

Colombia Independence Day Special

Growth driven by bilateral support, collaboration

SANTIAGO PARDO
AMBASSADOR OF COLOMBIA



This year, Colombia is celebrating 200 years of Independence. On behalf of President Ivan Duque Marquez and the people of Colombia, I would like to express special greetings to Their Majesties the Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, the imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the members of the Japanese government, the members of the Diet and the Japanese people

for their continued support to our nation. Having lived in Japan since 2011 representing the Colombian Coffee Growers, I celebrate that my new responsibilities as ambassador of Colombia, since April, coincide with the beginning of the new Reiwa Era.

In August 2018, the president's government received a strong democratic mandate to build a more equitable country through legality and entrepreneurship, based on innovation and sustainability.

The Colombian government is committed to securing the best possible implementation of the final agreement with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia guerrilla, negotiated by the previous administration. The strengths of that agreement had been overes-

timated and its weaknesses underestimated. Colombia values Japan's support in dealing with the challenges encountered on the path of transformation led by the president to unify the nation, seeking genuine peace.

The orange economy, innovation and creative industries are considered by this government as a long-term source of economic growth. Recently, a Colombian start-up created only four years ago by young entrepreneurs received an investment of \$1 billion by a well-known Japanese company. The commitment of the government to maintain sound economic policies and its continuous support of the private sector make Colombia an ideal destination for Japanese companies of all sectors seeking to expand their opera-

tions or to invest in joint ventures.

Colombia hopes to conclude the negotiation of an economic partnership agreement (EPA) with Japan shortly. The EPA will increase trade and investment and benefit the citizens of both countries.

The commemoration of Colombia's independence is an excellent occasion to renew our country's continuous effort to strengthen and diversify the bilateral relations.

In celebration, the embassy invites the public to Tokyo Skytree Town's Sky Arena on July 20 to an exhibition about Colombia. It will be open from 10 a.m., with traditional dances performed at 5 p.m. followed by illuminating Tokyo Skytree with the colors of the Colombian flag.



From left: Bogota is the capital of Colombia situated at an altitude of 2,640 meters above sea level. President Ivan Duque Marquez (center) with local youth at the inauguration ceremony of a palm oil production plant in Tibu in northeastern Colombia. PROCOLOMBIA / GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

Friendship to further expand Discussing economic partnerships

TATSUMARO TERAZAWA
PRESIDENT OF THE COLOMBIA-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



As president of the Colombia-Japan Friendship Association, I would like to convey my most sincere congratulations on the Independence Day of the Republic of Colombia.

Colombia declared its independence in 1810. However, it was reconquered by the

Spanish army in 1816.

At the same time, Colombia was led by patriots such as Simon Bolivar and Francisco de Paula Santander during its struggle for liberation, winning the Battle of Boyaca in 1819 to secure substantial independence.

This year, Colombia marks its bicentennial Independence Day after its victory in the liberation war.

Ambassador Santiago Pardo, who presented his credentials in May this year, is a good friend of Japan and with his efforts, the friendly relationship between Japan and Colombia will further expand, and I hope the political, economic and cultural relations will also grow even further.

KEN KOBAYASHI
CHAIR, JAPAN-COLOMBIA ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, KEIDANREN



On behalf of the Keidanren's Japan-Colombia Economic Committee, I wish to congratulate the people of the Republic of Colombia on their 209th anniversary of independence.

On June 4, the 10th Japan-Colombia Joint Economic Committee Meeting took place in Bogota for the first time since 2014. With over 200 business

leaders attending from Japan and Colombia, it was the largest gathering since its establishment, befitting the 10th anniversary.

We released a joint statement calling for the early conclusion of a high-quality Japan-Colombia economic partnership agreement and expressing our wish that Colombia join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. The next day, President Ivan Duque Marquez extended his great hospitality and we engaged in lively discussions on bilateral relations.

Our committee remains dedicated to strengthening economic ties and building a bright future on both sides of the world. I would like to extend my best wishes for peace and prosperity to Colombian citizens.

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 Republic
of
Colombia
on Their Independence Day



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Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Colombia
on the 209th Anniversary of
Their Independence

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