

Colombia Independence Day Special

Celebrating relations and prosperity

GABRIEL DUQUE
AMBASSADOR OF COLOMBIA



This year, Colombia and Japan celebrate 110 years since establishing diplomatic relations. These rely on shared values of respect for rule of law, democracy and freedom.

We also enjoy a fluid political dialogue and close cooperation in numerous areas, including trade, investment, environmental protection, agriculture, peace-building, human security, science and technology.

On behalf of President Juan Manuel Santos and the people of Colombia, I would like to express greetings to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the Japanese government and the Japanese people for their continued support.

In recent years, Colombia has taken important steps toward establishing long-lasting peace. Of significance is the 2016 peace agreement between the government

and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). This landmark treaty brought significant results, improving the living conditions of many Colombians. For example, 12,800 ex-FARC members have renounced war, given up their weapons and are currently transitioning toward peaceful social and political re-entry. Additionally, improvements in peace and security have revealed the strength of Colombia's institutions, secured peaceful political participation and brought substantial economic benefits that include a sharp increase in tourism.

Colombia offers an array of trade and investment opportunities that some Japanese companies are already benefiting from. Our country has a stable, diversified economy with a good track record of macroeconomic management and an increasingly business-friendly environment. Its growing middle class and young, well-educated population of nearly 50 million people make it a compelling market. Colombia's natural resources place it among the most biodiverse countries in the world, and being at the center of the Americas, with coasts on both the Pacific and the Atlantic oceans, makes it a convenient logistics hub. These are some reasons why Colombia was

ranked 21st among the world's main foreign direct investment destinations, and third in Latin America in last year's World Investment Report from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

To further enhance trade and investment opportunities, and complement the 2015 bilateral investment treaty, Colombia and Japan have advanced negotiations regarding an economic partnership agreement and double taxation agreement.

Social, economic and political reforms paved the way for Colombia to enter the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development. Additionally, with its experience and strengths in peace-building, Colombia recently established a global partnership agreement with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

This is an excellent occasion to celebrate the solid friendship that characterizes the diplomatic relations between Colombia and Japan. It is Colombia's wish that bilateral bonds continue to strengthen, deepen and diversify.

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

Major global goals achieved

TATSUMARO TERASAWA
PRESIDENT OF THE COLOMBIA-JAPAN
FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



In the name of the Colombia-Japan Friendship Association, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on the Independence Day of the Republic of Colombia.

Since its independence, Colombia has maintained a tradition of democracy and stable economic growth, constructing the basis for the development of the country.

I would also like to convey my sincerest congratulations to President-elect Ivan Duque for his victory in the recent presidential election.

On this special occasion, I would like to point out that Colombia was accepted into the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) last May as the third country

from the Latin-American region, following the admission of Mexico and Chile. In addition, during that same month, Colombia and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) established a global partnership agreement.

I believe that these achievements of securing membership in the OECD and NATO will help improve the confidence of the international society. Furthermore, the implementation of a peace agreement with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia is increasingly garnering the attention of international investors — something that should bring Colombia increased growth in its economy and society alike.

In recent years, the bilateral relationship between Japan and Colombia has been growing stronger. I firmly believe that the improvement in national security will promote a prompt agreement on an economic partnership agreement that will deepen political, economic and cultural ties between the two countries.

Honoring 110 years of bonds

KEN KOBAYASHI
CHAIR, JAPAN-COLOMBIA ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE, KEIDANREN



On behalf of Keidanren's Japan-Colombia Economic Committee, I wish to congratulate the people of the Republic of Colombia on their 208th Anniversary of Independence.

This year also marks 110 years of diplomacy between our countries, where we have enjoyed a close friendship despite the distance between us. Both countries have been holding events to celebrate our friendship.

Regarding the economy, Colombia has exerted strong leadership in shaping the Pacific Alliance that aims to eliminate trade barriers among member states. Echoing this effort, the Japan-Colombia economic partnership agreement will create even more opportunities to expand trade and investment.

Our committee remains dedicated to strengthening economic ties and building a bright future on both sides of the world.

Congratulations
to the People of the
Republic of Colombia
on the 208th Anniversary
of Their Independence

We support the Colombian coffee industry through our coffee concern.

BROOK'S

Importer, Roaster and Seller of Colombian Coffee

BROOK'S CO., LTD.

4-54-6 Utsukushigaoka, Aoba-ku, Yokohama 225-8539

Congratulations
to the People of the Republic of
Colombia on the 208th Anniversary
of Their Independence



Now available at juanvaldezcafe.jp



Juan Valdez

ファン・バルデス

100% プレミアムコロンビアコーヒー

100% Premium Colombian Coffee

japan@juanvaldezcafe.com

Congratulations
to the People of the
Republic of Colombia
on the 208th Anniversary of
Their Independence

Mitsubishi Corporation

Congratulations
to the People of the
Republic of Colombia
on the 208th Anniversary
of Their Independence

YAZAKI

YAZAKI Corporation
www.yazaki-group.com

Yazaki Ciemel S.A.
Yazaki Ciemel FTZ Ltda.