

Ecuador National Day Special

Historic first visits to accompany celebrations of 100-year partnership

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AMBASSADOR OF ECUADOR



This Aug. 10, the Republic of Ecuador commemorates the 209th anniversary of its independence. On this very important occasion, I wish to greet Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress

Michiko, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the noble Japanese people and my fellow compatriots living in Japan.

Two hundred and nine years after the proclamation of independence made in Quito, a heroic feat by which brave men and women expressed and fought for their freedom, and inspired other independence movements in Latin America to do the same, the Republic of Ecuador has continued to develop as a free and sovereign nation; a nation with a rich heritage and strong identity that abides by the democratic values that it upholds, and that is committed to the respect of international law.

President Lenin Moreno, who assumed the presidency of Ecuador on May 24, 2017, has led important and positive political and economic changes.

After receiving decisive support in the national referendum, held at the beginning of this year, Moreno has pursued reforms focused on strengthening Ecuadorian democratic institutions, guaranteeing human rights — especially the freedom of expression — and the fight against corruption.

The president has also implemented policies to promote productivity to improve the country's economic performance by working with the private sector and creating the appropriate conditions for direct foreign investment. The Ecuadorian government is committed to governing its citizens through the implementation of the National Plan of Development 2017–2021, with its three main axes: "rights for all throughout one's life," "economy to the service of society" and "more society, better state."

In the international arena, the government of Ecuador has continued to support all efforts made by the international community aimed toward the maintenance of world peace and the promotion of international cooperation, as well as to uphold human rights, preserve the environment and fight climate change.

Ecuador has also continued to support the efforts for the implementation of the United

Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recently, Ecuador presented its 2018 Voluntary National Review on the implementation of SDGs, to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

With regard to bilateral relations, Ecuador and Japan commemorate this year the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

This relationship began with the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 26, 1918. The Ecuadorian diplomatic presence in Japan started on April 19, 1919, with the opening of the consulate in Yokohama, and on Sept. 4, 1960, the Ecuadorian and Japanese delegations were upgraded to the category of embassies.

During these 100 years, Ecuador and Japan have deepened their relations, especially in the fields of cooperation, culture and coordination in international organizations.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the scientific visit of professor Hideyo Noguchi to Ecuador, who developed a biological pathogenic agent in Guayaquil that saved many Ecuadorian lives that were affected by yellow fever. Noguchi will always be remembered for his work with gratitude by all Ecuadorians.

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

The commemoration of the anniversary of diplomatic relations between Ecuador and Japan was officially launched in Quito on Jan. 10, and in Tokyo on Jan. 30.

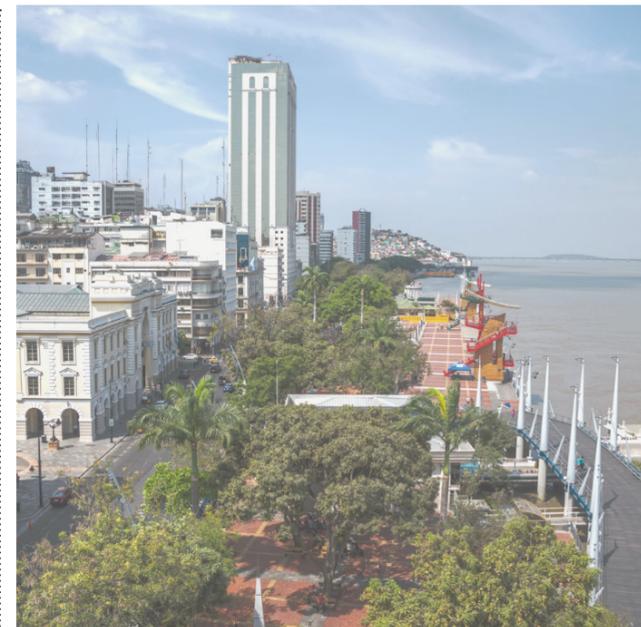
This commemoration has given both governments the opportunity for interchange through high-level visits and to present cultural activities to showcase the rich, cultural heritage of both countries.

In this sense, this year, Ecuador will have the honor of hosting the first official visit of a minister of foreign affairs of Japan — Taro Kono — and later this year, Moreno will make his first official visit to Japan.

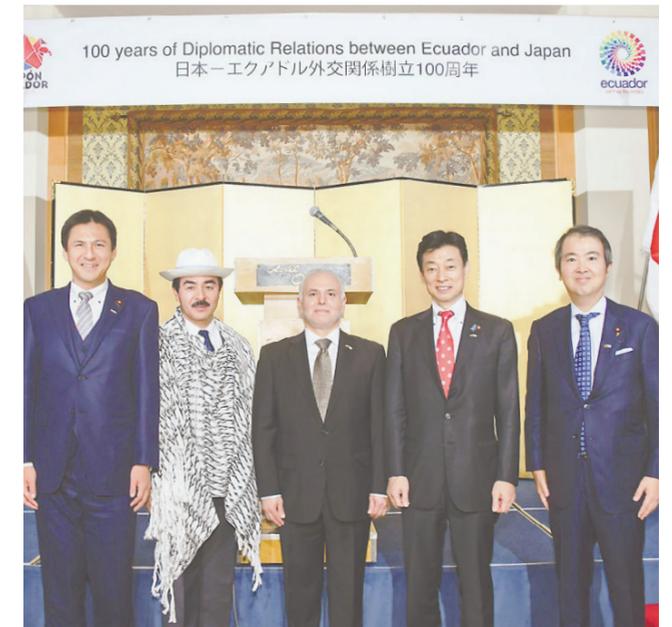
The government of Ecuador will continue working toward the strengthening of the political dialogue with Japan, as well as for the promotion of Japanese investments in key and strategic sectors of Ecuador's economy and to increase the presence of Ecuadorian products in Japan.

Likewise, Ecuador will continue to work for the enhancement of the cooperation link with public and private institutions and in the promotion of people-to-people exchanges at every level.

I wish to reiterate the decision of the nation and of the government of Ecuador to reinforce even more the friendly relations and cooperation that happily exist with Japan.



Left: The Malecon 2000 boardwalk overlooking the Guayas River in the Ecuadorian port city of Guayaquil. Right: A ceremony celebrating the 100th anniversary of Japan-Ecuador diplomatic relations was held in Japan on Jan. 31. MINISTRY OF TOURISM OF ECUADOR / EMBASSY OF ECUADOR IN JAPAN



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