

Argentina National Day Special

Celebrating 125 years of trust as bilateral partnership grows

CESAR CAMPOY
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF ARGENTINA



On our National Day, marking the 213th anniversary of the 1810 May Revolution and the establishment of our first national government, I wish to extend my warmest greetings, on behalf of the government and people of Argentina, to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, as well as to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, the Japanese government and the people of Japan.

This year we celebrate 125 years of friendship and trust between our countries. Moreover, Argentina and Japan are not simply friends, but important partners who share fundamental interests and common values of peace, democracy, and respect for international law and human rights. We hold like-minded views on the global agenda and advocate similar positions in multilateral institutions. In this context, we are at a stage of consolidating and strengthening our relationship as strategic partners.

For example, our views converge at the Group of 20 leaders meetings that represent industrial and emerging-market nations, where both our countries are committed to defending a world order based on the rule of law and a fair multilateral trading system. Likewise, Argentina shares Japan's aspirations to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and works on concrete policies to reach them through committed participation in nonproliferation regimes and, more recently, with the Argentine presidency of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

At the bilateral level, our relationship is rich and comprehensive, and we look forward to further enhancing existing political, economic and cultural ties. After a hiatus

during the pandemic, we are reactivating the high-level contacts between our countries. Last year, President Alberto Fernandez held a meeting with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in the framework of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations summit in Germany. Our vice minister of foreign affairs led the Argentine delegation at the 26th round of political consultations that took place in Tokyo. Soon after, our minister of science, technology and innovation visited Japan and held important meetings with Japanese authorities and agencies. On the Japanese side, the state minister of foreign affairs traveled to Buenos Aires to attend the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States meetings. Also, in January, Japan's minister of foreign affairs visited Argentina, opening the celebrations for the 125th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

Contacts in the private sector have also begun to recover, and several missions from Argentine companies to Japan have taken place in recent months. Many Japanese companies have long-standing successful businesses in Argentina in the automotive, mining, renewable energy, technology and agribusiness sectors. They have increased their investments in the country, giving work to a growing number of people. Other companies are looking at our country's opportunities, and we are working hard to ensure that their projects have the best business conditions in Argentina.

We highly value Japanese investment in our country as well as the increase in bilateral trade, and we see great potential to expand our cooperation in these fields further. As a world-leading food producer with vast mineral and energy resources, Argentina stands ready to be Japan's essential and reliable partner in providing energy and food security.

We cooperate with Japan on developing hydrogen for energy transition, building on Argentina's potential for hydrogen produc-

tion from various renewable sources. There are also prospects for bilateral cooperation in the area of satellite development and in the peaceful uses of atomic energy for research purposes, areas in which Argentina has achieved significant progress.

Technical cooperation programs provided by Japan to improve business management, promote the production of local communities and to enhance the capacity of meteorological warning systems in preventing natural disasters are successfully operating in our country. In addition, Argentina and Japan engage in trilateral cooperation projects with other countries.

To improve international relations, people must know each other well. In this sense, I would like to make a special mention of our people-to-people contacts, the constantly growing links between our societies, from the 65,000 Nikkei living in Argentina to the hundreds of *milongas* (forerunner of the tango) and tango dancers thriving across Japan, all of whom make a decisive contribution every day to the long and solid friendship that unites our countries. Similarly, the bilateral work and holiday program, recently restarted after lifting pandemic restrictions, has allowed an intense exchange between young people from both countries. We trust it will continue to favor deepening mutual understanding between our societies.

We are confident that through our joint work in all these fields, we will continue to deepen the mutual understanding between our societies for the benefit of both Argentina and Japan. With this in mind, the Argentine government has recently appointed Eduardo Tempone as ambassador to Japan and he will soon be arriving in Tokyo to give a new boost to our bilateral ties.

First, please let me introduce myself. My name is Takehiko Kakiuchi. I took over the chairmanship of the Japan-Argentina Business Cooperation Committee from Ken Kobayashi on Nov. 1. It is a great honor to assume this position, which is important in strengthening the economic relations between the two nations.

On behalf of the committee, I am delighted to extend my warmest congratulations to the government and the people of Argentina as the country celebrates the 213th anniversary of its National Day.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Argentina in



Vineyards in Mendoza at the foot of the Andes
WINES OF ARGENTINA

Teamwork key to fixing climate, supply woes

TAKEHIKO KAKIUCHI
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-ARGENTINA
BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE



In 1898, our relationship has grown steadily through trade, investment and links between people who have universal values in common, including freedom, democracy and respect for basic human rights. In this year, 2023, we will commemorate the 125th anniversary of the establishment of official bilateral relations between our countries, and I believe further reinforcement of our cooperation is now more essential than ever to combat imminent global challenges.

We can safely say that we have defeated the COVID-19 pandemic after three years of effort. This has enabled us to resume close collaboration by means of face-to-face meetings, travel and so on. Economic and social activities have been normalized, and it is worth noting that in Argentina, real gross domestic product surpassed the pre-pandemic level in 2022. Also, I understand the Argentine government appointed Eduardo Tempone as the new ambassador to Japan. As

such, the time has come to focus more on combating climate change and the food and energy supply crisis caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict. I am confident that companies from both of our nations can contribute to solutions by working together in many areas, such as crucial mineral resources, renewable energy, the electrification of mobility, and agribusiness. Japan and Argentina, joining hands, will play a key role as the global community strives to achieve the U.N. sustainable development goals by 2030.

In closing, as chairman of the Japan-Argentina Business Cooperation Committee, I look forward to promoting even stronger ties and economic relations between our nations in this constantly changing business environment.

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



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