
Bolivia Independence Day Special

Celebrating 200 years of independence

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On Aug. 6, the Plurinational State of Bolivia celebrates its bicentennial — marking 200 years of independence. These two centuries have been shaped by the enduring struggles of the Bolivian people

in pursuit of freedom, dignity and justice. This historic milestone is not only a moment of national pride, but also an opportunity to reaffirm Bolivia's commitment to peace, democracy and cooperation among nations.

In this significant year, the visit of Bolivia's Vice President David Choquehuanca to Japan on Bolivia's National Day at the Osaka Expo carried special meaning. Addressing the international community, he reminded

the world that Bolivia is “a nation with memory, with identity and with hope.” He emphasized that the bicentennial should be a time to heal, to reconnect and to envision a future grounded in the principles of harmony and respect for the Earth.

In his address, Choquehuanca offered a profound reflection on the meaning of progress, saying, “To design the future is not to accumulate, but to distribute; not to dominate nature, but to live in harmony with it.” His words highlighted the importance of returning to ancestral values such as balance, complementarity, consensus and respect for life.

He underscored that ancient cultures continue to offer vital wisdom for today's global challenges. In this context, Bolivia and Japan are seen as kindred nations — guardians of ancestral knowledge, bound by shared values of nature, spirituality and intergenerational respect.

This year also marks 111 years of diplomatic relations between Bolivia and Japan,

and 126 years since the first Japanese immigrants arrived in Bolivia. The story of the Japanese-Bolivian community is one of successful integration and mutual enrichment, with generations of Nikkei families contributing to Bolivian society while maintaining cultural ties to Japan.

As a plurinational state, Bolivia draws strength from its cultural diversity. On this bicentennial, Bolivia reaffirms its commitment to building bridges with the world — especially with Japan, a nation with which it shares a long-standing and fruitful friendship.

On this occasion, warmest greetings are extended to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, the government and the people of Japan, and to all Bolivians residing in Japan.

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