

Ecuador National Day Special

Building bridges in relations after centennial

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AMBASSADOR OF ECUADOR



Two hundred and ten years after the Proclamation of Independence, the Republic of Ecuador, as a free and sovereign nation, continues to promote the well-being of all its

citizens through the respect of its democratic values, human rights and the rights of nature. Internationally, Ecuador continues to promote regional integration and is actively engaged with the international community in its efforts to find solutions to global challenges through cooperation and the respect of international law.

On the occasion of the commemoration of the 210th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of Ecuador, I would like to present my greetings to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, to the noble Japanese people and to my fellow compatriots living in Japan.

It is a great honor for me, as ambassador of Ecuador to Japan, to witness first-

hand the commencement of the Reiwa Era. I am confident that the spirit of beautiful harmony, based on friendship and cooperation, principles that have characterized our relations, will also be a driving force for the strengthening of bilateral relations between Ecuador and Japan.

With a renewed thrust, achieved due to commemorating the centennial of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2018, and the objectives set forth during the official visit of President Lenin Moreno last September, a comprehensive framework was established to strengthen and deepen the partnership between both states.

Based on openness, Ecuador's foreign policy has been the starting point for establishing a determined road map in 2019, focused on increasing linkage in the economic sphere. In this sense, the signing of an agreement on double taxation at the beginning of the year is the first step in the path toward a bilateral investment agreement that will undoubtedly cause a positive influence in the rise of Japanese investment in Ecuador.

Concurrently, Ecuador is eagerly promoting an extensive framework with incentives for foreign direct investment as an engine to boost the economy, especially in key and strategic sectors. This is protected by national legislation.

Japanese enterprises have learned of our policy and have started new business opportunities in the agro-industry, increasing the presence of more Ecuadorian products in Japanese markets and becoming a part of strategic investment projects.

I take this opportunity to invite all Japanese companies to see Ecuador as a land of opportunities and long-lasting benefits on a win-win basis.

Ecuador and Japan are working together to empower bilateral cooperation incorporating the social, scientific and technological spheres. Therefore, the Ecuadorian Diplomatic Mission in Tokyo is aimed at enhancing the relationship with local governments throughout Japan; fostering exchanges at an academic level; and promoting rapprochement with public and private institutions linked to science and technology.

Throughout 2019, special efforts are being made for establishing closer relations between Ecuadorian and Japanese universities. As a result, beneficial areas for research and academic exchange have been identified and put under consideration in several academic institutions in both countries.

Finally, it is important to point out that, in the forthcoming months, tourism and sports will take its part in the

bilateral relationship, taking into account the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. Besides all the activities related to this worldwide event, it represents an occasion to establish solid relations with our host cities, where Ecuadorian athletes have already begun their training.

As we commemorate one more anniversary of the independence of Ecuador, I would like to confirm the willingness of the government of Ecuador, to reinforce even more of the friendly relations and cooperation that happily exist with Japan.



At more than 120 meters, San Rafael Waterfall is the tallest waterfall in Ecuador. AMAZON-TENA



Yasuni National Park boasts one of the largest varieties of flora and fauna in the world. AMAZON ORELLANA



Ecuador is a multiethnic society, comprising various customs. AMAZON ORELLANA

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 Ecuador
on the 210th Anniversary of
Their Independence**



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