

# Mexico National Day Special

## Looking toward new aspirations

**MELBA PRIA**  
AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO



This September we celebrate the 209th anniversary of the call to arms that triggered the fight for Mexico's independence and we could not be prouder of what our country has become over

this period of time.

With over 3,000 years of history, Mexico is a country with a vast richness, not only culturally, in economic opportunities and natural resources, but also in the quality of its people, who are warm, kind and hardworking.

We have grown to be one of the mem-

bers of the Group of 20, attracting and caring for our foreign investors as if they were one of our own. This includes Japan, with whom since over 400 years ago we have had a relationship of friendship and cooperation, and we are currently celebrating the 131st anniversary of diplomatic relations. With over 1,200 Japanese companies in Mexico and a trade between our countries of over \$20 billion in 2018 alone, we have become very close allies.

When it comes to culture, not only are we the largest Spanish-speaking country in the world, but our government recognizes 68 national languages, 63 of which are indigenous, including around 350 dialects, and we are making our best efforts to preserve them.

We have 35 sites inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage list, making us the first in the Americas and the sixth in

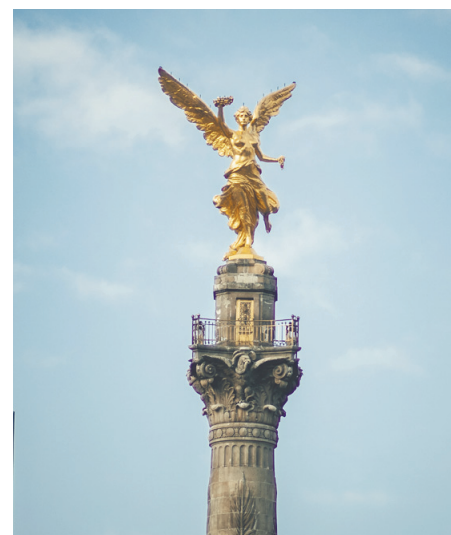
the world, as well as 150 world-class museums in Mexico City. There is a groundbreaking contemporary art scene as well as a very vibrant gastronomical one — Mexico has some of the top restaurants in the world and our cuisine that was named Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2010 has made us a leading culinary destination.

These are only a few of the reasons why we receive close to 40 million tourists every year, making Mexico the sixth most visited country in the world.

Moreover, we are a strong society that faces its problems with courage. When others are in need we lend them a hand. We are passionate, resourceful and dedicated, a society that educates its youth and cares for its sick every day. As of today, Mexico is expected to be one of the world's top 20 countries in terms of the highest number of tertiary students by 2035.

The people of Mexico look to the future with hope and move vigorously toward a new transformation that builds a more just and equal society for everyone, regardless of gender, color, race, religion, socioeconomic or family origin, education and sexual orientation. In this new stage, Mexico extends its hand to all the nations of the world to work together in a framework of freedom, peace and respect for sovereignty and human rights.

In commemorating the anniversary of the beginning of the struggle for national independence, I share the joy of other Mexicans in this country and invite all our Japanese friends to celebrate the identity and culture of Mexico. I also offer this



**Top: The Palace of Fine Arts in Mexico City, built between 1904 and 1934, consists of a theater, concert hall, museum and other facilities.**  
**Left: The Angel of Independence, commonly called "El Angel," is a symbol of the nation's capital.**  
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opportunity to recognize and thank the enthusiasm and valuable work of The Japan Times and our valuable sponsors, as well as to all those who have collaborated with their effort and love for these celebrations.

Viva Mexico!

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

**Congratulations on the Independence Day of Mexico**

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Congratulations to the People of the United Mexican States on the Occasion of Their Independence Day



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**Zocalo, the main square in the center of Mexico City, was a major ceremonial site in Tenochtitlan, which was a city state and capital of the Aztec Empire (1428 to 1521). Today, it is a site for a variety of events and celebrations.**

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**Congratulations on the Independence Day of Mexico and the 131st Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations**



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**Congratulations on the Independence Day of Mexico**

*Yoshihiko Morita*  
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