

# Argentine national day

## Further strengthening bilateral trade with Japan a priority

Raul Dejean  
AMBASSADOR OF ARGENTINA

Every year on May 25 we celebrate, and share with our friends all over the world, the occasion of the establishment of the First National Government in 1810.

Already 203 years have passed; it seems a long time but we are only a few generations away from those who made it possible having in mind the great country Argentina has become.

This year we are also proud of commemorating 30 years of an uninterrupted and peaceful democratic process in our country, leaving behind for good dictatorial governments that were common in the region decades ago.

In fact, never as now, democracy in the Argentine Republic, and in Latin America as a whole, is an example of development and growth with social inclusion, showing outstanding figures in the last 10 years, with the participation of all the society in the development of labor and social security achievements, recovering dignity and rights. The Latin American countries also share a strong and deep vocation for regional integration.

Just to mention some general figures, Argentina, with around 40 million inhabitants, is the eighth largest country (3,761,274

sq. km), second in size in Latin America; shares frontiers with Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay; has the ninth largest agricultural area in a world that every day demands more food for the growing population; important forests and huge and diverse mining resources, also every day more required; rich fisheries on the Atlantic coast; and is a very important producer and exporter of food commodities and elaborated products. The country is also one of the top five producers of biofuel energy, has fast growing wind and solar energy production with magnificent natural conditions, vast oil and gas resources, hydraulic and nuclear energy production, among others.

The Argentine Republic has a highly skilled and talented labor force. It has an old tradition in activities such as nuclear energy, spatial and industrial engineering, biotechnology, software and IT industry, with the highest ratio of researchers to the economically active population in Latin America. Also, Argentina is a very good manufacturer of goods with added value and design.

The re-industrialization process during the last decade permitted the doubling of the industrial gross product. Exports have increased and diversified. The industrial manufactured goods represent the major percentage of total Argentine exports, followed by agricultural manufactured goods and, at last, those belonging to the primary sector.



Amazing: Iguazu Falls is voted as one of the "New Seven Wonders of Nature" in a 2011 poll. EMITUR

Moreover, Argentina has the highest quality of life index in the region and has wonderful tourist sites to be enjoyed by local and international visitors. UNESCO World Heritage locations, the Iguazu Falls, one of the seven wonders of the world, beautiful lakes and rivers, unique towns, important chains of mountains with nine over 6,500 meters high, the passion for tango dance and music, and so many other attractions that make the country worth visiting.

This great opportunity is an excellent occasion to present our sincere respects and best wishes of well being to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and

Empress Michiko as well as to all the members of the Imperial family, and also permits us to reach and express our cordial greetings to the readers of the prestigious Japan Times newspaper.

Diplomatic relations between Japan and Argentina were established in 1898, approximately 115 years ago, with the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation, when immigration by Japanese citizens was beginning to flow to Argentina that was, as today,

a very open country and attractive destination to people from all over the world.

Regarding the bilateral relations between our two countries, which have been very fruitful and friendly throughout all these years, we are convinced that they have an outstanding future if we continue working in this direction, facilitated by a flourishing economic situation in Japan, a new world environment and better communication in all senses, that favors a closer integration between countries for the sake of all mankind.

Since 1991 we have regular bilateral political consultations and also diverse mechanisms to talk about specific matters such as cooperation in science and technology or cultural cooperation and technical assistance. All of this contributes to find points of reciprocal interest, sectors where we also collaborate actively in many international forums.

The combined effort carried out in these and other fields is just one example of a broader "positive agenda," an agenda which, from a bilateral standpoint, includes trade and investments, energy and environment, and from a multilateral stance, finds us working together on many global issues: human rights, terrorism and drugs, climate change, natural disaster

relief, among others.

I am convinced that expanding the range of the political, economic and commercial consultations will result in a strategic and multilayered dialogue, based upon common visions and interests that will allow us to make the most of the vast opportunities that lie ahead for the benefit of our people.

In the economic and commercial field, Argentine interest is to continue working toward the growth of bilateral trade.

During 2012 the figure of bilateral global commerce reached the amount of \$2.383 billion, very far from the real possibilities, underlying our will to stimulate its diversification.

We should have a strategic vision of the importance for both countries in establishing closer ties. The opportunities are there and the benefits will surely come along. Many important enterprises and corporations from Japan have understood this and made investments

and established themselves in Argentina, developed production and commerce, and there are many examples of excellent business. Even so, the complementarity of our economies, the existing wide range of opportunities, continues to give a huge possibility to reach levels of surprising satisfaction.

We at the Embassy of Argentina in Tokyo will collaborate with you for a continued upgrade in the relations our two countries deserve.

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on the 203rd Anniversary of  
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## Buenos Aires draws visitors with soulful tango

The number of Japanese tourists visiting foreign countries has been increasing in the last few years. Argentina, though a distant destination, has not been left out of this trend. For Japanese tourists seeking new destinations Argentina has many beauties to offer. Undoubtedly, the destination that draws the most tourists is the city of Buenos Aires.

Buenos Aires, on the banks of the River Plate, is a global, open-hearted metropolis, a place where tango, literature, good food, shopping, music, films, theatre, sports and nightlife converge. Old and futuristic, with European and Latin American feel, at once passionate and melancholic, profound and light, all at the same time, Buenos Aires is always captivating and exciting. Tourists can enjoy the amazing culture on offer in its museums, public parks, exhibition centers and historical neighborhoods. After sunset, the "city that never sleeps" opens the doors of its theaters, mega-discos and intimate spaces, where live music shows are staged. There are, of course, dozens of places where the only music played is tango, the "feeling you can dance to."

Declared an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2009, tango is a synonym for Buenos Aires. It is a



Sensual: Tango is an artistic expression from urban Buenos Aires that connects two bodies and souls. INPROTUR

musical expression, a language, a lifestyle and a sensual popular dance born in the Rio de la Plata (River Plate) that won over the whole world. In Argentina, you are one with tango. This dance was born at "milongas" in the quarters of Buenos Aires (known as "arrabales"), and today it is a cultural expression celebrated by men and women throughout the globe. Tango is purely urban, and it is the product of the massive immigration — mostly European — that transformed this area during the last decades of the 19th century. In Argentina,

tourists find countless venues that offer live orchestras and dancers, where this sensual dance can be learned. Tango is a dance that, as no other, connects intimately, emotionally and physically two bodies and two souls. In Buenos Aires milongas, social and neighborhood community clubs and beautiful venues downtown, visitors can try to master the tricks of the 2 x 4 and have fun learning "lunfardo" (a dialect typical of the suburbs, used in lyrics of many tangos), while enjoying traditional dishes and toasting with the best wines.

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on the 203rd Anniversary of Their National Day

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