

Cuba National Day Special

Stronger ties based on mutual appreciation

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AMBASSADOR OF CUBA



The Republic of Cuba celebrates its National Day and the 64th anniversary of the triumph of the Revolution on Jan. 1. On this day, the Cuban people achieved their independence after

more than a century of struggles.

On this significant date, I am honored to convey, on behalf of the Cuban people and government, our best wishes for peace, prosperity and friendship to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako and other members of the imperial family, as well as to the government and the friendly people of Japan, so close to the hearts of all Cubans.

This year, Cuba has been affected by several natural disasters that have tested the resilience, unity and solidarity of Cubans and their friends around the world. In 2022, Cuba received donations from the government, companies and the Japanese people. They have supported our country in recovering from the accident at the Saratoga Hotel, the fire at the supertanker base in Matanzas and Hurricane Ian. They have also continuously supported Cuba against the COVID-19 pandemic. Your valuable help, for which we are deeply grateful, has been decisive for many affected families.

I take this opportunity to thank Japan for its traditional support in our legitimate demand for the immediate end of the unjust economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba imposed by the United States, the longest in history. The

blockade was condemned for the 30th time last November at the United Nations General Assembly, with 185 countries in favor, two against and two abstentions.

In spite of the difficulties imposed by the blockade, the impact of the pandemic and the complex world economic situation, our country will continue to advance toward a socialist, democratic, prosperous and sustainable society.

Last October, Cuban Culture Day was successfully held in Japan with presentations by Cuban musicians, an exhibition of photographs and paintings, book donations and much more. During this celebration we were able to confirm the appreciation, knowledge and enjoyment of the Japanese people for Cuban culture.

We successfully held the VII National Friendship Meeting with Cuba, an opportunity in which we carried out exchanges with broad sectors of Japanese society on the potential for diversifying and strengthening relations between Japan and Cuba.

As the year concludes, with bilateral exchanges deepening after two years amid the pandemic, we must highlight the visit of the Cuban delegation headed by Prime Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz, who participated in the state funeral of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and held exchanges with businesspeople, members of society, parliamentarians and was received by his Japanese counterpart Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. This visit strengthened the historical ties between our countries.

In the economic and commercial



sphere, the number of Japanese companies attracted to the Cuban market continues to grow after the presentation of the new Portfolio of Opportunities for Foreign Investment in our country and the economic attractions for new companies.

Japanese tourists continue to be interested in visiting Cuba, attracted by its natural landscapes, autochthonous culture and historical heritage. Japanese visitors will find on our island a cheerful, educated and hospitable people who will always welcome them with open arms. In addition, Cuba has achieved a stable and sustained control of the spread of COVID-19

throughout its territory, which encourages the arrival of tourists, the country's main economic sector.

Cuba was able to develop five vaccines of its own for the vaccination of its entire population over 2 years of age and in solidarity with other countries in the world that do not have access to them.

I wish to reiterate the special gratitude of all Cubans and their government for the traditional expressions of solidarity with Cuba, from friendly organizations, members of parliament, political parties and Japanese society in general.

Cuba hopes and fully trusts that this



Left: Classic cars cruise the Paseo del Prado in Havana. Right: Havana's coastline

ALEJANDRO AZCUY

year will continue to strengthen relations between our countries in all areas. Though both countries are geographically distant, they are united by mutual appreciation and friendship between our peoples.

This year we will celebrate the 125th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Cuba, migrants who settled mainly on the Isle of Youth, Havana and the eastern part of the country, contributing their work to the development of society. This celebration will be one more reason to continue promoting the traditional ties of friendship between our peoples.

To all readers, we reiterate our most cordial invitation to travel to Cuba. You will enjoy our natural beauty, cultural richness and historical heritage. There you will find hospitable and cheerful people who have always felt admiration and respect for the Japanese people.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper. For more information please visit the Cuba Tourism website <https://www.cubatravel.cu/en>.



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on the National Day of
the Republic of Cuba

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