

Chile National Day Special

125-year bond behind new shared agenda

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In September we commemorate our National Day, the anniversary of our independence. It is also the beginning of spring, with its warmer temperatures and pleasant breezes, inviting

communities to take part in outdoor activities. Kites decorate the skies and traditional games are played by children and parents alike. Barbecues, empanadas and wine are enjoyed all across the country.

For Chile and Japan, this month also has a very special meaning, since it was on Sept. 25, 1897, when our nations signed the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation that marked the beginning of our bilateral diplomatic relations.

Since then, what began as a link based on trade and navigation, has greatly evolved throughout the years into a profound bond of common and shared values such as peace, freedom, democracy, rule of law, sustainable development, free trade,

the protection of the environment and human security.

Our countries have been working on a new common agenda centered in fields such as information technology, science, renewable energies, innovation, and startup facilitation.

In December 2020, Chile and Japan signed a memorandum of cooperation to strengthen technical exchange in information and communication technologies, which has provided concrete benefits for the population. Thanks to this agreement, and with the support of Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, a pilot project in November 2021 allowed Chile to become the first country in Latin America to perform a mammogram using 5G technology for telemedicine. The use of this tool could greatly contribute to the early detection of breast cancer, which affects one in nine women in Chile.

The Chile-Japan Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development Program is meanwhile focused on the prediction and early detection of red tide, an event that affects marine life in both countries. This project shows how our scientific communities continue to work together to build resilience against

the effects of climate change.

The relations between our peoples have also been key for reaching a deeper mutual understanding. A working holiday agreement has provided opportunities for young people of both countries to experience our respective cultures. The memorandum of cooperation for the aging society allowed the exchange of experiences between Chile and Japan through a webinar organized last year by the embassy to address rurality and dementia among the elderly. In December, Chilean artist Yitan was awarded the Japan International Manga Award Bronze Prize for his work "Blood Ties," showing how the arts can contribute to building friendship among countries.

This year we are commemorating the 125th anniversary of our diplomatic relationship and have organized a program of activities to highlight this important and historic milestone.

On Sept. 7, we presented the artwork "Rari Crin Cranes for Peace" to the people of Hiroshima, at the Hiroshima Orizuru Tower. Inspired by the famous story of Sadako Sasaki, female Chilean artisans from the small central town of Rari, Chile, created 108 cranes using a 200-year-old



Moai Statues on Easter Island MARCA CHILE

technique weaving dyed horse hair.

Another initiative is a haiku contest aimed at highlighting our visions of our countries. It started in April this year by inviting people from Chile and the city of Mitaka in western Tokyo (which hosted Chile's Tokyo 2020 Paralympians) to write haiku about the essence of their countries. The Haiku International Association is the jury for this contest, and the award ceremony will take place in October in Mitaka.



Lauca National Park in the Arica y Parinacota region MARCA CHILE

Closing the commemorative activities program, our embassy, together with the architecture departments of the University of Tokyo and the University of Chile, will implement the "Chile-Japan Workshop on Sustainable Wood Architecture," which would be the first bilateral collaborative course about the uses of this material from an innovative urbanistic point of view. The workshop will comprise six lectures and a student design studio session scheduled to

be held through December.

Looking toward the future, we are certain that the partnership between Chile and Japan will continue to be strengthened and contribute to the prosperity of our peoples.

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

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the Republic of Chile
on the Anniversary of
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