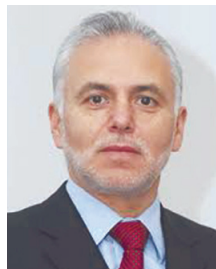


# Ecuador National Day

## Social equity and justice in quest for harmony

**JAIME BARBERIS**  
AMBASSADOR OF ECUADOR



On Aug. 10 Ecuador commemorates the 208th Anniversary of its Proclamation of Independence. On this important occasion, it is a privilege for me as ambassador of Ecuador in Japan to

greet their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the noble Japanese people and my fellow Ecuadorian compatriots living in Japan. I would also like to thank The Japan Times for this publication.

After 300 years of colonial rule, the residents of Quito were the first in Latin America to declare independence on Aug. 10, 1809. Although the independence effort of 1809 was short lived, the example set by the patriots of Quito was a key milestone in the independence process of Latin America, as recognized in the commemorative inscription placed in 1812 in the Valparaiso Lighthouse by Secretary of the Senate of Chile Fray Camilo Henriquez Gonzalez that reads: "Quito, Luz de America," or Quito, America's beacon. It is with pride and gratitude that the Embassy of Ecuador in Japan praises the commitment to freedom of the brave men and women of the rebellion of 1809, whose ideals still live in the heart and soul of every Ecuadorian.

On May 24, President Lenin Moreno was sworn in to lead Ecuador for the next four years. The president has stated that he is the president of all Ecuadorians and that during his administration "dialogue" will be the tool to enhance Ecuadorian democracy and

promote development. Nowadays, an inclusive national dialogue, which involves all sectors of society, is taking place in Ecuador to reach an agreement on the way to achieve the goals set forth by the Citizen's Revolution, the political process that seeks to achieve a standard of good living, equity, social justice and freedom from all forms of violence and discrimination in an environment of social harmony and in full respect of nature.

In this context, the National Plan of Development 2017-2021, has been designed to further achieve environmental sustainability and territorial development, through the promotion of three specific tenets.

The first of these is "Rights for All Throughout One's Life," including the protection of the most vulnerable persons, the recognition of plurinationality and interculturalism, the eradication of poverty and all kinds of discrimination and violence, while ensuring the rights of nature.

The second is "Economy to the Service of Society" to consolidate the economic solidarity system, expand productivity and competitiveness, generate quality employment, defend the dollarization process and promote the equitable redistribution of wealth.

The third principle is "More Society, Better State" through the construction, with the people's participation, of a new social ethic based on transparency and solidarity, a state with quality services that promotes sovereignty and peace, and that positions itself strategically in the world.

Ecuador participates actively in international and regional forums. Ecuador supports all efforts toward maintaining world peace, peace-building, peaceful resolution of conflicts, South-South cooperation and international efforts to preserve the environment and fight climate change. It gives special attention to the implementation of

the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals to transform our world, fiscal justice at a global level, the enhancement of international cooperation to combat corruption and promote transparency, the establishment of a legally binding international instrument on business and human rights and the protection and defense of the rights of migrants.

At the regional level Ecuador supports the strengthening of the Andean Community, the Union of South American States and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

The relations between Ecuador and Japan have been friendly and are based on mutual respect and cooperation. The president has expressed the desire of his government to deepen the relationship with Japan and its people in a cooperative and mutually beneficial way. In the past years the political dialogue has been enhanced and economic and commercial relations have seen a steady boost.

In September, Ecuador's Vice Minister of Foreign Relations Fernando Yopez held constructive meetings in Tokyo with Parliamentary Secretary of Foreign Affairs Shunsuke Takei and the President of the Japan-Ecuador Parliamentary Group Yasutoshi Nishimura, as well as with authorities of the Japan External Trade Organization, Japan International Cooperation Agency and Keidanren business lobby. Likewise, they both visited Ecuador on different occasions to hold political consultations and to represent the government of Japan during the transmission of power to our new president.

In 2018, Ecuador and Japan will commemorate 100 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations. This remembrance is a great occasion to strengthen the friendly relationship between our countries. Furthermore, it is an important threshold



**Plaza de San Francisco in Quito**  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR

to reach out to the Japanese population with information about Ecuador, as a land of investment opportunities, cultural acquaintance and pure life enjoyment in its magical four worlds of the Pacific coast, Andean highlands, Amazon rainforest and the Galapagos Islands. Ecuador is located in a privileged geographic position and is home to 27 different ethnic groups with a unique cultural heritage and is one of only 17 megadiverse countries in the world, with the largest number of animals and plant species per square kilometer on the planet.

The Embassy of Ecuador in Japan will focus on strengthening the political dialogue and the promotion of mutual high-level visits. In the economic and commercial fields, the embassy will continue with the promotion of Japanese investments in key and strategic sectors of Ecuador's economy and increase the presence of Ecuadorian products in Japan. Furthermore, the embassy will enhance the cooperation with both the public and private institutions in Japan and promote the exchange of people in various sectors at every level.

I wish to reiterate once more the decision of the nation, government and the embassy in Japan to further strengthen the friendly relations and cooperation that happily exist between Ecuador and Japan.

**Congratulations**  
to the People of Ecuador  
on the 208th Anniversary of Their Independence

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President: **KINKO OTANI**, Honorary Consul-General of Ecuador

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