

Argentina National Day Special

An excellent time for investment, cultural exploration

GUILLERMO HUNT
AMBASSADOR OF THE ARGENTINE
REPUBLIC TO JAPAN



Today, May 25, is Argentina's national day, which marks the 212th anniversary of the establishment of our first national government in 1810. As the ambassador of Argentina to

Tokyo, and on behalf of the government and people of my country, I do wish to take this special occasion to convey my warmest greetings to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, as well as to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and the government and people of Japan.

We also wish to celebrate the strong friendship between Argentina and Japan, built on a 124-year history of diplomatic relations and shared values of peace, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of international law. A vibrant Japanese community residing in Argentina, made up of more than 65,000 immigrants and their descendants, fully integrated into all aspects of national life, attests to the depth of the ties that bind Argentines and the Japanese people.

As strategic partners, our two countries have a common path for mutual prosperity and the benefit of our peoples. There is much that Argentina has to offer Japan in energy, mining and food, areas in which the current international situation is urgently exposing importing countries to the critical value of diversifying suppliers.

In this context, it is relevant to point out that in the past few months the government of President Alberto Fernandez has successfully overcome important challenges. In March Argentina and the International Monetary Fund reached an agreement for

the renegotiation of the Argentine public debt. This agreement had been approved by large majorities in our Congress and, subsequently, by the IMF Board with 100% positive votes. It establishes a new schedule for payments and new fiscal goals, positioning Argentina in an improved situation to continue growing after its strong post-pandemic recovery.

Another important indication for Argentina's economic outlook is the February payment made by the government to the Paris Club, opening the path to a fresh negotiation, which is currently underway.

A sign of the potential that Argentina offers in the current circumstances is that investment announcements in the last two years, mainly in the mining, energy and automotive sectors, reached more than \$25 billion.

Within this framework, I am convinced that today's conditions are most favorable for new Japanese investments in Argentina.

In mining, Argentina's Andes have massive resources in copper, lithium, gold, silver and rare metals, in line with the global needs for electrification and decarbonization.

In the energy sector, Neuquen's Vaca Muerta accounts for the second-largest shale gas deposits and the fourth-largest shale oil reservoir in the world. As for renewable energy, Patagonia's winds are among the strongest and most constant on the planet, offering the possibility of producing green hydrogen and green ammonia. At the other end of the country, the Northwest has ample solar potential.

The car industry in Argentina is a solid platform for production and export to Latin America and beyond. Several Japanese companies have established factories in Argentina and have consolidated businesses in the local market while also exporting to regional and extraregional countries. Our government is now ready to pass a new law to promote "electromobility," which will

introduce incentives to promote the use and production of electric vehicles.

In the agribusiness sector, Argentina is one of the world's leading food producers and suppliers. We believe that there are opportunities for new investments from Japanese companies, and we also hope to continue increasing our bilateral food trade to support Japanese food security.

Argentina, at the heart of a peaceful Latin America, strongly supports regional economic integration and political cooperation. We are members of Mercosur, the South American customs union made up of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, as well as Aladi, the Latin American Integration Association of 13 countries in the region. These are two consolidated regional integration mechanisms that allow companies to establish their production facilities in any member country and trade within the region, taking advantage of the low tariffs negotiated in both agreements to reach a market of up to 520 million people and a combined gross domestic product of over \$5 trillion.

At the embassy in Tokyo, we are constantly working to help Japanese companies fully appreciate the advantages that Argentina offers and, at the same time, provide Argentine businesses with new opportunities in Japan. We are committed to promoting new Japanese investments in Argentina and bringing more Argentine products to Japan.

We are also actively working for the promotion of Argentine culture in Japan, and we hope that, once the restrictions imposed by the pandemic are overcome, we will be able to organize cultural events together with our local partners. We are especially eager to share tango, which has found a second home in Japan.

To conclude, coming from a region of peace, I wish to express the strong desire of the Argentine government that all countries in the world soon achieve a solid and lasting peace.

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



Veladero, a gold mine in Argentina
AGENCIA DE NOTICIAS TELAM, ARGENTINA

Stronger business ties vital as global risks rise

KEN KOBAYASHI
CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-ARGENTINA
BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Japan-Argentina Business Cooperation Committee, I am delighted to extend my warmest congratulations to the government and people of the Argentine Republic as the

country celebrates its national day.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Argentina in 1898, the relationship between our two nations has grown from strength to strength through trade, investment and people-to-people links. Today, our bilateral ties are underpinned by shared values of democracy and human rights and I believe that further reinforcement of our coopera-

tion is essential now more than ever to combat global challenges, such as the Russia-Ukraine crisis, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

While we continue to engage in vibrant exchanges of ideas, perspectives and information to the benefit of both nations, crucial mineral resources, renewable energy, electric vehicles and agribusiness are some of the most promising areas of interest where companies from both nations are expected to collaborate going forward.

In light of these circumstances, the recent debt-restructuring agreement between Argentina and the International Monetary Fund was a much welcomed development and will help boost investor confidence to further attract foreign direct investment in the country. We also look forward to the

early ratification of the tax convention and investment treaty by Argentina, which will further facilitate and accelerate the development of our business relations.

Building on the momentum of the business collaboration inspired by the first-ever virtual seminar hosted by the Argentina-Japan Business Cooperation Committee in the presence of former Minister of the Treasury Hernan Lacunza last year, I am hopeful that the next Japan-Argentina Joint Business Meeting will take place in person in Tokyo.

In closing, as chairman of the Japan-Argentina Business Cooperation Committee, I look forward to promoting even stronger ties and economic relations between our two nations in this constantly changing business environment.



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