

Colombia Independence Day Special

Strengthening alliance to build the future

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On the occasion of the 216th anniversary of Colombia's Independence Day, the government of Colombia extends its warmest greetings to their majesties the emperor and empress, the imperial family, Her Excellency Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and the people of Japan.

Every July 20th, Colombia commemorates the commencement of its republican life, honoring the courage of a nation that has built its history upon the core principles of liberty, democracy and global openness. Today, that same spirit is reflected in the international relations between our country and strategic partners like Japan — a nation with which we

share a deep-rooted history of friendship, cooperation and trust that continues to steadily grow.

Within the framework of this commemoration, the relationship between Colombia and Japan stands as one of the most meaningful examples of how diplomacy can serve as a bridge to connect cultures, promote development and generate opportunities for both nations. More than a century of bilateral relations has fostered a robust agenda, underpinned by mutual respect, continuous dialogue and a shared vision for sustainable growth.

From Tokyo, the Embassy of Colombia has intensified these efforts through an agenda designed to bolster cooperation across strategic sectors, including innovation, trade, investment, agriculture, culture, environmental sustainability, defense and

academic exchanges. These initiatives aim to solidify Japan's position as one of Colombia's premier allies in the Asia-Pacific region, while deepening ties among the public, private and academic sectors of both countries.

A decisive milestone in this strategy was Colombia's participation in the Osaka Expo in 2025. Colombia's presence at one of the world's most prestigious international expositions provided an exceptional platform to showcase its cultural wealth, vast biodiversity, business potential and the diverse opportunities it offers for investment and tourism. This scenario also served to broaden engagement with Japanese business leaders, institutions and organizations keen on developing new collaborative projects with Colombia.

Most recently, Colombia and Japan have further reinforced their bilateral ties

through high-level summits — notably the meeting between our nations' leaders in September and the Colombian foreign minister's official visit to Japan in April last year — that envisioned a mutual desire to elevate relations to a strategic alliance. Furthermore, the Colombian minister of trade expressed a strong commitment to deepening commercial ties by advancing negotiations for an economic partnership agreement.

Recent milestones also highlight this growing partnership, such as Colombia's first export of poultry to Japan, positioning the South American nation as a vital contributor to Japan's food security. Additionally, in the framework of President Gustavo Petro's official visit to Japan, a memorandum of cooperation on agrotechnology was signed. The inaugural joint committee



Left: Dancers in traditional costumes dance in front of the Colombia Pavilion at the Osaka Expo in 2025. Right: Violetear hummingbirds are endemic to Colombia. PROCOLOMBIA



meeting for this initiative was held in April, enabling both nations to explore promising avenues of collaboration within the sector.

Colombia's independence thus finds its contemporary expression in its capacity to strengthen bonds with friendly nations and envisage a foreign policy rooted in dialogue and cooperation. Our enduring relationship with Japan reflects this long-term vision,

proving that when diplomacy is leveraged to bring people closer and build opportunities, the bonds between nations transcend geographic borders, becoming a true legacy of friendship for future generations.

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



Bogotá's tower-filled skyline sits in front of the Eastern Hills. PROCOLOMBIA

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



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