

Uruguay Independence Day Special

New impetus for ongoing, friendly relations

CESAR FERRER
AMBASSADOR OF URUGUAY



On the occasion of the celebration of the 194th anniversary of the National Independence of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, I am deeply honored to convey my best wishes for the Reiwa

Era and my respectful greetings to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, the imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, ministers, Diet members, government institutions and the people of Japan.

Our bilateral relations have been fostered and given a new impetus last December by the historic official visit of the prime minister to Uruguay. It was the second summit meeting between our leaders following the previous one in Tokyo in November 2015. President Tabare Vazquez and Abe have built a personal rapport based on their common values and views on international issues. As a result, an important joint communique was issued that reflects the mutual understanding, shared views and excellent perspectives of bilateral relations. In essence, it is an inspiring action guide for our diplomatic work.

Our political dialogue was further enhanced in March during the second high-level political consultations that took place during the official visit to Japan of

Vice Minister of Foreign Relations Ariel Bergamino.

Our economic relations have been boosted by our leaders' agreement to liberalize bilateral beef trade. In fact, the Uruguayans can already enjoy the famous wagyu beef and the discerning Japanese consumer can also enjoy our beef, which is the national pride of Uruguay. Here, the market has been very welcoming and there are already successes in local restaurants, supermarket chains and international hotels. Other fine food products from Uruguay such as wine, cheese, olive oil, honey, propolis, caviar and frozen fish are improving their market share in this exclusive world-class market, which highly values our natural way of production, taking care of environmental and social aspects via sustainable processes. The investments by Japanese companies in Uruguay is fully guaranteed by the 2017 bilateral agreement on the liberalization, promotion and protection of investments that was recently given an appropriate legal framework for the biggest instance of Japanese investment in our history. Furthermore, in April a bilateral accord was reached by experts for a future agreement to avoid double taxation.

In March, the official visit for the first time of a head of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay, Enzo Benech, opened possibilities for further cooperation and understanding with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan in areas of common interest.

Traditionally, Japan's technical and scientific cooperation with Uruguay has been

an important contribution to our development and has resulted in a strong feeling of respect and appreciation toward Japan among the Uruguayan people. Now under an improved economic situation with Uruguay, now a country in transition, the political will expressed by Abe to maintain appropriate levels of cooperation is highly welcome.

During the next Rugby World Cup, the participation of the Uruguayan team "Los Teros" will be a great opportunity to get to know each other better and develop people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges. Japan will certainly be a great host and the Uruguayan people will be impressed by Japan's unique *omotenashi*



President Tabare Vazquez and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Montevideo in December. PRESIDENCY OF THE ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY

(traditional hospitality).

Minister of Foreign Relations of Uruguay Rodolfo Nin Novoa will be the representative of our country at the enthronement ceremony of the emperor. That historic occasion will be an opportunity to celebrate with the Japanese people and to consolidate the recent progress in our friendly and cooperative diplomatic relations.

As ambassador of Uruguay in Japan, I'm convinced that the present and future of our relations is brighter than ever and, with the support of my embassy's highly professional team, I will do my best to not lose an opportunity to keep strengthening our common ties for the benefit of our respective countries.



Uruguay's foreign ministry is located in a building that originally served as the home of former President Maximo Santos in the late 19th century. PRESIDENCY OF THE ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY

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



President Tabare Vazquez, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his wife Akie enjoy barbecue called *asado* at the president's official residence in Montevideo in December. PRESIDENCY OF THE ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY

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to the People of Uruguay
on the 194th Anniversary of
Their Independence

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