

# Argentina national day

## Important bilateral ties continue to grow

Raul Dejean  
AMBASSADOR OF ARGENTINA

Today is the National Day of Argentina. It commemorates the 202nd anniversary of our first independent government.



This occasion is appropriate to forward the highest expressions of respect and desire for wellness to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and to all the members of the Imperial family and people of Japan, with whom Argentina has maintained friendly and cooperative ties for many years.

The Japanese community in Argentina is a bridge that has existed since 1898 with the establishment of diplomatic relations between both countries through the signing of the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation. Links between both countries have been strengthening since the first Japanese immigrants came to my country. Their contribution to the national development has been very important and their achievements fill Ar-

gentina with pride.

Bilateral relations are remarkable, but certainly there is a huge potential for future development. Argentina and Japan have a system of regular political consultations — the last meeting was held last year and the next is planned for the second half of 2012. There are other institutional frameworks to address specific issues, such as cultural, scientific and technical cooperation, and other areas of mutual interest that seek the possibility of opportunities for concrete cooperation projects and specific businesses.

Top-level visits such as that of Foreign Minister Hector Timerman to Japan last year or that of former Prime Minister Naoto Kan, who attended the inauguration of the new presidential term of President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner in Buenos Aires, express the importance assigned by both Argentina and Japan to their bilateral political ties.

Japan has an assured place and is held in very high consideration in the contemporary cultural presence in Buenos Aires. Among others, Ryuichi Sakamoto in music and Haruki Murakami in literature are

greatly demanded presences. Sakamoto honored Buenos Aires with concerts a week ago, and Murakami made an unprecedented editorial success for a translated Japanese author with the presentation this May of his novel "1Q84" at the recently held 38th Buenos Aires International Book Fair. The tuning through and between the standards and the evolution from our countries' cultural vibrations happens with always renewed intensity on the wings of tango music's popularity, which in Japan has brought waves of Argentinean and Japanese musicians, dance performers and dance events that spread all over the territory of these islands with touching and rewarding allure.

As for the bilateral economic and trade relationship, Japan is a major and successful foreign investor in Argentina, with com-

panies and industrial plants, especially in the automotive and auto parts industry, as well as in food production.

The interest of Japanese firms to expand their financial involvement abroad in strategic markets and high-growth economies is increasing. Argentina, which in 2011 reached 9.2 percent gross domestic product (GDP) growth, is no stranger to this interest, being attractive to foreign investors because of its great diversity of climate and soils, significant mineral and forest resources, its nearly 5,000 km of Atlantic coastline and enviable energy resources. Our country also has Latin America's highest percentage of scientific researchers in relation to its population. Its skilled workforce and innovative capacity enable competitiveness in areas where the country has a long history,

such as aerospace, nuclear, biotechnology, software and information technology.

In 2011 bilateral trade between Argentina and Japan rose 10.83 percent, reaching a total of \$2.06 billion. Imports and sales of Argentinean products — mainly food and commodities — increased in the past year, as well as exports of industrial products from Japan to Argentina.

This robust growth highlights the vast field of opportunity and potential for expansion of bilateral trade beyond the current level.

I would like to end with a message of congratulations to the Japanese people for the admirable attitude demonstrated



Roaring water: The Iguazu National Park hosts the amazing and stunning natural beauty of the Iguazu Falls and has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1984. INPROTUR

in overcoming recent sad and difficult times, as well as inviting them to become more familiar

with Latin America, and Argentina in particular, a country in which I am sure they will find

points of interest and opportunities to develop successfully to the benefit of both our countries.

## Bonds of friendship enhance relations

Hachiro Tomokuni  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-ARGENTINA ASSOCIATION

I feel extremely honored to convey, on behalf of the Japan-Argentina Association, my sincere congratulations to the people and people of the Republic of Argentina on the auspicious occasion of their National Day.



Having rolled back the afflictions of the economic and financial debacle at the beginning of this century, Argentina has been enjoying a high rate of economic growth, in the range of 6 to 9 percent per year since 2003. It is indeed with great admiration and respect to note that Argentina successfully manages to maintain itself on the expansion track despite the general weakening of the global economy, under the leadership of President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, who is serving her second term after winning an overwhelming majority of votes in the election held in 2011.

Ever since the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation was concluded in 1898 between Japan and Argentina, both countries have been closely tied for the past 110 years by strong bonds of friendship. All the good will expressed by the Argentine

people on various occasions throughout the long history remains as a fond memory anchored deep in the heart of the Japanese people.

The Japan-Argentina Association, inaugurated on May 25, 1950, has been acting as a non-governmental entity dedicated to the furtherance of bilateral relations between the two countries, offering various services and information conducive to the objectives of its missions as stipulated in its charter. I am delighted to remember, for instance, that in 2010 our association participated



Majestic: The Perito Moreno Glacier is one of the major tourist draws in the Argentine Patagonia. INPROTUR

in the planning and execution of various events such as the Argentine Fair, soccer games, etc., to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the foundation of Argentina. The tango, a cultural heritage of Argentina, is also an area of significant importance in the bilateral cultural exchanges, and therefore features the work program of our association. We are determined to continue to do our utmost to further strengthen

the relationship between the two countries, which is underpinned not only by economic ties but also by exchanges in cultural and sports activities.

There is no doubt whatsoever that Argentina, endowed with very fertile land and abundant natural resources in its vast territory, is a country of incredible potential and will emerge as a very prosperous nation that will be entrusted with a leading role in the world.

**Congratulations**  
to the People of the Argentine Republic  
on the 202nd Anniversary of Their National Day

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## Historical closeness may spur more diversified bilateral relations

Mikio Sasaki  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-ARGENTINA BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-Argentina Business Cooperation Committee, I am most delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and the people of the Republic of Argentina on the occasion of the 202nd anniversary of the creation of the Primera Junta.



Ever since Japan and Argentina established diplomatic relations in 1898, bonds of friendship have been fostered between the two countries through various business and cultural exchanges. This friendship remains

quite alive today. In April 2011, Argentine Foreign Minister Hector Timerman paid a visit to Tokyo as one of the first ministers to directly express condolences to and solidarity with those who suffered from the Great East Japan Earthquake. The two countries should benefit from this historical closeness for more diversified bilateral relations.

Economically, Argentina has been achieving a remarkable degree of gross domestic product (GDP) growth, averaging around 7.8 percent per year since 2003 — among the highest levels in South America. To a large extent, the growth has been underpinned by the strong prices for major commodities in recent years, but the stable growth in consumer markets in Argentina should not be overlooked, either.

A noteworthy development in business conducted between Japan and Argentina took place in 2009, when Argentina decided to adopt the Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting (ISDB), a Japanese standard for digital television. Although the bilateral trade and direct investment have been stable for years, there should be room for further growth if the two countries could optimize vast potentials available with each other.

In this regard, I would like to

note that the Japan-Argentina Business Cooperation Committee plans to hold its 23rd joint meeting in Buenos Aires on Nov. 15-16. It is our sincere hope that the meeting will provide the two countries with opportunities for productive exchanges on bilateral trade and investment.

In closing, please allow us to again offer our heartiest congratulations to the government and people of the Republic of Argentina on this important day.

**Congratulations to the People of the Argentine Republic on the 202nd Anniversary of Their National Day**

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