

Uruguay Independence Day Special

Top-level visits highlight trade progress

VICTORIA FRANCOLINO
AMBASSADOR OF URUGUAY



On the occasion of the 197th anniversary of Uruguay's Independence, I extend my warm greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako and to the government and people of Japan.

It is important to recall that after 100 years of diplomatic relations, commemorated last year, great achievements have been accomplished that today allow us to have a solid basis for future projection.

The excellent bilateral relationship between our two countries is characterized by shared fundamental values, the convergence of views on global issues and strong bonds of friendship and solidarity between our peoples.

Moreover, in recent decades, the bond between our nations has been strengthened by the exchange of official visits at the highest level, in all cases accompanied by business delegations with current or potential trade links.

Uruguay recognizes and values the unprecedented diplomatic event of then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Montevideo in December 2018, and we reiterate our deepest condolences to the people and government of Japan for this terrible loss.

At the same time, it is worth recalling that during their terms of office, all Uruguayan presidents have made visits to Japan, and in some cases on more than one occasion.

These visits have enabled qualitative leaps to be made in terms of projects of shared interest, as well as the renewal of the traditional ties of fraternity and friendship between our countries in all their dimensions.

In this regard, and of great importance

for the deepening of economic and trade ties, the results achieved with the signing of bilateral agreements for the promotion and protection of investments, and for the avoidance of double taxation and for customs cooperation stand out.

At the same time, the reciprocal opening of markets for meat exports, beyond its indisputable economic relevance, has boosted business and institutional contacts between Uruguay and Japan.

Trade facilitation is a priority area for further progress, as there is a shared vision on both the importance of diversification and the strengthening of supply chains that guarantee security, predictability, openness and transparency.

The expansion of trade, based on improved market access conditions, contributes to further stimulation of business in areas both countries promote, including food and energy security, allowing the exploration of new dimensions in the fields of innovation and knowledge sharing.

Uruguay will continue to strive to further develop bilateral relations through economic, commercial, cultural, sporting and scientific exchanges, just to mention some of the areas identified as priority areas of interest.

I also take this opportunity to convey a special greeting to my fellow citizens and friends of Uruguay in Japan, including the sponsors who constantly respond to our calls, thus contributing to the promotion and dissemination efforts that Uruguay carries out in this beautiful country.

I conclude my words by reiterating our embassy's commitment to work, within the framework of the excellent bilateral relations that exist between both countries, and with the responsibility to build and work toward a new century of prosperity for both nations.

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



Running alongside the Rio de la Plata, the 22-kilometer Montevideo Rambla is one of the world's longest footpaths. URUGUAY XXI

Centenary events to reinforce ties

ISIDORO HODARA
URUGUAYAN-JAPANESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY



It is a great honor for me and the institution over which I preside to greet the authorities of Japan, its people, the Embassy of Uruguay in Tokyo and The Japan Times newspaper, especially

for offering us the opportunity to address them through this medium on the occasion of the anniversary of the independence of our country.

Japan and Uruguay are separated by great physical distance, cultural characteristics and a historical dimension, but they are united by strong bonds of friendship and solid shared values.

Although the year 1921 marks the beginning of diplomatic and friendship ties between the two nations, the arrival of the first Japanese immigrant to Uruguay took

place somewhat earlier, in 1908.

In addition, in 2021, the Uruguayan-Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry celebrated 40 years of promoting commercial exchange between our countries.

On the occasion of the centenary of bilateral diplomatic relations, a committee was formed to organize the anniversary celebrations that is presided over in an honorary capacity by his excellency the ambassador of Japan in Uruguay, and by the president of our chamber.

Through the Centenary Committee, we are working to concretize, among other activities, the placement of a commemorative monolith in the Japanese Garden of Montevideo, the publication of a book that documents the history and perspectives of the bilateral relationship, a schedule for cultural activities, and official and business missions between both countries.

In particular, we wish to highlight these significant dates and anniversaries in both countries, including of course the date of Uruguay's Independence, to contribute to efforts that will bring our nations closer together.

Partners in stability, tech and agriculture

YOSHIHIRO NAKAMURA
PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN-URUGUAY ASSOCIATION



On behalf of the Japan-Uruguay Association, I would like to sincerely congratulate Uruguay on its Independence Day. We are convinced that Uruguay will continue its national development toward the future.

I was very happy to have gotten the chance to be stationed as ambassador to

Uruguay from 2002 to 2005. I felt lucky to achieve the milestone of being stationed as a diplomat on all five continents.

Uruguay is one of the most advanced digital technology countries. Before I went to Uruguay, I was told that the United States had conferred visa-free status to Uruguay, which was something it had only done for Japan and the United Kingdom in those days. Some of our company members have been long associated with the Uruguayan information technology industry, and Uruguay may join the recent digital collaborations between Japan and the United States.

Uruguay is half of Japan by size but can utilize nearly all of its land, whereas Japan is a mountainous country. Japan can expect

Uruguay to offer various agricultural and pulp products, and we already enjoy Uruguayan beef and wine.

Uruguay is a country with well-developed politics and society. I have witnessed a very peaceful transfer of political power in Uruguay. It is very good, particularly when we see the reality of Japan in the light of its in-capable opposition parties.

It is also good that the Japanese government has sent Japanese-language teachers to Uruguay. I hope to see more Japanese people learn Spanish, which is much easier to master than French in terms of pronunciation.

Our association plans to expand its activities based on expectations for a COVID-19 phaseout.



Horse riding is an important part of Uruguayan ecotourism. MINISTERIO DE TURISMO

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the anniversary of
the independence of
Uruguay with our
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