

Ecuadorian President's Visit Special

Excellent relations continue to grow

JAIME BARBERIS
AMBASSADOR OF ECUADOR



This year, Ecuador and Japan celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations that formally began on Aug. 26, 1918, with the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Com-

merce and Navigation. That same year, Dr. Hideyo Noguchi made a scientific visit to Guayaquil, the main port of Ecuador along the Pacific coast, to conduct research for a vaccine to combat yellow fever. These two events mark the commencement of the friendship and cooperation that has been a trait of the bilateral relations between our countries.

With the occasion of this celebration, President of the Republic of Ecuador Lenin Moreno Garces and his wife Rocio Gonzalez de Moreno are paying their first official visit to Japan from Sept. 3 to 8. During their visit, they will pay a courtesy call on Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. The president will also hold a meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to further develop the political, economic and cooperative relations between Ecuador and Japan.

The president will also preside over a



President Lenin Moreno Garces

business meeting organized with the Japan Business Federation, Keidanren, and will hold a reception to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

During their stay in Japan, the president and his wife will visit Kyoto to foster cultural ties among Ecuador and Japan, countries that embrace heritages worldwide. Quito, the capital of Ecuador, and the Galapagos Islands were among the first world cultural and natural sites recognized by UNESCO.

In this context, it is relevant to highlight the president's message on the occasion of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic

relations: "During the century that has elapsed since the distant 1918, relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries have reached a level of excellence. Political dialogue and diplomatic cooperation in international organizations has deepened. Parliamentary groups of Ecuador and Japan have exchanged visits and are working to foster stronger cooperation. Trade and investment has been very important. The Japanese market has enormous potential for Ecuadorian agricultural products, while Ecuador constitutes an attractive market for Japanese industry and manufactures. Links have developed and are still developing through technical cooperation programs, especially in the areas of health, environmental protection, renewable energy and prevention and mitigation of natural disasters. I invite Japanese companies to invest in attractive and different productive sectors of Ecuador, a country that has enormous natural resources and the conditions to do so, to which my government will grant them all the support and required stimulation."

The visit of the president will definitely boost the common agendas of Ecuador and Japan and further strengthen our relations of friendship and cooperation.

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

Biography of President Lenin Moreno Garces

Lenin Moreno Garces was born in the Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest in 1953, in Nuevo Rocafuerte, Orellana Province. He grew up in the bosom of a family that traveled the country, as his parents were school teachers.

He holds a degree in public administration from the Central University of Ecuador, was a secondary school teacher, devoted himself to the promotion of tourism and participated actively in the creation of the Chamber of Tourism of Ecuador.

After an incident in 1998 where he was shot at point-blank range, he lost mobility in his legs. After a long and painful convalescence, he became a professional motiva-

tional activist through conferences that carry messages of joy, solidarity, love, kindness and humor. He is the author of approximately 10 books on his theory of humor.

In 2007, he was elected alongside Rafael Correa Delgado as vice president of the Republic of Ecuador, a position to which he was re-elected for the 2009-2013 period.

The international community recognizes him as great promoter and defender of the rights of disabled persons as a result of two important solidarity crusades made in Ecuador — the Manuela Espejo Solidarity Mission and the Joaquin Gallegos Lara program.

In 2010 he promoted, for the first time, the

first summit of the vice presidents: America without barriers for democracy and solidarity that culminated with the signing of the Quito Declaration that guarantees the strengthening of policies and national and regional programs for the attention, rehabilitation and prevention of disabilities.

In December 2013, the secretary-general of the U.N. appointed him as his special envoy on disability and accessibility, a mandate that has already been repeated twice.

Last year, he was elected president, assuming the presidency on May 24, 2017. The president is the world's only currently serving head of state to use a wheelchair.

Our Heartiest Welcome

to the President of Ecuador

Lenin Moreno Garces

and His Wife Rocio Gonzalez de Moreno

on Their Official Visit to Japan

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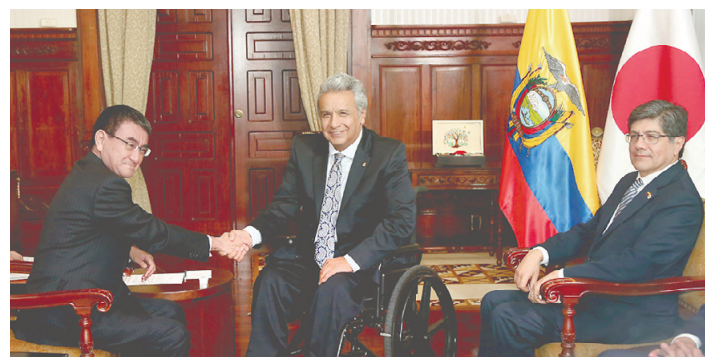
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Foreign Minister Taro Kono pays a courtesy call on President Lenin Moreno Garces and Kono's counterpart Jose Valencia in Quito on Aug. 13.

EMBASSY OF ECUADOR

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