

Argentina national day

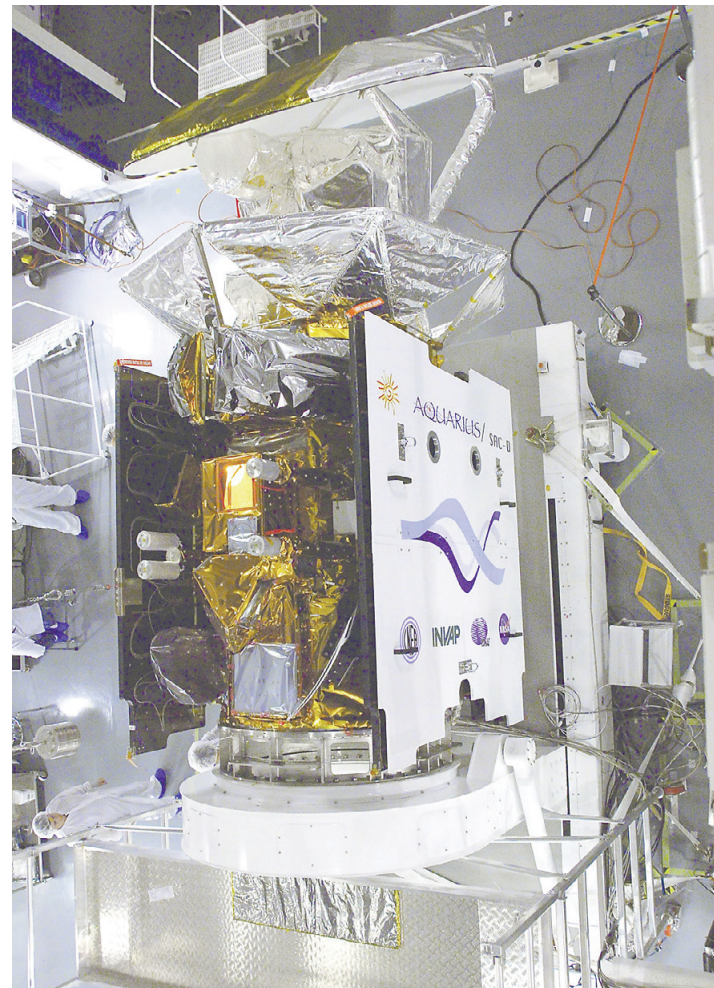
Working toward full potential of Argentina-Japan relationship

Raul Dejean
AMBASSADOR OF ARGENTINA

On May 25, 1810, Argentina established its first national government after nearly three centuries of Spanish administration and in 1853, its national constitution. More than two hundred years have elapsed since that remarkable date and we are only a few generations away from those men and women who turned the dream of the Argentine Republic into a reality.

Argentina, a founding member of Mercosur, is located in the southern cone of South America and shares frontiers with Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Brazil and Uruguay. It is the eighth largest country by area in the world.

The country's size and geographical location is reflected on the diversity of its weather and landscapes. For instance, it has the ninth largest agricultural area, making it strategically relevant given the importance of food supply to an increasing world population in an era of climate change; the highest geographical point in the western hemisphere Aconcagua mountain in the Andes (6,959 meters); and a climate ranging from subtropical in the north to subpolar in the far south. Such factors make Argentina a highly relevant producer and export-



SAC-D/Aquarius is an Earth science satellite built by the Argentine company INVAP, a project undertaken by NASA and the Argentine space agency CONAE. CONAE



(Above) Renowned for its cultural activities and night life, the capital Buenos Aires is the most visited city in South America; (Right) The province of Mendoza along the Andes Mountains is a world's leading producer of Malbec wine. INPROTUR



er of foodstuffs, minerals, energy and an attractive destination for tourists.

In this regard, Argentina has also wonderful tourist sites to be enjoyed by local and international visitors alike. UNESCO World Heritage locations such as The Glaciers National Park, Iguazu Falls, which was voted as one of the new seven wonders of nature in a 2011 poll, unique towns, a passion for Tango dance and folklore music and so many other attractions that make the country worth visiting.

Since the early 20th century, Argentina has thoughtfully made the effort to invest in research and development in agricultural areas and in the

industrial sector as well. Such efforts allowed the industrial gross product and exports to increase considerably. Furthermore, industrial manufactured goods nowadays represent the highest percentage of Argentine exports, followed by agricultural goods. By the same token, the state has resumed its leading role in the promotion of research in science and technology, through its institutions and its public university system, which over the course of the 20th century trained the five Argentine Nobel Prize winners, including three in science.

In this field of science and technology there is also room for improving our already satisfactory cooperation. Argentina's tradition in science and its increased interest in applied technology have opened an interesting opportunity to embark with other countries in joint collaboration on research projects to translate scientific knowledge and information into development.

All in all, despite some setbacks suffered in the past, Argentina is among the privileged countries ranked very high on the Human Development Index. It is also the third largest economy in Latin America, and has a relatively high GDP per capita and a democratic political system that steadily prevailed for the past three decades, giving proof of maturity. Of course, all my country has achieved so far would not have been possible without the contribution of its more than 40 million inhabitants. The Japanese community of approximately 50,000 has been among them and their achievements fill Argentina with pride.

As significant as they are, bilateral relations with Japan that have stood over 116 years of friendship since the treaty of 1898, have not solely included the flow of immigrants from one country to the other. Our relationship has been very fruitful and friendly throughout these years and I am deep-

verse areas.

The combined effort carried out so far in these and other fields are merely examples of a broader positive agenda, which includes trade, investment, energy and environmental issues from a bilateral standpoint.

From a multilateral stance, we are working together on many global issues. As culturally different as we are, we continue sharing the key values of democracy, human rights, respect for international law and a commitment to advancing global security and prosperity. Multilateralism is a very effective instrument to promote peace and to win the fight against poverty and exclusion, disease, the crime of drug trafficking and environmental degradation.

ly convinced they have an outstanding future.

Since 1991 we have institutionalized political consultations and 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. For instance, we are partners in joint cooperation, joining efforts to assist other Latin American nations in di-

are there and benefits will surely be realized along. Many Japanese companies understood this and, therefore, made significant contributions investing in relevant areas of our economy such as the automobile, biofuel and telecommunications industries. Their aim has mainly been in producing for the domestic market, but

also to reach regional markets, especially Mercosur partners. Still, its full potential has not been achieved yet. The complementarities of our economies and the wide range of existing opportunities continue to offer a huge possibility to reach levels of surprising satisfaction.

I wish to conclude presenting my sincere respects and wishes of well-being to their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko

and to all the members of the Imperial house of Japan. I would also like to convey my respectful greetings to the members of the Japanese government and to all the people of the wonderful country of Japan.

Here, at the Embassy of the Argentine Republic in Tokyo, we will keep working and collaborating toward a continued improvement in our bilateral ties for the benefit of both our nations and their people.

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to the People of the Argentine Republic
on the 204th Anniversary of
Their National Day

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