

Panama Independence Day Special

Cultural activities continue to thrive

CARLOS PERE
AMBASSADOR OF PANAMA



Today, on behalf of the government of the Republic of Panama and the Panamanian diplomatic mission in Japan, I wish to extend to all Panamanians, Japanese citizens and friends of Pan-

ama, my most sincere congratulations on this 119th anniversary of Separation Day, when Panama separated from Colombia.

I would also like to express our greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, the authorities of the government of Japan, the diplomatic corps accredited in Japan, the dear members of the Panama-Japan Inter-Parliamentary League, the Panama-Japan Friendship Association and the Japan-Latin American and Caribbean Ladies' Association, from whom we have received positive support during this

past year of the reactivation of bilateral exchanges.

This year also marks the 45th anniversary of sister city ties between Imabari and Panama City, whose resolutions were signed in March and February 1977, respectively. Therefore, the embassy maintains with great interest a dynamic and constant communication and friendship with this Japanese shipping city.

Although today is celebrated as the national day of the separation of Panama from Colombia, it is little known that in November, Panama celebrates many patriotic festivities. For this reason, Panamanians call November *el Mes de la Patria* (the Month of the Homeland). The main days are the celebration of Panama's National Anthem on Nov. 1; Separation Day on Nov. 3; National Symbols Day on Nov. 4; First Cry of Independence of La Villa de los Santos on Nov. 10; and Panama's independence from Spain on Nov. 28. There are also many local celebrations marking the foundations of various cities.

Although reactivation was subject to sanitary security measures at the begin-

ning of the year, this did not stop the participation of several Panamanian delegations that were able to visit on different occasions throughout the year, strengthening even more our good friendship with this great island country.

This year we received great support from the Japanese community and we worked on how to promote Panamanian culture in the community. We took advantage of the spaces and fairs that the magnificent Minato Ward offered us, such as the International Cultural Exhibition, which has been held in Tokyo Midtown, to show photographs of nature that harmonize inner peace and show off Panamanian fauna.

Among the cultural activities we carried out with the support of Minato Ward, we can mention the first Film Festival, titled Panama Film Weekend, which provided the unprecedented screening of four Panamanian feature films. Thanks to its great reception, we intend to hold it again next year.

I would like to say that next year we have every intention of organizing sev-



eral cultural activities so that residents in Japan can enjoy music, films, handicrafts and, above all, our wonderful Panamanian coffee.

Finally, I express my deepest good wishes that all citizens in Japan enjoy excellent health and succeed in their country's tourism and economic revival for the good of Japanese society.

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

A container ship passes through the Panama Canal.

EMBASSY OF PANAMA

Congratulations
on the Anniversary of
the Independence of
the Republic of Panama

Mitsubishi Corporation