

Panama Independence Day Special

More than 100 years of friendship

CARLOS PERE
AMBASSADOR OF PANAMA



On behalf of the government of the Republic of Panama, I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to all Panamanians in Japan, and to all Japanese citizens who are friends of

our nation, on this 118th anniversary of the Independence Day and separation of Panama from Colombia.

Also, I would like to express our greetings to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, and to the authorities of the government of Japan, the diplomatic corps accredited in Japan and all our dear friends and members of the Panama Japan Inter-Parliamentary League for their support during this year of the pandemic.

Although today is the National Day of Panama, few know that Panama is a country that celebrates many patriotic celebrations

during the month of November. For this reason, Panamanians call November the Month of the Homeland.

This past year has been difficult, not only for Panama, but also for our friends in Japan. Both countries have managed to see the light at the end of the tunnel. The challenges that the pandemic brought have been very difficult, but despite these difficult times, it has encouraged us to break down our barriers and differences and create an environment of cooperation between countries that has created a purpose for all: to return to normality.

For the government of Panama, health has been a priority during this pandemic, while at the same time, the government has been trying to normalize and help industries to grow and improve the economy. On this occasion I want to emphasize that Panama has always had its interoceanic canal open and that it has never stopped providing services, and that Panama serves as a hub maintaining a policy of humanitarian aid and international assistance through the Regional Logistics Center for Humanitarian Assistance to support the distribution of vaccines and

medical equipment to the region.

Moreover, Panama will always be grateful to Japan for being the first to support us in combating this virus at the beginning of the pandemic, which shows how strong our friendly relationship with Japan has been since 1904.

In this Month of the Homeland, we want all Panamanians to feel proud of their country, and therefore on this special date, the government of Panama wants to emphasize the well-known “Cry of Independence” of Nov. 10, 1821, a series of independence movements led by Rufina Alfaro in various cities, culminating in the independence of Panama from Spain achieved on Nov. 28 as a day of national transformation.

After being united to the Great Colombia, we separated on Nov. 3, also celebrating today 200 years of being an independent country. Further strengthening our national identity, we thus celebrate like other Latin American countries the bicentennial of our country.

This year we want everyone to be part of this celebration of the bicentennial of Panama’s independence. Thanks to the organization and support of the Min-On Concert



People can watch ships pass through the Panama Canal from the Miraflores Locks Observatory. PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY

Association, there will be a broadcast on the Min-On YouTube channel on Nov. 28 at 6 p.m. (Japan time) of the concert of our beloved Panamanian singer and musical composer Patricia Vlieg, who will delight us with her beautiful voice and songs that are inspired by our folkloric roots.

Finally, I express my deepest good wishes to all citizens in Japan, in these times of readjustment and difficulty, that a bright future may shine upon them, that they may enjoy good health and that they may succeed in overcoming together.

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

**Congratulations
on the Anniversary of
the Independence of
the Republic of Panama**

 **Mitsubishi Corporation**