

# Chile National Day

## 120 years of a friendly, fruitful partnership

**GUSTAVO AYARES**  
AMBASSADOR OF CHILE



On the 207th Anniversary of our Independence I would like to extend my warm greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, members of the Imperial family,

H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the government and friendly and generous people of Japan. This anniversary is happily coincident with the celebration of the 120th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Chile and Japan. The government and people of Chile are looking forward to the forthcoming visit of T.I.H. Prince Akishino and Princess Kiko in celebrating such anniversary.

Close bonds cement the ties between both countries and we are keen to further build on our shared commitment to peace, security and prosperity to lay the foundations of an enduring partnership based on values and ideals inherited from our profound friendship. We have a growing convergence on strategic and economic issues.

Japan and Chile share common values and the same views of the future. We have built a relationship based on respect, trust

and solidarity in the difficult circumstances that we have had to live, especially concerning natural disasters. It is always timely to be thankful for the help Chile has received from Japan on so many occasions, as was the case with the fires that affected much of my country this year. In that sense, the tireless work of Japanese cooperation agencies has marked a sustained course of progress in the early warning systems of natural disasters and their devastating consequences.

In the political sphere, we have a privileged relationship. There is wide agreement of criteria in the treatment of issues on the global agenda. The mutual visits of senior authorities are frequent and we have firmly committed ourselves to advocate for world peace. Chile has strongly condemned the recent nuclear test carried out by a country in the region, as well as ballistic tests. World Peace and the abolition of the use of weapons of mass destruction are historical imperatives to which both countries have committed themselves.

Also, Japanese corporations that have relied on the conditions that Chile offers to foreign investment allow us to look forward to the future with optimism. The direct investment Chile has received from Japan exceeds \$21 billion. The Japanese presence is practically in all Chilean economic activity and new expectations are opened in new areas such as solar energy, administration and distribution of drink-

ing water, astronomical research, automation of mining activities and other areas of economic activity with national and international impact. The presence of Japanese companies in mining and forestry is widely recognized. They have committed themselves to adding value to the activities with the incorporation of technological innovation that allows these activities to be sustainable and respectful of the environment. Considering that the commodities cycle has observed a tendency of price adjustments, the solidity of the investments has allowed for the diminishing of negative fluctuation of the prices of such resources.

Likewise, the greater convergence of integration processes in the Pacific Basin and the search for new efforts to improve trade practices, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, clearly shows the two countries' firm intention to promote free trade against opinions that advocate for greater protectionism.

The cultural relationship, similarly, represents a new source of connection between both societies. Every day more Chileans visit Japan, attracted by its visual impact and the desire to absorb ancient cultural traditions. Manga and anime are today the source of a significant presence of young Chileans in this country.

Chilean and Japanese universities have developed research programs in such diverse areas as astronomy, energy effi-

ciency, early detection of cancer, robotics and other areas. This is one of the common threads of the future relationship between the two countries.

Such an important anniversary as this, when we celebrate 120 years of friendship, allows us to not only take charge of our history, but also look to the future. The rapid succession of political, economic and cultural events will force us to have the best instances of communication and coordination.

More than ever it is time for enhancing our links, engaging governments, business communities and academia on a broad range of issues. Thus, Chile and Japan will be ready for the next 120 years of partnership.



Torres del Paine is one of the most beautiful and visited areas of Patagonia in the south of Chile. EMBASSY OF CHILE



Left: Night scene in Valparaiso, located on the Pacific Ocean, is one of the busiest ports for international trade. Right: Chile is one of the first countries in Latin America to set long-term goals for producing clean and renewable energy. EMBASSY OF CHILE

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to the People of  
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