

Brazil National Day Special

Time is ripe to advance economic ties

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AMBASSADOR OF BRAZIL



2023 marks a new stage in the long friendship between Brazil and Japan. On Jan. 1, a new administration was inaugurated in Brasilia. Only a week later, Yoshimasa Hayashi became the first foreign minister to pay a bilateral visit to his counterpart Mauro Vieira, setting the tone and the priorities for the cooperation to be carried out through the year.

Much work has been done since then. With the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic behind us, we are finally able to resume dialogue mechanisms, business meetings and high-level summits.

By invitation of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva went to Hiroshima in May to attend the Group of Seven summit, bringing a message of peace and dialogue, and a call to action on the urgent need to fight poverty and hunger. Lula and Kishida agreed, in their bilateral meeting, to bolster the strategic relations between our countries.

As a concrete result of this meeting, both governments agreed to waive visa requirements for short-term stays by citizens of our countries. This will help promote tourism and business, and will bring our peoples ever closer together, as we celebrate 115 years of Japanese migration to Brazil.

Our economic partnership is also on a path of growth. Trade between Brazil and Japan has recovered to levels last experienced 10 years ago and continues to rise. Brazil's agriculture minister visited Japan in July with a view to deepening our part-

nership in food security. Brazil is already a leading provider of chicken to Japan, and looks forward to opening new markets for pork and beef.

The time is ripe to enhance our economic ties. The Brazilian economy is beginning a new cycle of development, with inflation under control and growth forecasts being revised upward. The government has just launched a package of over \$340 billion in infrastructure investments. From energy to transportation, agriculture to digital connectivity, there are many opportunities for those wishing to invest. Brazil's finance minister visited Tokyo and Niigata in May and stressed that we want Japan and the Japanese companies to play a key role in this new moment of Brazil's development.

Lastly, given the many challenges facing the world, our political dialogue is more important than ever. We maintain close coordination in areas ranging from climate

change to peace and security, with sustainable development always in mind. This year, Brazil and Japan are once again occupying a seat in the United Nations Security Council. And we have reaffirmed, together with our G4 (Brazil, Japan, Germany and India) allies, the need to reform the UNSC to be more representative and effective.

We are on the right path, but there is still much more we want to do together. To keep this momentum, our president has invited Japan's prime minister to visit Brazil. Next year, our country will chair the Group of 20 leading economies and will host dozens of ministerial and technical meetings, leading up to the Rio de Janeiro summit in November. The eyes of the world will be on Brazil, and we are committed to working with our partners to build a more stable, prosperous and sustainable future for mankind.

As we celebrate the 201st anniversary of Brazil's independence, let us celebrate the renewed partnership between Brazil and Japan.



President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pose during the G7 summit in Hiroshima, on May 20. PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC



Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi poses with Brazilian counterpart Mauro Vieira in Brasilia on Jan. 9. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF BRAZIL

Sustainability leader blazes energy transition trail

As the world becomes increasingly aware of the need to fight climate change, Brazil presents itself as a sustainability superpower. Over several decades, we have developed technological solutions and public policies that can be shared with partners across the globe so we can face this common challenge.

Brazil's energy transition started almost 50 years ago, with massive investments in renewable energy sources. A strategic decision to reduce the dependency on imported fossil fuels led to the development of sugar cane ethanol as a cheaper and cleaner substitute. Today, over 80% of cars in Brazil have fully flexible engines, which means they can run on either ethanol or gasoline. On top of that, the amount of ethanol added to gasoline is currently 27%, reducing even further the overall carbon footprint.

When it comes to electricity, Brazil is also a success story. Over 85% of our electricity comes from renewable sources — against a global average of less than 30%. Taking advantage of our rich natural resources, hydroelectric power accounts for almost two-thirds of our electricity supply. And new investments mean the share of energy

generated by wind and solar power is also quickly increasing.

With the aim of becoming carbon neutral, the world is turning to hydrogen as a relevant energy vector for the future. According to the International Energy Agency, Brazil has one of the lowest costs in the world for the production of low-carbon hydrogen and investments amounting to \$30 billion have already been registered. Last August, the government released a Three-Year Work Plan (2023 to 2025) with a goal to build experimental hydrogen plants in all Brazilian regions. By 2035, a Brazilian network of hydrogen production hubs should be operational. The Brazilian government also plans to pass a new law this year introducing greater incentives for this industry.

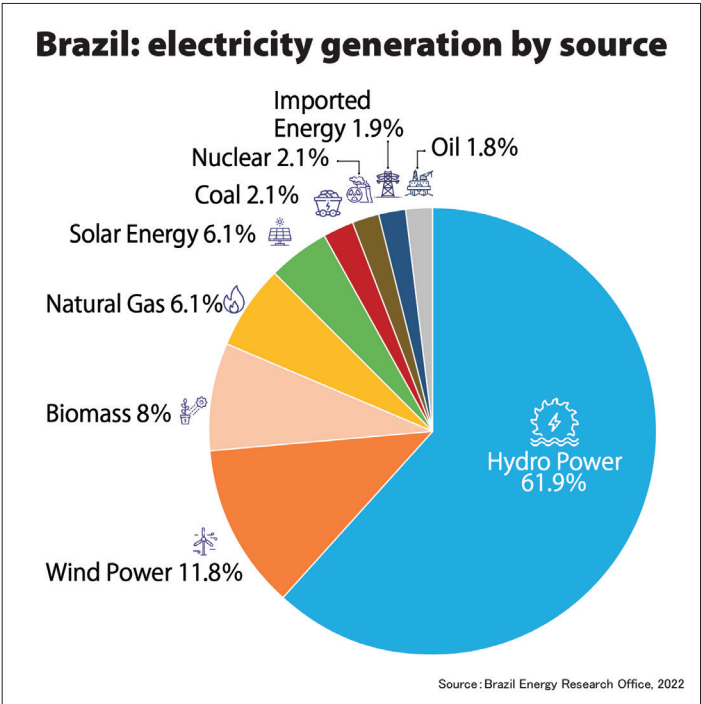
Forest conservation is also a matter of increased concern, and rightly so. As the

country with the world's largest rainforest, Brazil is absolutely committed to conservation of the Amazon. Even as Brazil became one of the world's top producers of food, 60% of our territory is still covered by native vegetation. In the Amazon, this is even higher, with over 80% of the forest untouched. The Brazilian government is currently upgrading surveillance of illegal activities in the area, with a view to achieving zero deforestation by 2030.

As a sign of our commitment to pursuing domestic solutions and international cooperation on climate change, Brazil will host the 30th United Nations Climate Conference in 2025. We want to bring world leaders and specialists to the city of Belem, in the heart of the Amazon, to see up close the reality of the forest and of the people who live in it.



Left: Baia do Sancho, on the island of Fernando de Noronha, has been voted the world's best beach six times. Right: The theme of the Brazil Pavilion at the 2025 World Expo in Osaka will be "Flying Rivers." ADOBE STOCK; APEX-BRASIL



Congratulations
to the People
of
the Federative Republic of Brazil
on the Occasion
of
Their Independence Day

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