

Mexico National Day Special

Bicentennial highlights growing friendship

MELBA PRIA
AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO



Today, we celebrate 200 years since Mexico became an independent nation, clearing the way for the transformation that has shaped the country into what it is today.

We are proud to be one of the leading countries globally in terms of inclusiveness, gender parity and foreign diplomacy based on nonintervention and the peaceful settlement of disputes. We are firm believers and supporters of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and have historically offered aid to those in need, striving to safe-

guard the rights and well-being of people who have been forced to flee their countries, and welcoming many of them with open arms.

The relationship of friendship and mutual respect between Japan and Mexico, which began over 400 years ago, is a testament to this. We have supported each other in the most difficult moments, and have also helped each other move into the future. Our commercial relationship is thriving; with over 1,300 Japanese companies established in our country and \$5.43 billion in Mexican imports to Japan in 2020, we can say it has been growing steadily. Based on our shared history and values, this relationship will only become more diverse and profound.

2021 has been an especially meaningful year for our friendship as most members of the Mexican delegation who

participated in the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games were hosted with warmth in the prefecture of Hiroshima. We sincerely thank and recognize the hard work and determination of the local governments, as well as Tokyo's Organising Committee, to host the games successfully during these complicated times. You gave the world very valuable moments of hope and joy.

I take this opportunity to express on behalf of the government of Mexico and members of the Mexican community living in Japan, our sincere greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, the imperial family, H.E. Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, the government and kind people of Japan.

Join us in this very special celebration. Discover our millenary culture and the many great traditions that come with it.

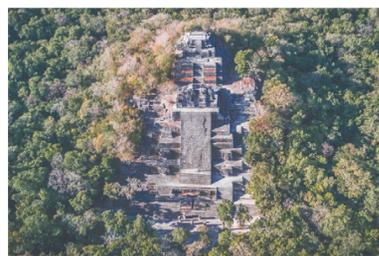
Try one of the many Mexican restaurants of great quality all across Japan, enjoy our music, our cinema and history, and don't forget to toast with some tequila! In 2020 alone over 2 million liters of the Mexican spirit were consumed in Japan.

We are waiting for you to visit Mexico, where you will be greeted with much kindness and affection. Here is to many more years of freedom and positive growth. Viva Mexico!



Mexico City's Paseo de la Reforma is an avenue with landmarks, restaurants, hotels, office buildings and art, including the Angel of Independence.

BRENDA ISLAS



The city of Calakmul was a major Maya power on the Yucatan Peninsula. It is now an archaeological site with 6,750 ancient structures, including a pyramid. SANTIAGO ARAU

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

Exchanges with Hiroshima continue to blossom

HIDEHIKO YUZAKI
GOVERNOR OF HIROSHIMA PREFECTURE



On behalf of Hiroshima Prefecture, I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the United Mexican States.

Prompted by the expansion of Hiroshima-based companies into the State of Guanajuato, Hiroshima and Guanajuato created a memorandum on economic exchanges in 2013 and established a friendship alliance in 2014. Ever since, Hiroshima and the United Mexican States have deepened these ties

via mutual governor visits, student exchanges and cultural festivals.

In 2017, the Mexican Olympic Committee agreed to hold the Mexican Olympic team's training camps in Hiroshima,

allowing 334 athletes to prepare for the Games from 2018 to 2019. Our friendship deepened further through local exchanges, including practices with residents and visits

to elementary and junior high schools. In 2020, a similar agreement was reached with the Mexican Paralympic Committee.

This year, despite the difficult circumstances, 123 Mexican Olympic and Paralympic athletes stayed in Hiroshima to prepare for the Games. I would like to once again express my utmost respect to Mexico's athletes, who competed valiantly.

The end of this festival is an opportune time for Hiroshima and Mexico to continue developing this friendship, and we would like to ask for Mexico's continued support and cooperation in these endeavors.

Congratulations
to the People
of
the United Mexican States
on the Occasion
of
Their Independence Day



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and the Diplomatic Relations
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Yoshikazu Morita
Yoshikazu Morita

Supreme Advisor,
Kyoto University of Foreign Studies
Honorary Consul of Mexico

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