

Paraguay National Day Special

High-level visits and shared values elevate bilateral ties

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AMBASSADOR OF PARAGUAY



In commemoration of Paraguay's National Day, the embassy of Paraguay wishes to highlight the excellent diplomatic relations between Paraguay and Japan, which are at their best as

they turn 105 years old.

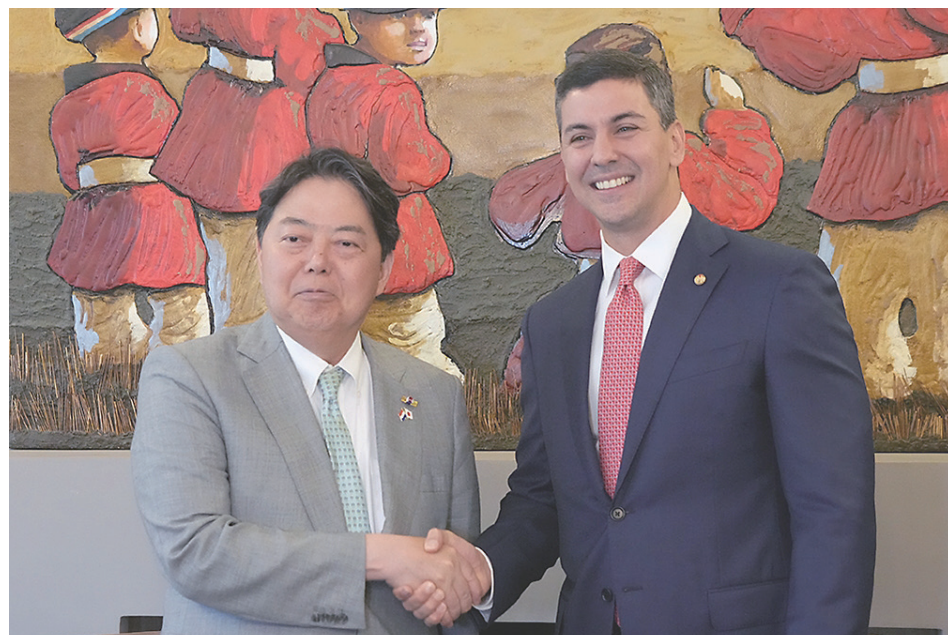
In the past six years, a new dynamism has developed in diplomatic relations between our countries, which encourages us to develop a renewed strategic alliance to work together to face the challenges of today's world.

In this line, it is important to recall the high-level visits of Japanese authorities to Paraguay starting with then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Dec. 2, 2018, the first Japanese leader to visit Paraguay, and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's visit on May 3. These created an unprecedented enrichment of our bilateral ties. Additionally, a visit of President Santiago Pena to Japan is currently under consideration and could take place in the near future.

Regarding high-level visits, we also want to remember with appreciation the visits of then-Foreign Affairs Ministers Toshimitsu Motegi in 2021 and Yoshimasa Hayashi in 2023 that served to address various areas of the bilateral agenda.

From Paraguay, then-Foreign Affairs Minister Euclides Acevedo and Foreign Affairs Minister Ruben Dario Ramirez have visited Japan in the last several years. In particular, Ramirez' summit with Foreign Affairs Minister Yoko Kamikawa helped to take the Japanese-Paraguayan relationship to a new level of cooperation and friendship with a common view and strategy.

Our relationship is particular and special in the sense that the immigration of Japanese to Paraguay 88 years ago represents one of the most recognized migrations in Paraguay. To this day, they form a community that maintains Japan's traditions, unlike



Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi shakes hands with President Santiago Pena in Asuncion May 5. MOFA

many other examples of Japanese migrants in the world, and this is highlighted by Japan's Foreign Affairs Ministry, members of the Diet and the imperial household.

Paraguay and Japan share the values of freedom, the rule of law, democracy, human rights and free trade. In the geopolitical context, it is constantly emphasized that Paraguay is the only country in South America that maintains relations with Taiwan, with whom we also share the same values and respect as one of our main economic partners. This relationship is clearly a contribution to the stability of the East Asian region and in this sense, Paraguay is working with Japan and other key partners of the international community to advance in their strategic alliances.

Regarding bilateral ties with Japan, we want to emphasize that they are currently experiencing a consolidation in commerce. Paraguay wants to play an important role in Japan's food security as a reliable partner, taking into consideration that Paraguay is one of the main exporters of food in the world.

Paraguay, which holds the pro tempore

presidency of the Mercosur trading bloc comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, applauds the present talks between Mercosur and Japan to find new paths of cooperation and expects to keep the momentum going in the rapprochement between our regions.

Paraguay is moving fast in building the Bioceanic Corridor together with Argentina, Brazil and Chile that will establish a direct bridge for trade to East Asia from the ports of Santos, Brazil, in the Atlantic Ocean through Paraguay and northern Argentina via a superhighway, to the ports of Iquique and Antofagasta in Chile on the Pacific Ocean.

The Bioceanic Corridor will help revolutionize economic and trade relations with Japan and the Indo-Pacific region and permit Paraguay to collaborate further in Japan's vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific. This new construction could change forever the relationship of Paraguay and Japan.

For Paraguay it will mean creating a closeness to East Asia like never before in its history, while for Japan it will mean



Left: The Cathedral of Villarrica has a history dating back several hundred years. Below: Tourists admire Iguazu Falls, one of the world's great natural wonders, near the border of Argentina and Brazil.

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greater participation in the Latin American and Caribbean markets that will lead to new levels of partnership.

Our president affirmed when he took office on Aug. 15, 2023, that our success is making all Paraguayans be better and making the world witness the resurgence of a giant. In this spirit, during a recent summit between our leaders, our president affirmed that Paraguay is projected as a modern economy integrated with the world, and is already one of the most open economies in South America, built with solid foundations and strong institutions.

In this sense, Paraguay will be working eagerly with Japan to write new pages of history to walk together as friends and colleagues in a complex and challenging world.

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



The Presidential Palace in Asuncion serves as the workplace for the president and the government. GETTY IMAGES

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the Anniversary of
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