

Chile National Day Special

Energy, tech, trade deals advance friendship

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September is here once more, and as Japan enters the autumn season with its beautiful and colorful spectacle of crimson leaves, in Chile we witness the beginning of the spring, providing us with longer sunny days that invite our people to share and enjoy different outdoor activities. It is also within this month that we commemorate 213 years of independence.

Throughout these last two centuries, our country has garnered a broad and rich network of international relations with all regions of the world. In 1897, Chile and Japan established diplomatic relations — our longest with an Asian country. We have enjoyed 126 years of friendship and fraternal exchanges, embracing both nations' common values, trade, innovation and cooperation, as well as facing global chal-

lenges in areas such as climate change.

Chile and Japan have approached these commitments within the multilateral system and have provided ample support for the implementation of decarbonization and energy transition processes to achieve our goals of carbon neutrality by 2050. In this regard, in 2023, during the visit of the Chilean Minister of Energy Diego Pardow, a memorandum of cooperation between the Chilean Ministry of Energy and the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry was signed. It is aimed at further strengthening our collaboration in renewable energy, covering multiple areas from efficiency and storage to technology transfers.

Through this agreement, we look forward to increased cooperation with Japan on the development of new and green energy resources such as hydrogen, ammonia and next-generation "e-fuels," which are opening a new chapter in our long-standing cooperation exchanges. It is worth mentioning that in 2021, the Institute of Energy Economics of Japan prepared a study on the economics of the green hydrogen supply chain that concluded Chile has a competitive edge for

becoming an important exporter and provider of green hydrogen to Japan. In line with this commitment to green hydrogen development, our country launched its National Green Hydrogen Strategy, which aims to produce the cheapest green hydrogen by the year 2030 and position itself among the top three producers by 2040. To achieve this potential, our country is strongly working on the 2023-2030 Action Plan for this strategy.

The relationship between Chile and Japan has also been characterized by technological cooperation initiatives, where the fields of science and innovation have been crucial in several of our countries' bilateral projects. In that sense, I would like to highlight the 10th anniversary of the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array project, which was established in Atacama in 2013. Furthermore, the University of Tokyo Atacama Observatory, which is located at an altitude of 5,640 meters above sea level, will be inaugurated soon.

On the occasion of the visit of Japan's Foreign Affairs Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi to Chile in May this year, our two countries celebrated an agreement on cooperation

in science, technology and innovation that will enhance new cooperative initiatives within these areas, promoting exchanges of information and capacity-building.

The Chilean Agency for International Cooperation for Development and the Japan International Cooperation Agency have together developed a robust mechanism for joint initiatives oriented to develop technical skills in Latin America and the Caribbean. This collaboration is well-illustrated by the Kizuna Program, which was launched in 2015 and has trained more than 5,000 government officials within the region on how to mitigate disaster risk from earthquakes, tsunamis and landslides. The program entered its second phase in October 2022 with Kizuna II.

In early 2023 the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership took effect in Chile. This economic integration treaty, which is the third-largest in the world, deepens Chile's ties with this dynamic region by promoting and liberalizing the flow of products, services and investment. Concerning bilateral trade, in 2022 Japan was Chile's fourth-largest trading partner. The main



Laja Falls actually comprises several horseshoe-shaped waterfalls between 20 and 35 meters tall.

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products that the Japanese have recognized and demand are salmon and trout, pork, sea urchins, fresh wine grapes and lemons, positioning Chile as a reliable supplier of healthy and safe food products.

Culture has been an important area of our bilateral relations, with Chile's creative industries enjoying success and acceptance by Japanese society. In that sense, films such as "The Wolf House," "Pareidolia" and the highly anticipated "Nahuel y el Libro Magico" have opened new ways and means for contributing common knowledge and serving as a channel of mutual understanding.

We are certain that the new chapters that

are defining our bilateral agenda in the areas of innovation, science and renewable energies will contribute significantly to the sustainable development of our societies.

Finally, I would like to highlight that September 2023 is a significant remembrance time for Chile. In this month, we reflect on the day when our democracy was broken half a century ago, and how our nation reinforces our historic democratic commitment.

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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*to the People of
the Republic of Chile
on the Anniversary of
Their Independence*



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