

Colombia Independence Day Special

Strong leadership shown in climate, COVID crises

ANGELA DURAN
CHARGE D'AFFAIRS A.I. OF COLOMBIA



Two hundred and twelve years ago, we came together in the pursuit of freedom to create the nation-state we are today. Now, we have the opportunity to look back and assess the progress of our nation in the last few years, specifically, the last four under the presidency of Ivan Duque.

During Duque's term, which will end on Aug. 7, Colombia has demonstrated its resilience and its ability to transform adversity into opportunities and faced many challenges, including the biggest migratory influx on the continent and the effects of climate change, among others.

By welcoming more than 1.8 million Venezuelan migrants, Colombia stands on the right side of history, offering protection and strongly advocating for the defense of democracy, freedom and human rights — values it shares with Japan — in the face of threats against them in Latin America.

Colombia has also showed leadership in tackling the climate crisis, ensuring a green, sustainable and more inclusive economic and social recovery from the pandemic, taking meaningful actions such as declaring 30% of its ocean terri-

tory a protected area, and establishing goals to reduce emissions by 51% by 2030 and become a decarbonized society by 2050, the latter being a goal it shares with Japan.

These challenges were addressed locally and advocated at a multilateral level, recognizing that these issues require global solutions. At the same time, these are opportunities for strengthening the bilateral agenda around common goals and joining hands with other nations like Japan, a country with which Colombia has shared such values as the defense of democracy and human rights, and shared such interests as sustainability, decarbonization and renewable energy, topics that will undoubtedly continue to be on the top of the agendas of both our countries.



Bogota boasts historic architecture and is home to many museums.
PROCOLOMBIA

Economic, social relationships continue to make progress

TATSUMARO TERAZAWA
PRESIDENT, COLOMBIA-JAPAN
FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Colombia, I would like to note that our countries share the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Japan and Colombia are in an economically complementary relationship, and with the positive improvement of the security situation in Colombia, economic

relations between both have deepened in recent years.

Both Japan and Colombia have been economically and socially affected as a result of the novel coronavirus, a situation that has been improving gradually this year. Under the term of office of President-elect Gustavo Petro, elected in June, we look forward to growth reinforcement, as well as revitalization of political, economic and cultural exchange to further consolidate the friendly bilateral relations between our countries.

These messages were compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Working for sustainable growth

TAKEHIKO KAKIUCHI
CHAIR, JAPAN-COLOMBIA ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE, KEIDANREN



On behalf of Keidanren's Japan-Colombia Economic Committee, I am honored to offer my warmest congratulations to the government and people of the Republic of Colombia

on the 212th anniversary of their independence.

I was appointed chair of the Japan-Colombia Economic Committee on June 1 and am pleased and honored to serve to further strengthen our bilateral relationship.

The world is approaching a crucial juncture as we emerge from a lengthy pandemic and look ahead to a stable

recovery. Like many other countries, Japan and Colombia must achieve sustainable growth through initiatives in such sectors as energy and digital transformation.

Our two countries have long built strong cooperative relations, but there are still many areas in which business collaboration can continue to grow and prosper even more.

I have no doubt that our economic relations will become even closer under the newly elected leadership, and the business community looks forward to the early conclusion of the Japan-Colombia economic partnership agreement that will expand trade and investment under a free and fair framework.

In closing, I extend my very best wishes for the good health and prosperity of the Colombian people and reaffirm our substantial commitment to further enhancing the economic relationship between our two countries.

Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Colombia on
Their Independence Day

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of
Their Independence Day

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