

Chile National Day Special

Initiatives to push economic growth and relations forward

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AMBASSADOR OF CHILE



While approaching the celebration of the 209th anniversary of its independence, Chile is renewing its ties with Latin America and moving forward with the idea of being a platform country for the

rest of Latin America to approach Asia, and particularly, Japan.

In that context, the Pacific Alliance, a trade bloc comprising Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, represents a unique opportunity to get together and foster a profound integration mechanism through the creation of an area of free circulation of goods, services, capital and people.

Today, within the borders of the Pacific Alliance, more than 98 percent of our exchange of goods is done without paying any fees or tariffs.

However, economic and commercial uncertainties have arrived to stay for an undetermined period of time, so it is fundamental to provide new impetus for our economies.

In that regard, President Sebastian Pinera has come forward with initiatives within the Pacific Alliance in order to be ready to respond to current demands from the peoples of our countries according to its 2030 vision plan adopted recently in Peru.

Our first task is to prioritize initiatives

aimed at increasing the free flow of goods, services, capital and people within the framework provided by the 2030 vision plan to strengthen our development and make it more inclusive and sustainable. In this regard, we need to bring into force agreements already signed within the Pacific Alliance and advance in the financial integration of our area to facilitate commerce and make productive processes stronger.

Our second endeavor is to make the Pacific Alliance a regional referral for integration, taking into account other initiatives such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum as well as South American trade bloc Mercosur so we can facilitate our trade and commerce with the Asia-Pacific region.

A third task is to strengthen small and medium enterprises, foster new entrepreneurs and improve the access of those toward financing and digital transformation. We need to connect scientific research with entrepreneurship.

On top of that, the Pacific Alliance must be ready to adapt to new challenges related to the process defined as "Industry 4.0." Of particular concern for Chile is to improve connectivity with other regions of the world. Chile believes that initiatives such as the digital regional market should be a reality in the near future.

A fifth endeavor is to assure that benefits from integration and commerce are available to all our peoples. For that purpose, we must improve the access of women and small and medium size businesses to inter-

national trade and commerce to reduce poverty gap and inequalities.

Finally, it is relevant to give the Pacific Alliance an agile and simple structure to strengthen integration and cooperation. In this regard, we are looking forward to initiatives that the Inter-American Development Bank will propose to the Pacific Alliance. We are convinced by the fact that the Pacific Alliance, which does not have a heavy and bureaucratic structure, has played a positive role to make the Pacific Alliance the success that it is today.

In summation, I would like to express the commitment of the Chilean government with the Pacific Alliance and particularly its relation with Japan within the Asia Pacific region. Every country faces new and difficult tasks derived from globalization and recent trends in economics and trade, so Chile believes the time has come to foster relations with our friends and neighbors of the Pacific Rim, an opportunity that we cannot let go for the sake of our people.



Cavancha beach is a popular spot for locals and tourists in the port city of Iquique in the northern part of Chile. IMAGEN CHILE



Left: President Sebastian Pinera speaks at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park on June 29.
Above: Chile's southern city of Puerto Montt
EMBASSY OF CHILE / IMAGEN CHILE

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

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