

Ecuador National Day Special

Partners in growth, peace and rule of law

CESAR MONTANO
AMBASSADOR OF ECUADOR



Aug. 10 marks 216 years since Ecuador's first struggle for independence and 107 years of diplomatic relations with Japan. By 2028, we will celebrate 110 years of diplomatic ties, and we

are already preparing for this milestone with an active agenda in the areas of economic relations, international cooperation, investment, culture, tourism, energy and the environment.

Ecuador's leader Daniel Noboa, one of the youngest presidents in the world, was recently elected for a four-year term after completing the term of his predecessor. His administration has achieved remarkable successes in economic performance and in the fight against transnational organized crime.

The country has resumed gross domestic product growth, with the first half of the year registering close to 4%, driven by agriculture, agribusiness, commerce and financial activities. Economic momentum was supported by increased household consumption, greater investment and the strong performance of nonoil exports.

As of June, annual inflation stood at 1.48%, one of the lowest rates in the world. This is accompanied by a significant rise in the consumer confidence index and business expectations exceeding the 50% threshold. Migrant remittances have remained steady, an important factor

for the stability of Ecuador's dollarized economy.

The nonoil trade balance increased by \$1.31 billion compared with the same period in 2024, and total exports rose by 10.4% — a historic record for the country — with cocoa, mining products, shrimp, bananas and canned fish among the fastest-growing exports.

International reserves reached \$8.41 billion in June, showing an annual increase of 18.6%. Net tax revenue for the month reflects this dynamic economic trend, with growth of 8.4%. Meanwhile, the country risk index has dropped sharply to 816 and continues to decline.

Noboa's government has restored the path to economic growth and with it, international confidence in Ecuador. Additionally, the administration has enacted a package of laws to promote investment, energy competitiveness, economic efficiency and job creation.

Ecuador is engaged in an all-out fight against transnational organized crime, which has unfortunately exploited the country's openness, infrastructure, geographical location and dollarized economy to expand its illicit networks and activities, including illegal mining and the trafficking of arms and people. Noboa's government has declared war on these networks and is actively combating them on all fronts, seeking to restore Ecuador's long-standing image as an island of peace. This fight requires international cooperation and support, and Japan is contributing to Ecuador's security efforts.

The bilateral agenda between our countries looks highly promising. Ecuador's Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility Min-

ister Gabriela Sommerfeld recently paid an official visit to Japan at the invitation of the Japanese government. She carried out an extensive and important agenda. She met with Japan's Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya, with whom she reviewed the bilateral relationship across all areas and reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening it. She also met with Trade Minister Yoji Muto to examine trade and investment matters with the goal of deepening cooperation.

She held meetings with key Japanese cooperation institutions, including the Japan External Trade Organization, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, where new areas and mechanisms of collaboration were identified, with a view to expanding cooperation. She also met with Keidanren and leading companies with a presence and investments in Ecuador, receiving their support to promote with the Japanese government the negotiation of an economic partnership agreement.

She concluded her visit in Hiroshima, where she and the mayor shared a commitment to the values of global peace and the prohibition and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. She paid tribute to the victims of the atomic bombing ahead of the 80th anniversary of the event and met with representatives of the Nihon Hidankyo, formerly the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, congratulating them on receiving the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize.

Sommerfeld's visit has been highly significant in strengthening bilateral relations and in laying the groundwork for Noboa's



The Mitad del Mundo Monument marks the equator. MINISTRY OF TOURISM OF ECUADOR

upcoming visit to Japan at the end of this month.

This visit is expected to mark a major step forward in the Ecuador-Japan friendship, especially in trade, shared values, international cooperation, culture, tourism, investment, trade promotion and the decarbonization of both economies, among other key areas.



Foreign Minister Gabriela Sommerfeld and Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya meet during her official visit to Japan.
EMBASSY OF ECUADOR

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 Ecuador on
the Anniversary of Their Independence

ANA ANA FOODS CO., LTD.

38F, Shiodome City Center, 1-5-2 Higashi-Shimbashi,
Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan

<https://www.ana-foods.co.jp/>

Congratulations
to the People of Ecuador
on the Anniversary of Their Independence



IZUX Co., Ltd.

3-1-1 Kami-Osaki, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-0021
<https://www.izux.co.jp/>

Congratulations
to the People of the Republic of Ecuador
on the Anniversary of Their Independence

NICHIREI

Nichirei Higashi-Ginza Building
6-19-20 Tsukiji, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-8402 Japan

<https://www.nichireifoods.co.jp>