

# Colombia Independence Day Special

## Honoring long-standing friendly ties

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AMBASSADOR OF COLOMBIA



On this 215th anniversary of independence, the Colombian government extends its warmest greetings to their majesties the emperor and empress of Japan, the imperial fam-

ily, His Excellency Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and the people of Japan.

On this joyous occasion, we also celebrate 117 years of friendship with Japan and as was stated by former Foreign Affairs Minister Laura Sarabia in her visit to Tokyo, Colombia is interested in raising our bilateral relationship to the level of a strategic alliance in several areas such as infrastructure, energy, technology and industry.

This year also marks the 110th anniversary of Japanese migration to Colombia, which is an opportunity to strengthen the human, cultural and social ties that enrich

both nations, and a key pillar in building strong and lasting bilateral relations. The Nikkei community located in the Valle del Cauca and Atlantico province is a living testimony of the friendship between our countries and has contributed significantly to the development of our nation.

In this celebration, we would like to acknowledge the commitment to our country's development. As our oldest partner in the Asia-Pacific region, the support of Japan in fields such as peace, socioeconomic inclusion of migrants and climate change, as well as provision of medical equipment, biometric devices and machinery for the development of rural areas, has been of paramount importance. Also, through the donations of libraries and musical instruments, our children and youngsters can have access to a better education and culture.

To address climate change, the government of Colombia aims to advance toward a fair and sustainable energy transition, which seeks to ensure the country's energy sovereignty, economic development and democratic access to energy and clear actions. Japan is also committed in actively

promoting the transition to clean energy and is currently supporting our country in this process toward decarbonization.

The government of Colombia is committed to economic development based on the promotion of beneficial trade exchanges with partners such as Japan, and on the promotion of investment in key areas. The recent creation of the Colombia-Japan Joint Committee on Trade, Investment and Industry is a legacy of our shared commitment to enhancing economic cooperation. Also, our main goal in the coming months is to reach an economic partnership agreement.

Colombia is betting on sustainable tourism and nowadays is an economic sector with remarkable growth. According to the World Travel & Tourism Council, tourism contributed 4.7% to Colombia's gross domestic product in 2024, and by 2025 its contribution is projected to reach 5.1% of GDP.

With our participation at the Osaka Expo, we seek to further expand our presence in other Asian countries, as well as other Japanese prefectures, opening doors to sectors such as technology, renewable energy, agri-



**The Colombia Pavilion at the Osaka Expo shows the country's diversity.**  
PROCOLOMBIA

business, tourism and manufacturing.

Under the concept of "Colombia, the Country of Beauty," our pavilion offers a multisensory experience that merges technology, culture and business, showing why the country has become a reliable and attractive investment destination. Currently, the pavilion is receiving an average of 5,000 visitors daily.

We will celebrate the 215th anniversary of our independence at the Osaka Expo with all our joy and enthusiasm, so that the Japanese people fall in love with the "Country of Beauty."

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

Congratulations  
to the People of  
the Republic of Colombia on  
Their Independence Day

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