continent.

This monorail will be a symbol of the great Japanese transportation technology in the region and will run over 27 kilometers, passing over the Panama Canal, with 14 stations. It will represent an enormous improvement in the quality of life of more than 200,000 Panamanians, who usually spend about three hours commuting from the west side to Panama City every day. With the monorail technology, the commuting time will be shortened to 45 minutes, providing more quality time for the citizens of that region of Panama.

Since President Varela took over the administration of

Panama, he has implemented a five-year (2015-2019) investment plan, which includes the expansion of Line 1 and the construction of lines 2 and 3. In addition, it is expected a future development of 5 more lines to establish a well-connected rail network across Panama City, as well as its connections toward the west and east of the country.

Due to these investments projects, together with the Panama Canal expansion, the country has managed to maintain good economic growth despite the slowdown of economic activity worldwide.

We are confident that with the inauguration of the new panamax locks on June 26, a new dynamic of maritime



Panama City EMBASSY OF PANAMA

transport will emerge, contributing to reactivate the shipping industry and returning to the path of economic growth.

With Japanese monorail technology and an expanded canal, Panamanians hope to continue growing together with Japan.



President of Panama Juan Carlos Varela and First Lady Lorena Castillo de Varela EMBASSY OF PANAMA

Heartiest Welcome

to His Excellency
Juan Carlos Varela,
President of
the Republic of Panama,
on the Occasion of
His Official Visit to Japan

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