

Peru national day

Past and present come together to build a better future

Elard Escala
AMBASSADOR OF PERU

Peru and Japan have a long history in common. Peru was the first Latin American country to establish diplomatic relations with Japan through the Treaty of Peace, Friendship, Commerce and Navigation, which was concluded on Aug. 21, 1873. Peru was also the first South American country to receive Japanese immigrants, who arrived at Callao Port on April 3, 1899 on a boat named the Sakura Maru. To commemorate this event, we celebrate "Peruvian-Japanese Friendship Day" every April 3. Peru has now the second largest population of Nikkei people in Latin America.

Peru is famous for archaeological and historic treasures such as Machu Picchu and the Nazca Lines; both declared World Heritage sites, the abundance of Amazonian jungle and cities such as Cusco, known as the Archaeological Capital of the Americas; and Lima, a richly biodiverse city where food from different areas of Peru is gathered in markets. Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, Italian and other countries' influences have contributed to make Peruvian food more



Above: Peru is a country rich in mineral resources. Dump trucks and other heavy-duty equipment are used in the mining industry. Right: Located about 200 km north of the capital Lima, Caral is one of the most ancient cities of the Americas, being inhabited more than 2,000 years ago, and designated as UNESCO World Heritage site. EMBASSY OF PERU

well known and appreciated. Peru is also a country rich in mineral resources. It is the world's third-largest producer of copper, tin, silver and zinc; the fourth-largest producer of lead and the fifth largest of gold. Seventeen percent of all the deposits of silver in the world and 10 percent of copper and zinc are found in the country. There are 54 major mineral resource projects that are estimated to be worth \$60.94

billion, though we have to continue pushing investment in infrastructure to keep the domestic and international network developing. There are many opportunities for investment in infrastructure, including the metro 3 and 4 lines in Lima, railway projects, roads, airports, logistics platforms, telecommunications, sanitation and others. However, another Peru is emerging: Peruvian economic growth has been sustainable in

recent years and the middle class is driving economic progress. There has been 6.15 percent average GDP growth in the last 10 years and the inflation rate is less than 2.5 percent. International risk ratings agencies have given the country favorable marks for investment and a democratic regime that values human rights and freedom of expression are the strengths Peru has as an emerging country to move forward. Indeed, we still have many

things to do in order to consolidate these efforts. Peru has signed 17 free trade agreements with 59 countries, including Japan. These agreements cover 95 percent of all Peru's exports and 90 percent of imports. Along with Japan, Peru is also a part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and it is a member of the Pacific Alliance along with Chile, Colombia and Mexico. With these countries we share the same vision of regional integration, with an objective of driving further growth, developing and improving the competitiveness of member economies, achieving greater well-being, overcoming socioeconomic inequality and promoting social inclusion of all inhabitants. This month, Peru organized the 10th Presiden-

tial Summit of the Pacific Alliance as the Pro Tempore President.

On the other hand, Peru is eager to become a partner of the OECD because it is an organization of countries with the best practices and highest standards in economic and social fields. Therefore, Peru will participate in the "Country Program" from this year to work toward achieving OECD's standards and practices.

Today, taking this opportunity of 194th anniversary of Peruvian Independence Day, I would like to extend my greetings to Japanese authorities, readers of this prestigious newspaper, as well as the 50,000 Peruvians living in Japan, whose daily work contribute to the growth of Japan. Happy Independence Day!



Economic relations make steady headway

Shimpei Miyamura
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PERU BUSINESS COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-Peru Business Committee (CEPE-JA-Japan), I am pleased to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of the Republic of Peru on the 194th anniversary of the nation's independence on July 28.

Japan and Peru have been friends for 142 years. Since

diplomatic relations officially began in 1873, close friendships have been formed between the two countries. Peru was the first Latin American country with which modern Japan established diplomatic relations. Peru was also the first Latin American country to welcome immigration from Japan. The Sakura Maru sailed from Yokohama with 790 Japanese on board and arrived at Callao Port in Peru in 1899, nine years before the beginning of Japanese emigration to Brazil. To commemorate this, a small sculpture, Lima-chan stands in Minato Mirai Rinko Park in Yokohama today, fac-

ing her sister across the Pacific, Sakura-chan, located at the entrance of Japanese Peruvian Cultural Center in Lima. The statues convey the message of peace and unity between the two countries.

In recent years, our relationship has become increasingly closer and stronger, not just in the traditional areas of trade and investment, but by greater contacts between our two peoples through various cultural exchanges, tourism and in other areas. Bilateral economic relations are making steady headway year after year, notably in the non-traditional areas, including agri-

cultural products from Peru such as asparagus, fresh mangoes and others, since the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) came into force in March 2012.

In this aspect, it is important to note that a great deal of effort is being put forward by the two countries under a firm belief that we both can do much better economically. Japan and Peru held the second meeting of the Subcommittee on Improvement of the Business Environment for the EPA in Lima on Sept. 18, 2014. The two sides had a very frank exchange of views on the investment environment, immigration control and other issues to help boost bilateral trade and investment further.

In addition, in the various regional integration efforts, such as the Asia Pacific Ocean Economic Cooperation forum, the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Pacific Ocean Alliance, Japan and Peru are important partners. For embracing a more rewarding decade in bilateral relations, Japan and Peru should strengthen cooperation together in as many areas as possible.

In closing, please allow us to extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the government and people of the Republic of Peru on this important day.



The Lima coastline EMBASSY OF PERU



Peru is the world's second-largest asparagus producer and is expanding its export of preserved food. EMBASSY OF PERU

Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Peru
on the 194th Anniversary
of Their Independence

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