

Brazil Independence Day Special

Lasting ties, ever stronger partnership with Japan

ANDRE CORREA DO LAGO
AMBASSADOR OF BRAZIL



It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to address the readers of The Japan Times on the Brazilian National Day. 2018 has been an important year for Brazil-Japan relations — as

we look at our past and celebrate the 110 years since the first ship with Japanese migrants arrived in Brazil and initiated the ties between our countries, we also contemplate a future of even stronger connections between our governments, economies and societies.

Nearly 2 million *nikkei* (individuals of Japanese heritage) living in Brazil and almost 200,000 Brazilians living in Japan are a reminder that the strength of our relationship is first and foremost supported by the talents of our peoples. Brazil and Japan

have immensely benefited from this bond between our populations that has become an essential part of our identities.

Celebrations of our 110 years of ties have taken place in both Brazil and Japan. Her Imperial Highness Princess Mako has just returned from a long trip to 14 cities in Brazil. In every town she visited, an enthusiastic crowd of Brazilians, both *nikkei* and non-*nikkei*, praised her presence and cheered for our shared history.

This year, several other high-level meetings and visits have taken place. His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito went to Brazil in March to deliver a keynote lecture during the 8th World Water Forum and was received by President Michel Temer. In April, President of the Brazilian Senate Eunício Oliveira was received by His Majesty Emperor Akihito and by the heads of both houses of the Diet. In May, Brazilian Foreign Minister Aloysio Nunes Ferreira met with Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso and had another round of the annual foreign ministers' dialogue with Foreign Minister Taro Kono in Tokyo. The

dialogue was followed by Kono's visit to Sao Paulo, the first stop on his very first visit to Latin America.

The frequent bilateral meetings show that Brazil and Japan have been actively working together to uphold and update the international order. Through the global and strategic partnership inaugurated in 2014, our governments have been exchanging views on current world issues and coordinating actions to ensure our shared values — democracy, the rule of law, protection of human rights and free trade, among others — are upheld in the international system. Our joint approach through the Group of Four (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan) to reform the United Nations Security Council is but one example of the power of our partnership, as well as a glimpse on how much we aim to achieve together.

Brazil and Japan have also been taking action to preserve the long-established principles and rules of international trade. Japan has performed a leading role in negotiating major economic partnership agree-

ments. Along with its partners in Mercosur (Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay), Brazil has likewise adopted a bold approach to deepen the exchanges between our economy and the rest of the world.

In a recent meeting in Tokyo, the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren) and the Brazilian National Confederation of Industry (CNI) presented resounding arguments to support the beginning of negotiations for an economic partnership agreement (EPA) between Mercosur and Japan. By submitting a road map to our governments, CNI and Keidanren have argued that such an agreement would be vastly beneficial to our countries, particularly when one considers the complementarity of our economies and the maturity of our markets.

Key economies in Asia such as Singapore and South Korea are in fact already engaged in negotiations with Mercosur. As pointed out by our private sectors, with a market of nearly 300 million people and a combined gross domestic product that exceeds \$4.4 trillion in purchasing power parity — the world's fifth-largest economy



Crown Prince Naruhito and President Michel Temer shake hands in Brasilia on March 19 during the Crown Prince's visit to Brazil to attend the 8th World Water Forum. BETO BARATA/PR

— Mercosur offers exciting opportunities. Brazil would be more than eager to support the beginning of talks toward an EPA between Mercosur and Japan, our most enduring Asian partner.

One month from today, Brazil will hold its presidential elections. We stand at nearly 210 million Brazilians, around 147 million of whom will vote in October.

Regardless of whoever is chosen by voters to be our next president, the solid foundations over which our bilateral relations have been built ensure that Japan will remain a top priority for Brazil.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.



Top: President Michel Temer speaks with Brazilian and Japanese business leaders in Brasilia on April 4. Above: Foreign Minister Aloysio Nunes Ferreira talks with his counterpart Taro Kono in Tokyo on May 17. ALAN SANTOS, PR / ARTHUR.MAX, AIG-MRE

**Congratulations
to the People of Brazil
on the Occasion of
the 196th Anniversary of
Their Independence**



**Congratulations
to the People of Brazil
on the Occasion of
the 196th Anniversary of
Their Independence**



**Congratulations
to the People of Brazil
on the Occasion of
the 196th Anniversary of
Their Independence**



**TODA CORPORATION
CONSTRUTORA TODA DO BRASIL S.A.**