Colombia Independence Day

Nations working together to deepen bilateral ties

Alejandro Posada CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF COLOMBIA

The celebration of the National Independence day of the Republic of Colombia on July 20 is a valuable opportunity to

celebrate the close relationship between Colombia and Japan. On behalf of President Juan Manuel Santos and the people of Colombia, I would like to express special greetings to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the members of the Japanese government and the Japanese people, organizations and companies that, through their efforts, dynamically maintain strong ties with Colombia.

Colombia is experiencing a favorable environment and there is a wide array of opportunities for Japan in the fields of education, investment, trade, tourism and cooperation. Recently, and particularly in the last year, the Colombian government and the Colombian people have

peaceful and welcoming country. Efforts have material

ized into an increasingly positive situation for Colombia, with progress in the peace talks and significant improvements in national security. The "Final and Bilateral Ceasefire and End to Hostilities" agreement, which was signed between the government of Colombia and the **Revolutionary Armed Forces** of Colombia (FARC) on June 23, marked a significant milestone in our history.

In the economic arena, Colombia is becoming more attractive for foreign investors thanks to peace-building efforts, economic development, and a growing list of signed free trade agreements. Hence, the country is expanding its presence in global markets and improving its business environment. Moreover, Colombia's privileged geographical position and its young, dynamic and well-educated population, of which 55 percent is under 30 years old, contribute to create a friendly environment for foreign partners. These advantages have led the tourism sector to be-

come the second-most impor-

tant generator of revenue in

joined efforts to build a stable, the country, allowing for a constant growth of Japanese visitors

Furthermore, Japan and Colombia are committed to continued negotiations on an economic partnership agreement. The partnership pro-vides a framework that will enable greater diversification of traded products and ser-vices between Colombia and Japan. It's also important to note that, thanks to the policies taken by the government to improve the economic and social well-being of the Co-lombian people, it has recent-

ly been announced that Čolombia is close to becoming a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The Asia Pacific Region is of high priority to Colombia and we are taking concrete steps to improve our presence in it. The Pacific Alliance, an integration mechanism between Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Peru, is one of the platforms through which Colombia is fortifying ties with Asia, and Japan is playing an important role as an observer to the process.

Currently, Japan and Colombia cooperate in projects

Night view of Medellin, the second-largest city in the country PROCOLOMBIA

in areas such as agriculture, sustainable development. technical training and science

and technology. As a result of our positive bilateral rela-tions, last May, the Colombian minister of education paid an official visit to Japan with the intention of enhancing educational exchanges between both countries and promoting collaborative projects. This high-level visit provides evidence of the joint effort between the Japanese and the Colombian governments to diversify the bilateral agenda.

The commemoration of Independence is an excellent occasion to express the interest of the Colombian government to continue working together with Japan to invigo rate the relations between both countries and to deepen the friendly and mutually beneficial ties that exist between both nations.

Please join The Embassy of Colombia in the Commemoration of the Independence Day with Colombian musicians and dancers at Shiba Park in Tokyo on Saturday, July 23, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Panoramic view of Bogota, the capital and largest city in Colombia JULIAN SANTACRUZ

Particularly, the visit of Prime

Minister Shinzo Abe to Colom-

bia in July 2014 was a break-

through in diplomatic relations.

I strongly believe the improvement in national security will

promote a prompt agreement on

an economic partnership agree-

ment to increase trade and in-

Shared outlook on politics, economy

Tatsumaro Terazawa ceasefire agreement to end five decades of armed conflict. PRESIDENT, COLOMBIA-JAPAN Since President Juan Manuel FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Santos' inauguration in 2010, Colombia has experienced On behalf of steady economic growth of 4 bia-Japan percent per year, a positive de-Friendship velopment contributing to decreasing the unemployment and would like to poverty rates. Similarly, with the cease-fire agreement, there is an expected additional 1.9 percent increase in the potential growth rate, pushing it to 5.9 percent. gratulations I deeply hope for the con-

pendence Day of the Republic tinuous development of Coof Colombia. lombia, as well as the Sharing the same political values of democracy and a dynamenhancement of political, ecoic and mutually benefiting nomic and cultural relations between our two countries.

economic relationship, the bonds between Japan and Colombia have been strengthening. National security in Colombia has seen a major improvement since the 20th century. In June, peace negotiations between the Colombian government and the **Revolutionary Armed Forces of** Colombia (FARC) marked an important milestone, signing a

the Colom-

Association, I

express my

heartfelt con-

on the Inde-

Congratulations

vestment.

Many investment opportunities await

Yorihiko Kojima CHAIR, JAPAN-COLOMBIA ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, KEIDANREN

On behalf of Keidanren's Japan-Colombia

Economic Committee, I am delighted to extend my warmest congratulations to H.E. President Juan Manuel Santos and the people of the Republic of Colombia on their 206th anniversary of independence.

Recently the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas reached a cease-fire agreement, and the president



said the peace talks are nearly complete. Learning this glad news I strongly believe now is the time to increase business in Colombia, which offers many incentives, including abundant natural resources such as coal and petroleum reserves, rich human resources and geographical advantages. Moreover, I understand the negotiations of the Japan-Colombia Economic Partnership Agreement are in their final stage and I urge both Japanese and Colombian companies to be prepared and not miss major opportunities.

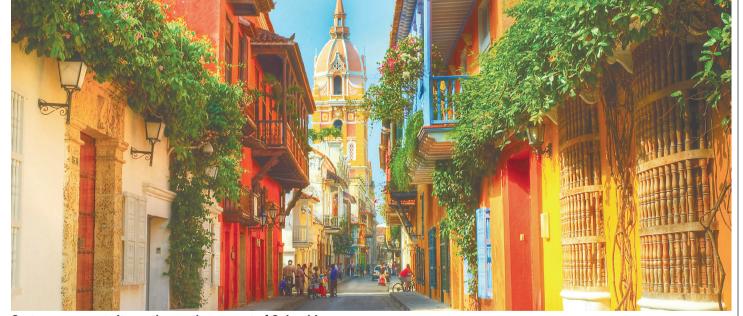
The Japan-Colombia Economic Committee will continue to do its best to enhance the economic ties between our countries and contribute toward a mutually beneficial future.



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Your Pride

Join us on July 20 as we celebrate



Cartagena, a port city on the northern coast of Colombia PROCOLOMBI

Congratulations

to the People of the Republic of Colombia on the 206th Anniversary of Their Independence

We support the Colombian coffee industry through our coffee concern



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Congratulations

to the People of the **Republic of Colombia** on the 206th Anniversary of **Their Independence**

A Mitsubishi Corporation

to the People of the **Republic of Colombia** on the 206th Anniversary of **Their Independence**



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the 206th Anniversary of Independence We are proud to offer a non-stop flight from Los Angeles to Bogota with connections to more than 24 destinations in Colombia!!



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to the People of the Republic of Colombia on the 206th Anniversary of **Colombian Independence**



Mizuho Bank

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