

# Venezuela National Day Special

## Dialogue builds friendly bonds

**TOSHIHIRO NIKAI**  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-VENEZUELA FRIENDSHIP COUNCIL

As chairman of the Japan-Venezuela Friendship Council, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to President Nicolas Maduro, his government and the friendly people of Venezuela on the celebration of the 207th Anniversary of the Independence of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Japan and Venezuela have had a historically friendly relationship. We celebrate this year the 80th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and 90 years since the arrival of the first Japanese immigrant to Venezuela. On this occasion, I would like to thank the Venezuelan government and their people for the warm hospitality extended to Japanese people who chose Venezuela as their home.

I extend my congratulations to the president on his May 20 re-election and commend his call for broad political dialogue across different sectors of Venezuelan society. I sincerely hope the government, with the support of its people, overcomes the challenges facing the country and continues on the path to prosperity and development. It is my wish that we continue to promote and expand bilateral ties through dialogue and further cooperation between our countries. I reiterate our commitment to do our utmost to promote and expand the friendly relationship between Japan and Venezuela.

## Adding value to strong ties

**MASAHIRO IMAMURA**  
PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN-VENEZUELAN PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

As president of the Japan-Venezuelan Parliamentary Friendship League, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the celebration of the 207th Anniversary of its Independence.

This year marks the 90th anniversary of Japanese emigration to Venezuela and the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the bilateral relations. It is encouraging that a number of Japanese-Venezuelans, including Ambassador Seiko Ishikawa, have been active in the country by overcoming hardships in the past. I hope this anniversary will be an opportunity to promote further exchanges between peoples in Japan and Venezuela.

Venezuela, which has the world's largest crude oil reserves and an abundance of other natural resources, has great potential. In addition, the country with a diverse culture boasts a concept called "El Sistema," which teaches impoverished children to be good citizens through music programs. This concept has spread to many other countries, including Japan, and I would like to show my renewed respect for the achievement of Jose Antonio Abreu, former minister of culture and the founder of the concept.

While Venezuela is facing difficulties today, I believe this makes the relationship between Japan and Venezuela more important. As the president of the friendship league, I would like to continue contributing to the promotion of the relations between our peoples.

## Nation offers rich resources

**KEN KOBAYASHI**  
CHAIR, JAPAN-VENEZUELA ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, KEIDANREN

On behalf of the Keidanren's Japan-Venezuela Economic Committee, I wish to congratulate the people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on their 207th anniversary of independence.

This year also marks 80 years of diplomacy between Japan and Venezuela and 90 years since the first Japanese immigrants arrived in Venezuela. Despite the great distance between the two countries, we are connected by a long and close friendship.

Venezuela has the largest proven oil reserves in the world, but it also boasts rich natural gas, iron ore and other natural resources. In the medium to long term, there is great potential for us to build stronger economic ties and collaborations, particularly in the natural resources and energy sectors.

In this milestone year, the Japanese Embassy in Venezuela is holding a number of events to introduce Japanese culture to Venezuelans and teach them about our country. We have been pleased to learn that more Venezuelans, particularly the younger generations, have expressed keen interest in Japan and Japanese culture, and I am confident that these events will foster the bilateral relationship between Japan and Venezuela.

Our committee extends its best wishes for peace and prosperity to all citizens of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. We pledge to give our utmost support to strengthen our economic ties to create a bright future.

## Priority on strengthening relations

**SEIKO ISHIKAWA**  
AMBASSADOR OF VENEZUELA

Venezuelans across the world celebrate today the 207th Anniversary of the Independence of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. On this important day, I would like to take this

opportunity to renew our friendship with the government of Japan and its people and express my congratulations to the Venezuelan community residing in Japan.

Upon the May 20 re-election of President Nicolas Maduro, the government has renewed its commitment to the principles

of the U.N. Charter, among them the respect for the sovereignty of nations and of its own, as an essential element of our diplomacy for peace. This year marks the 80th anniversary of relations between Venezuela and Japan and 90 years since the first Japanese immigration to Venezuela. As we celebrate this moment with several events across Japan this year, I would like to express our commitment to strengthening the relations with Japan.

## Growth through cultural transfers

**MASATERU ITO**  
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-VENEZUELA ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Japan-Venezuela Association, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and its people in celebrating the 207th Anniversary of Independence, especially this year coinciding with the 80th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two nations.

We maintain a traditionally friendly relationship and cultural exchanges between us. The Japan-Venezuela Association endeavors to further strengthen bilateral ties through initiatives and activities.

It is a pleasure to see Japan and Venezuela deepening bilateral cooperation in areas of cultural, artistic and intellectual exchanges, promoting better understanding and bringing us closer.

Finally, I would like to reiterate our warmest felicitations on this historic day, and assure all our Venezuelan friends that the Japan-Venezuela Association will continue strengthening our bilateral relationship.

*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*

## Congratulations

to the People of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the Occasion of the 207th Anniversary of Their Independence

**INPEX**  
INPEX CORPORATION

<https://www.inpex.co.jp/english/>

**Congratulations**  
to the People of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the Occasion of the 207th Anniversary of Their Independence

**Marubeni**  
<http://www.marubeni.com>

**Congratulations**  
to the People of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the Occasion of the 207th Anniversary of Their Independence

 Mitsubishi Corporation

**Congratulations**  
to the People of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the Occasion of the 207th Anniversary of Their Independence

 **TOYOTA**

**Congratulations**  
to the People of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the Occasion of the 207th Anniversary of Their Independence

 **TOYOTA TSUSHO CORPORATION**  
<http://www.toyota-tsusho.com/english/>