

# Peru National Day Special

## A constantly evolving friendship

**HAROLD FORSYTH**  
AMBASSADOR OF PERU



One year ago, I wrote an article stating that: "It was on March 3, 1873, at two o'clock in the afternoon, when my first predecessor, navy Cmdr. Aurelio García y García, presented his credentials to His Majesty,

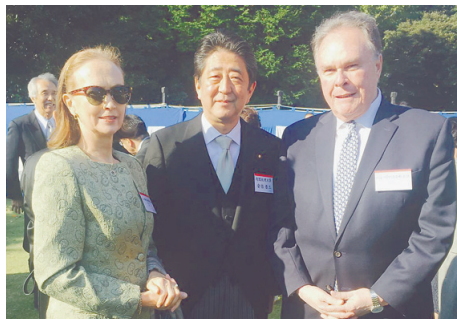
Emperor Meiji, as special envoy and minister plenipotentiary of Peru to Japan. After his team of diplomats was introduced to the emperor during a ceremony that very much resembles the way they are performed today, the Peruvian envoy began an adventure that has continued for the past 144 years."

One hundred and forty-five years of our bilateral ties represent an admirable fact — Peru and Japan have one of the oldest diplomatic histories in the world and it is fair to recognize that our relations have been transformed into realities in almost every avenue of cooperation. So, our friendship does not have a rhetorical meaning, but, on the contrary, is constantly evolving. That is how 119 years ago, the first 790 Japanese immigrants arrived, precisely on April 3, 1899, to the main port of Peru, Callao, on board the famous ship Sakura Maru. Departing from Yokohama on Feb. 27, 1899, most of them were farmers whose destination was the sugar fields of the Peruvian coast, so the story of Japanese immigration to my country began with a promise.

Next year, we will commemorate the 120th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Peru and the presence of their culture in the country, second only to Brazil, that had a tremendous impact on the human landscape of my country. For that reason, Peru and Japan will celebrate this important anniversary with our deepest respect.

Another essential aspect in our bilateral relations is the fact that the 50,000 Peruvians living in Japan also represent a meaningful community in almost every major city.

We are very proud to be Latin American and we have an additional dimension in our relations with Japan. The Pacific Alliance, for instance, is a very proactive association of Peru, Chile, Colombia and Mexico. It is recognized in the world as a leading organization to promote business opportunities, trade and investment. Very wisely, Japan became one of its first observers and we hope that in the near future it will be an associate member.



(From right) Ambassador Harold Forsyth, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the ambassador's wife Veronica Forsyth at the Akasaka Imperial Garden in Tokyo on Nov. 9, 2017. EMBASSY OF PERU

Peru decided to bet on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, now the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, that, once in force, will generate a volume of goods and services higher than that of the European Union. The new treaty has been possible because of the leadership of Japan.

There is also a new area in the framework

of our bilateral relations with Japan — security and defense. Given the fact that we share many common interests in the Pacific, Peru supports the Indo-Pacific Strategy and shares the concerns of Japan regarding its own security and the world's.

In that context, we have appointed a defense attache to our embassy in Tokyo for the first time to deal with our bilateral security matters more efficiently, including our fight against transnational crimes.

On July 28, 1921, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of our independence and on that occasion, the Japanese minister plenipotentiary to Peru presented to us, together with President Augusto Leguia, a gift from the Japanese community living in my country — a beautiful statue of the first Inca, Manco Capac, that still stands in a very important square in the district of La Victoria in Lima.

The 200th anniversary of independence will take place in three years and we are very confident that democracy and respect of human rights will prevail forever.

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

## Solidarity, partnership in times of need and growth

**SHOEI UTSUDA**  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PERU BUSINESS COMMITTEE (CEPEJA)



Representing the Japan-Peru Business Committee (CEPEJA), I would like to send my sincere congratulations to the citizens and government of the Republic of Peru on the 197th Anniversary of Independence on July 28. It is my great honor to have the opportunity to send my best wishes on this anniversary as CEPEJA's chairman. In January, we were very impressed by a lecture from Harold Forsyth, the ambassador of the Republic of Peru to Japan, on the efforts to meet the global challenges faced by Peru and Japan.

The Peruvian economy has been steady due to the recovery of copper prices — a trend that is expected to continue in the future. In addition to its mining industry, which has been a historically important commodity, agriculture has attracted more attention as a growing field. Furthermore, domestic investment in infrastructure utilizing public-private partnerships is to be expected, with transportation, communications, energy, water supply and sewerage as priority areas. I believe that the new administration will be a strong force in Peru, and expect President Martin Vizcarra to visit Japan soon.

Japan and Peru have revealed in 145 years of friendship since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1873. Peru was the first Latin American country with which Japan established diplomatic relations, in addition to it being the first nation in the region to wel-

come immigration from Japan.

Last but not least, we deeply appreciate that the Peruvian government extended solidarity and condolences to the citizens and the government of Japan in the wake of the recent disasters caused by heavy rain, landslides and floods that hit the country's western region.

Next year will mark the 120th anniversary of Japanese migration to Peru. I hope that the friendly relations between Peru and Japan will continue long into the future, and I pray from the bottom of my heart that people-to-people exchange and business expansion between the two countries will become even more active in this memorable year. CEPEJA is dedicated to supporting the bilateral relationship in any way we can. Once again, I would like to express my warmest congratulations on Peru's 197th anniversary of independence.

**Congratulations  
to the People of  
the Republic of Peru  
on the 197th Anniversary  
of Their Independence**

 **Mitsubishi Corporation**

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**MITSUI MINING & SMELTING CO., LTD.**

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**Congratulations**  
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