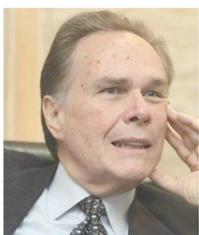


Peru National Day

Anticipating the future

HAROLD FORSYTH
AMBASSADOR OF PERU



The start of the Meiji Restoration prompted the Republic of Peru to grant diplomatic recognition to Japan, which was then seen as a country opening to the Western world.

We hardly knew each other in those days and we were not aware that, in taking that step, a great journey was about to begin for both our countries. And for Peru it signaled the starting point of the permanent and historical interest in the Pacific Ocean and Asia as one of the pillars of our foreign policy.

It was on March 3, 1873, at two o'clock in the afternoon, when my first predecessor, Navy Commander Aurelio Garcia y Garcia, presented his credentials to His Majesty, Emperor Meiji, as special envoy and minister plenipotentiary of Peru to Japan. After his team of diplomats was introduced to the emperor during a ceremony that very much resembles the way they are performed today, the Peruvian envoy began an adventure that has continued for the past 144 years. History says that our distinguished diplomat presented the emperor with a bottle of pisco, our national drink, photographs and a map of Peru, as well as a photograph of President Manuel Pardo, a great statesman whose vision was instrumental in accrediting the mission.

Garcia y Garcia was a great man and, just a few years after his tenure in Tokyo ended, he became a Peruvian naval hero. That is why he has a place of honor in our history and the fact that such a great figure was our first envoy to Japan gives an additional dimension to the relations between our two countries.

Peru became the first Latin American country to establish diplomatic ties with Japan and that is how we began to discover a part of the world that was previously unknown to us. But there is another extremely interesting piece of history that is the Treaty of Peace, Trade and Navigation signed between Peru and Japan on Aug. 21, 1873. That very good example of clever diplomacy by both sides was not only the first in a long series of treaties our countries have signed, the last

one being the economic partnership agreement of 2012, but is also the first one signed between Japan and a Latin American country. Likewise, the first wave of Japanese immigration to Peru that took place in 1899 when 790 pioneers embarked on the famous Sakura Maru, heading from the port of Yokohama to Callao, our principal port, also shaped our history and bilateral ties. And, certainly, owing to them the Japanese culture in Peru became one of the cornerstones of our multicultural society and their descendants constitute a very respectable community of hard-working



President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski (right) shakes hands with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Peru in November.
EMBASSY OF PERU

and committed citizens. Also, some 25 years ago, a significant number of Peruvians came to this country searching for new horizons, so the reciprocal presence of both cultures in Peru and Japan gives an added value to our current relations.

Nowadays, APEC is the main forum where Peru and Japan converge. President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met in Lima in November where they adopted a road map for the coming years. Besides that encounter, an official visit of the Peruvian president should become finalized at both leaders' earliest convenience. Despite this long background, there are still areas to be developed such as a structured dialogue concerning security and defense and Japan's renewed investment in major infrastructure projects in Peru. We expect to see concrete results later this year. Rule of law, respect for human rights and a free market economy are principles guiding Peru in the 21st century and we won't deviate from that. After 196 years of independence, July 28 symbolizes our immutable faith in the future.

Business relationships continue to prosper

SHOEI UTSUDA
JAPAN-PERU BUSINESS COMMITTEE (CEPEJA)



Representing Japan-Peru Business Committee (CEPEJA), I would like to send my sincere congratulations to the citizens and government of the Republic of Peru on the 196th

Anniversary of Independence on July 28.

It is my great honor to have the opportunity to send my best wishes on this anniversary as CEPEJA president. I took over from Shimpei Miyamura on Oct. 1. He made great contributions during his term, which lasted for a solid nine years. Since its establishment in 1992, CEPEJA has been crucial in building the bilateral economic exchange

between Japan and Peru. I too, am strongly committed to extend and strengthen economic ties between Japan and Peru.

In July 2016, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski was sworn in as the president of Peru. As you may know, Kuczynski is very knowledgeable about Japan. In September, the 12th CEPEJA committee meeting was held in Tokyo, with more than 90 participants attending from both sides. The meeting was blessed with many messages from the members of the new cabinet and businesspeople from Peru, even though they were busy establishing a new administration.

In November, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe became the first Japanese prime minister to pay an official visit to Peru in eight years, attending the APEC economic leaders' meeting. This visit stimulated bilateral relations, bringing the countries even closer.

In June, I had the opportunity to pay a courtesy call on Kuczynski and we exchanged views amicably. From our side, we requested Kuczynski to visit Japan as soon as possible, support realizing the Trans-Pacific Partnership and cooperate on the earliest conclusion of the tax convention between Peru and Japan.

Peru was the first country in Latin America to establish diplomatic relations with modern Japan. It was also the first Latin American country to accept Japanese immigrants. The two countries have a long history of friendly relations, built on mutual trust. It will be deepened today, through business relations and human exchange. CEPEJA is dedicated to support the bilateral relationship in any way we can.

Once again, I would like to express my deepest congratulations on Peru's 196th anniversary of independence.

**Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Peru
on the 196th Anniversary
of Their Independence**

 **Mitsubishi Corporation**

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to the People of
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Congratulations
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