

## Chile national day

## Relationship continues to grow

Patricio Torres  
AMBASSADOR OF CHILE

On July 6, 1899, two years after the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Navigation and Commerce, the first Chilean Ambassador to Japan, Carlos Morla, presented his credentials to His Majesty Emperor Meiji. At that time, he mentioned that both countries were already trading partners and remarked that this relationship would naturally and greatly increase in the years to come.

History has proved Morla right. Today, Chile is the second-largest Latin American exporter to Japan and its third-largest trading partner within the region, with overall trade worth close to \$10 billion.

For its part, Japan has become the main foreign investor in Chile, in sectors ranging from mining to aquaculture to manufacturing and services. The role played by the Japanese public and private sectors in our development is widely appreciated in Chile and our people regard Japan as a close friend, seen with sympathy and admiration.

In the political sphere, both countries are like-minded in several crucial issues such as climate change, disarmament, peacekeeping and the need to reform the U.N. Charter, particularly the composition and procedures of the U.N. Security Council. In this regard, it is important to bear in mind that Chile supports the inclusion of Japan as a permanent member of the council, reflecting its stature as a nation and its significant contribution to peace and security in the world.

Chile and Japan are also, unfortunately, constantly challenged by nature in the form of earthquakes and tsunami like the magnitude-8.8 earthquake that hit Chile in 2010 and the 9.0 Great East Japan Earthquake that hit Japan in 2011, both followed by huge tsunami.

In 2010, Japan was one of the first countries in the world to lend its assistance to affected areas in Chile. Likewise, Chile showed its solidarity with the Tohoku region in many ways,



Above: Located in the country's central valley, Santiago is the capital and the largest city in Chile. Right:

ALMA — the largest astronomy project in existence — is a single telescope of revolutionary design, composed of 66 high precision antennas located on the Chajnantor plateau, 5,000 meters altitude in northern Chile. EMBASSY OF CHILE



including both practical and symbolic assistance. Chile delivered a large stone Moai made on Easter Island as a gift to the people of Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture, who have a special regard for Isla de Pascua as it is called in Spanish.

Both countries have obviously developed expertise in dealing with these natural disasters and consequently have signed an agreement to together extend their cooperation to third countries on disaster prevention and management, as well as on strengthening resilience in communities.

Science, technology and innovation are today increasingly relevant in the relationship between Chile and Japan. Agreements between various universities and research insti-

tutes in both countries provided the foundation for what today has become a dynamic exchange of students, scholars and scientists in areas ranging from Antarctic sciences to solar energy, from geology to astronomy and agricultural research among other fields.

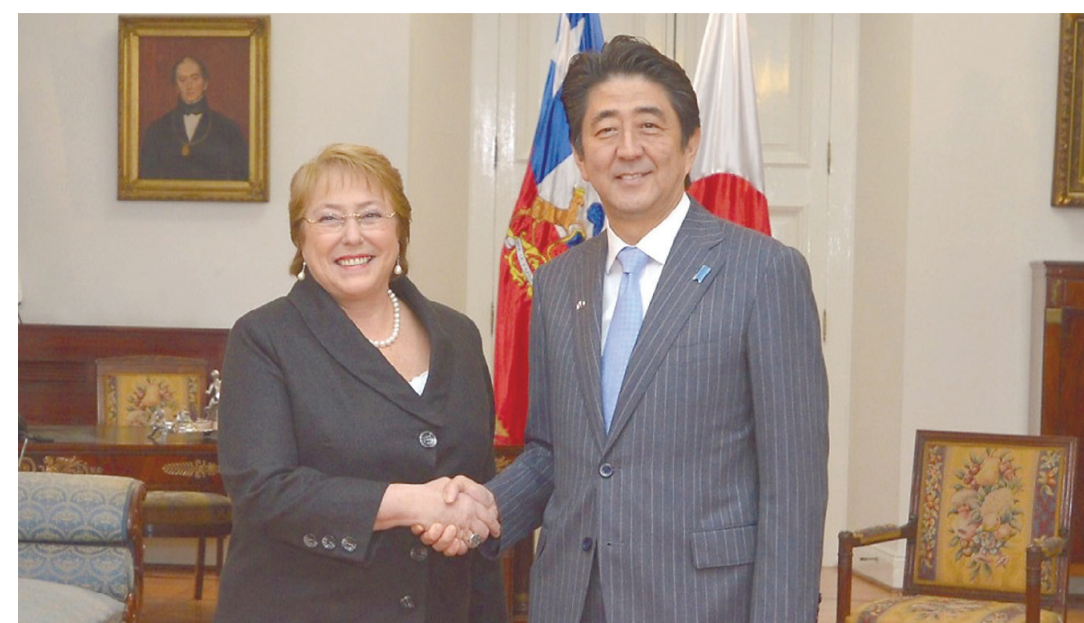
For example, there is a strong presence of Japanese scientists in northern Chile where many of the most important astronomical observatories of the world are based. They work at ALMA, the largest radio astronomical observatory in the

world; TAO of the University of Tokyo; the Atacama Submillimeter Telescope (ASTE), operated by the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan together with universities from Nagoya, Osaka, Ibaraki and Kobe, and NANTEN2, also operated by the University of Nagoya and others.

This extraordinary development of political, economic and scientific relations between Chile and Japan, rests on a very solid foundation of shared values. Both countries enjoy political freedom, full-fledged

democracy and respect for human rights. These shared values have made possible a common vision in foreign policy and on the promotion of liberty, progress and peace based on respect for the principles of international law.

On this day, in which we commemorate the 205th Anniversary of our Independence, we also pay tribute to 118 years of diplomatic relations between Chile and Japan with our commitment to strengthen even further our partnership into the future.



President of Chile Michelle Bachelet and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hold a summit meeting on July 31, 2014, in Santiago during Abe's visit to Chile. EMBASSY OF CHILE

## Working together to promote democracy, peace

The following is a statement by H.E. Michelle Bachelet, president of Chile, at a ceremony after the signing of bilateral agreements during an official visit to Chile by H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on July 31, 2014.

Ladies and gentlemen, Prime Minister Abe and myself have just had a successful working meeting. We have identified various subjects and agreements, which will deepen the relationship between our two nations. They will strongly stimulate our economic and commercial relationship, as well as promote scientific, public policy and cultural exchanges.

We have also discussed our joint work at the multilateral level.

We recognize that the relationship between Chile and Japan is solid and more than centenary. Traditionally, this relationship was mainly centered on the economy, investments and trade in goods and services. Naturally, this sector remains a fundamental pillar of our relationship and today we have reached new important agreements.

While stressing the important contribution of the Bilateral Business Committee, we note that Japanese investments in Chile have substantially increased.

Through the TPP negotiations framework and also at the bilateral level, we also expect wider access for our products in the Japanese market.

The multilateral arena has also been an important common

ground for Chilean-Japanese collaboration. We continue to work together to promote democracy, respect for human rights, the peaceful resolution of disputes and the struggle against poverty and inequality.

And while all these values are fundamental for the preservation of peace, security and prosperity in the world, for our country the fight against inequality is also very relevant and it constitutes a main objective for the coming years.

Beyond the very successful and promising relations particularly in the economic field, I would like to stress that we are also exploring new avenues together.

Japan, for decades, has been an undisputed leader in scientific and technological development and we have reached important agreements in this field, which has become crucial of our agenda for the future.

Also, we are united by unfortunate circumstances, which have meant also a common learning process. I refer to Japan and Chile suffering the strongest earthquakes that occurred this century.

Consequently, cooperation in

disaster prevention and management is also a very important field of cooperation between our two countries, particularly in the transfer of relevant technology.

Various agreements also illustrate current cooperation between Chile and Japan in science and technology, astronomy and biotechnology.

We are now designing our future academic exchanges and agreements, which will allow us to break the digital gap in order to increase levels of innovation and competitiveness for our goods and services.

We have much to learn, Prime Minister, of the good practices and successful experience of Japan, in order to contribute our aspiration to reach full development.

And we also want to show you that Chile is a solid partner and a promising gate to the Latin American region.

I would like to thank Prime Minister Abe for his visit, as well as to express our gratitude for the interest and commitment of Japan to continue strengthening our friendship within the framework of progress, cooperation and contribution to international peace and security.



Chile's unique combination of geography and climate make it ideal for wine growing. EMBASSY OF CHILE

**Congratulations**  
to the People of the Republic of Chile  
on the 205th Anniversary  
of Their Independence Day



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