

Peru independence day

A new commitment, approach for an old friendship

Juan Carlos Capunay
AMBASSADOR OF PERU

The old mutual friendship between the peoples of Japan and Peru has its historical origin on Aug. 21, 1873, when Peru became the 14th country in the world and first in Latin America to establish diplomatic relations with Japan. Peru was also the first South American country to receive Japanese immigrants, in 1899 on the Sakura Maru vessel, 112 years ago. Since then, every year on April 3 we commemorate Peruvian-Japanese Friendship Day. These long-lasting bilateral bonds rely on more than 145 bilateral treaties. Among those to be highlighted are the first one, the Treaty on Peace, Friendship, Commerce and Navigation of 1873, and the last one, the economic partnership agreement (EPA) signed in Tokyo last May.

Based on this human dimension in our relations, we feel as our own the suffering of the victims from the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11 and the mourning for the thousands of deaths. It is astonishing how the people of Japan faced one of the worst natural catastrophes of their history with stoicism and national spirit. In this sense, the whole world expressed their admiration and absolute solidarity with Japan. The Peruvian government declared March 18 as a National Mourning Day for Japan. All official flags were flown at half-mast. Over the following days, President Alan Garcia of Peru, high ranking officials, the ambassador of Japan to Peru and members of the Japanese community in Peru attended religious services in memory of the victims. The Embassy of Peru in

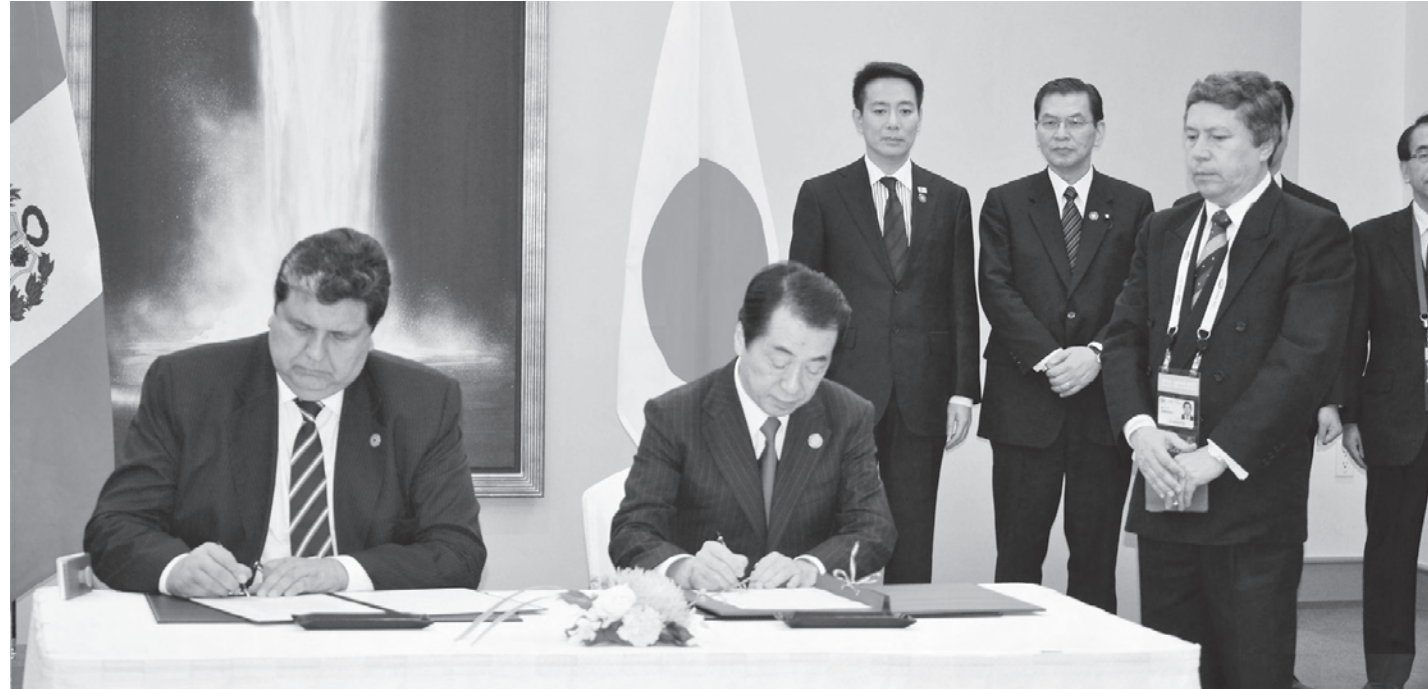
Tokyo visited the devastated zone and had a meeting with Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture, authorities to hand over a donation for the affected people.

Since 2006, when President Garcia's administration began, the relations with Japan have been undergoing an evident improvement in every area: political, economic-commercial and cultural. There have been four summit meetings between the government leaders of both countries, including the first official visit of President Garcia to Japan in March 2008.

In April 2009, Peru adopted the Japanese digital television system. Since then, other South American countries followed Peru's decision to also choose this Japanese technology. In 2010, the bilateral trade reached around \$3 billion including the export to Japan of nontraditional Peruvian products, such as mangoes, and organic coffee and bananas, along with traditional export goods from the fishery and mining sectors.

The subscription of the EPA on May 31, 2010, after six negotiation rounds, was a turning point in this long-established political and economic relationship. The mid- and long-term perspectives of a new architectural alliance are promising and a sustainable export growth is foreseen. The EPA will benefit small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) of both countries, since they will have access to participate in their respective government procurements. Chefs graduating from universities in both countries will have more job opportunities in either country. Japan has granted this benefit to only a few countries in the world. It is the best recognition to the quality and prestige of Peruvian gastronomy and its chefs.

By means of the EPA, Peru would show its willingness to assist Japan's economic reacti-



Strengthening ties: President Alan Garcia of Peru and Prime Minister Naoto Kan sign the Joint Statement on the Conclusion of Negotiations for an Economic Partnership Agreement between Japan and Peru at their summit meeting on Nov. 14, 2010, during the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Yokohama. EMBASSY OF JAPAN

vation after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Japan's foreign trade needs new markets for its exports as well as secure supply centers. In this sense, the subscribed EPA with Peru will turn out into a best-fitting

mechanism for these aims.

Tourism is another area that Peru expects to develop in the years to come. In 2011, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the encounter of American historian Hiram Bingham with one

of the world's most famous archaeological sites: Machu Picchu. With support from Yale University and the National Geographic Society, Bingham published hundreds of photographs of his expedition to the

Inca citadel and thus brought Machu Picchu to the attention of the world. Japanese tourists have expressed their admiration of this UNESCO World Heritage site in several polls as the tourist destination any Japanese must

visit once in a lifetime. Kuntur Wasi, Kotosh, Chavin, Sican and a group of recently discovered Nazca Lines are some of the touristic attractions Japanese scholars have been researching at, for over 50 years, representing the best example of scientific cooperation and mutual respect for the extraordinary cultural creations of both peoples.

After 138 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations with Japan and on the commemoration of the 190 anniversary of Peru's independence on July 28, it is a favorable opportunity to restate a new commitment for this old friendship with the aim to build a renewed understanding and cooperation approach, which goes far beyond political and trade links, approaching the foundations of a people-to-people policy. This would be the new agenda toward a shared vision of hope and friendship to face the common challenges of the 21st century. The recent gesture of President Garcia, who offered his apologies to the Japanese community in Peru for the pain produced by the persecution and injustices during World War II, evolves from this spirit.

On July 6, 2011, a historic date

in this new bilateral relationship was established. The first sister-city ceremony took place in Hokkaido between Palcamayo in the Junin Region of Peru and Kenbuchi, Hokkaido Prefecture, thus entering a new phase that gives a deeper human dimension to our bilateral bonds.

Today, at the beginning of newly elected President Ollanta Humala's administration, this new and auspicious feeling of friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding among our peoples will set a foundation to guarantee a continuity of the excellent levels of bilateral relations achieved. In addition to this, the upcoming chief of state studied in the Peruvian-Japanese school La Union in Lima, thus his especial affection for Japan.

President Humala's regime will rely on values such as democracy and respect for the rule of law. His proposals embody an appropriate answer to the permanent challenges many modern societies face nowadays in relation to education, access to health and energy services, cornerstones toward development with social inclusion and equity, that will be furthered during his administration.

Ambitious government helps link Peru with the outside world

Shimpei Miyamura
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PERU BUSINESS COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-Peru Business Committee (CEPEJA), I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the govern-



ment and the people of the Republic of Peru on the occasion of the 190th anniversary of their

independence.

Japan and Peru have been friends and partners for 138 years. Ever since the countries officially established diplomatic relations in 1873, a great deal of mutual respect has been fostered through various business and cultural exchanges conducted by the two governments and peoples. Only two years ago, we celebrated the 110th anniversary of the first arrival of Japanese immigrants in Peru. In 1899, the steamship Sakura Maru sailed from Yokohama to El Callao, Peru, carrying

790 Japanese immigrants. Today, a small stone statue of a girl in Rinko Park at Pacifico Yokohama named "Lima-chan" stands in commemoration of this important milestone, facing toward her sister statue, "Gracia Sakurachan," in Peru.

Today, the friendship between the two countries is more alive and stronger than ever. Many Japanese people are deeply thankful for the support and solidarity expressed by the people of Peru through donations and other means to those who have suffered from the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami, which struck Japan on March 11. Among those who extended such support were a group of "cuy" (guinea pig) breeders in small villages near Cusco, who sacrificed their daily earnings in a moving show of friendship and solidarity. Japan and its people will

never forget their help.

Economically, Peru has been achieving an enormous degree of growth in its gross domestic product, averaging more than 6 percent per year over the past decade — the highest such figure in South America. Much of this growth is attributable to a recent surge in global demand for various minerals. Peru is the world's largest producer of silver and the second-largest producer of copper and zinc. Various infrastructure projects for roads, harbors and large-scale shopping malls are also underway throughout Peru. All of this has helped to boost private consumption. Support for growth in retail sales and business demand provided by rising incomes and corporate profits has led to a virtuous cycle of growth in Peru.

What has made the economic performance in Peru even more remarkable is the government's



Friendship: Shimpei Miyamura, chairman of the Japan-Peru Business Committee, meets with President Alan Garcia of Peru at a reception during the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting held in Yokohama in November 2010. JAPAN-PERU BUSINESS COMMITTEE

ambitious role in linking its economy with the outside world by broadly promoting foreign trade and attracting investment. In recent years, the Peruvian government has been actively seeking to implement free trade

agreements with many countries. It signed agreements with the United States in 2006, China in 2009 and the European Union in 2010. On May 31, Japan and Peru signed an economic partnership agreement (EPA) that is expected to be implemented later this year. The EPA will give Japan more access to the Peruvian market, while Peru will experience an increase in trade with and investments from Japan for manufacturing high-tech products. The agreement may also give Japanese industries a new hub for their South American business activities.

The relationship between Japan and Peru has surely moved on to a new stage, thanks to the guidance of President Alan Garcia's administration. It is our sincere hope and belief that this relationship will continue to thrive under the new administration headed by incoming President Ollanta Humala.

In closing, allow us to again offer our heartfelt congratulations to President Humala and the people of the Republic of Peru on this important day.

Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Peru on the 190th Anniversary of Their Independence Day



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Supporting bilateral relations to achieve much for Peruvians

Masahiko Komura
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-PERU
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP
LEAGUE

On behalf of the Japan-Peru Parliamentary Friendship League, I would like to extend special greetings to the people and government of the Republic of Peru on the occasion of the



190th anniversary of their independence.

In February 2009, by efforts of both the Japanese Diet and the Peruvian Congress, the Japan-Peru Parliamentary Friendship League was reactivated. Since then, we have actively supported our bilateral relations so that we could reach many achievements, overcoming a long period of inactivity.

The political support toward successful negotiations for an economic partnership agree-

ment (EPA) with Peru — yet to be approved — as well as the enactment and implementation of laws to support Peruvian and other immigrants in Japan, to ensure security of their livelihood in times of a world economic crisis, along with measures for their better integration into Japanese society, are some of these accomplishments.

Within the Japan-Peru Parliamentary Friendship League, we do feel very close to Peru. For instance, one of the

league's former vice presidents, before assuming his post as prime minister, was Yukio Hatoyama, who will be participating at the ceremony of the incoming Peruvian President Ollanta Humala when he takes office today, July 28. The decision of the Japanese government to send such a special envoy to Peru for this event reflects the importance of the long-lasting bonds of nearly 140 years of diplomatic relations and a promising, bright future among our peoples.



Once in a lifetime: After Hiram Bingham arrived at Machu Picchu on July 24, 1911, expeditions by his team led to worldwide publicity of the site, which today is a UNESCO World Heritage and one of the "New Seven Wonders of the World." EMBASSY OF PERU

Machu Picchu: 100 years on world stage

Near Cusco, the former capital of the Inca Empire, in an area known as "the Sacred Valley of the Incas," upon entering the Amazonian rain forest, stands an impressive ancient citadel: Machu Picchu (it means "Old Mountain" in the Quechua language). It has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1983 and is recognized worldwide as a perfect example of the integration of architecture into the landscape in complete harmony with the surrounding environment, turning any visit to the citadel into a once-in-a-lifetime experience. This was confirmed in 2007 when an international poll elected it as one of the "New Seven Wonders of the World."

The Inca techniques applied to transport, shape and polish the huge granite rocks used to construct about 200 buildings in a rainy and geologically unstable zone still remain a mystery. The alignment between sacred

elements, such as mountains and celestial bodies, supposedly made the area essential to the Inca worldview. Many, and perhaps all of the buildings, were designed by taking into account astronomical phenomena. Scholars also point to the presence of ceremonial burials and carefully sculpted rocks, present in Inca religious sites.

Despite the four-century-long Spanish occupation of Peru from 1531, the conquerors never settled in the citadel and no Catholic temple or any other kind of construction was built in the compound. Hard to access, Machu Picchu became increasingly isolated from the new economic and political axis. Nevertheless, a 17th century legend claimed that in an effort to hide it from their conquerors, the Incas buried a great treasure in the Vilcabamba region, close to Machu Picchu. These claims raised the attention of some adventurers and the surroundings

of the citadel were often visited by scientists, explorers and treasure hunters from all around the globe.

One of them was Hiram Bingham, a Yale University professor, who, guided by locals, arrived at Machu Picchu on July 24, 1911. Afterward, Bingham contacted the school and the National Geographic Society and received a grant for excavation and research. The artifacts and relics found there (which included bones, decorated human mummies and pottery) were brought back to Yale by Bingham. Machu Picchu was revealed to the general public when the National Geographic Society devoted its entire April 1913 issue to the citadel, immediately creating a huge sensation.

Although the objects removed during Bingham's excavation were originally given to Yale as an 18-month loan, unexpected circumstances extended this term without any

formal agreement. Both Yale University and the National Geographic Society recognized Peru's ownership of the artifacts. Yale agreed in November 2010 to return, over a course of two years, all the relics, which will be housed and displayed at a museum along with other Inca objects.

After nearly a century of archaeological work, researchers are still discovering new and amazing things in Machu Picchu. In fact, this year, the remains of a ceremonial offering consisting of pieces of pottery and stone slabs of diverse regional origin were found in the area that overlooks the citadel.

By celebrating the "Year of Machu Picchu's Centennial to the World," we Peruvians wish to strengthen our national identity by maintaining and protecting the Inca's historic and cultural legacy for the generations yet to come, for you and for mankind.

*Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Peru
on the 190th Anniversary
of Their Independence Day*

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