

Ecuador National Day Special

Shared vision on environmental protection

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AMBASSADOR OF ECUADOR



This Aug. 10, the Republic of Ecuador commemorates more than 200 years since its first independence call. On that date in 1809, a group of Quito patriots defied the constituted power

in what at that time was the Royal Audience of Quito.

Unfortunately, the pronouncement lasted barely a year and was harshly repressed in 1810 with the execution of many of those patriots or their exile. However, that was a seed that had profound repercussions on revolutionary movements and libertarian ideas throughout the continent and that would be sealed for my country on May 24 at the 1822 battle of Pichincha, a volcano on whose slopes lies the city of Quito.

I have been honored by President Guillermo Lasso to serve in this great country, with which we are united by centuries-old ties of relationship and cooperation.

Years ago I was favored with a scholarship from the Japan International Cooperation Agency, so I feel very honored to head the diplomatic mission of my country in Japan.

The two countries are partners in the Pacific, sharing a similar geographical reality despite the immensity of the ocean, with democratic values and respect for the principles that emanate from the United Nations Charter. We are also in an area prone to natural disasters, the management of and recovery from which Japan is a world leader from whom we receive important cooperation.

Ecuador, despite being the country most affected in our region by the closure of trade flows with Ukraine and Russia — markets on which many of our exports depend — has been very clear in its pronouncements in international forums in rejecting the use of force as a dispute-settlement mechanism.

I recall on this occasion the doctrine of Grand Marshal Antonio Jose de Sucre, winner of the battle of Ayacucho that clinched South America's independence: "Victory does not create rights."

This has been a permanent reference point in Ecuador's foreign policy throughout our history.

Together with Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland, we have been elected to integrate the United Nations Security Council as nonpermanent members for the 2023-2024 period. Before being elected, we shared experiences with Japan and look forward to working together at a time when the pursuit of world peace is in crisis. For my country, it will be a big commitment, having been elected with 190 votes in the General Assembly and representing Latin America and the Caribbean.

Our priority will be the peaceful settlement of disputes; the protection of civilians in the context of armed conflict; the championing of women, peace and security; nuclear nonproliferation and the fight against illicit arms trafficking; and attention to emerging threats in the context of sustainable peace efforts.

A challenge that we have set for ourselves and on which we are working together with the Japanese authorities and the private sectors of both countries, is to strengthen our trade and investment relations toward a treaty covering both areas. The goal would be to improve our relatively minor bilateral trade and investment flows toward the levels Ecuador currently maintains with important neighbors of

Japan with whom we are already negotiating trade agreements.

Ecuador has applied to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and has received the support of Japan, which we are thankful for and appreciate.

Given the respect both countries have for conservation of the environment, the president announced at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, the creation of a new 60,000-square-kilometer marine reserve in the Galapagos Islands, which, in addition to the current one will provide more protection to highly migratory marine species. We hope to receive Japan's support for its conservation and protection.

We also share the same vision with Japan on halting plastic pollution of the oceans; we hope to lead negotiations for an international convention that will be launched very soon for this purpose. This is a task from which no nation in the world can be exempt.

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



Quito is known for having one of the best-preserved historic centers in Latin America.
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The Monument of Heroes in Independence Square
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the Anniversary of Their Independence

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