

Spain National Day Special

Elevated partnership symbol of steadily growing ties

JORGE TOLEDO ALBINANA
AMBASSADOR OF SPAIN



Today, we celebrate Spain's National Day. It is an opportunity to commemorate Christopher Columbus' arrival to the American continent on Oct. 12, 1492, a decisive step in the modern comprehension of our world. A global vision that was to be completed a few years later by the first circumnavigation of the Earth, a Spanish enterprise initiated by the Portuguese sailor Ferdinand Magellan and completed by Juan Sebastian Elcano, a feat whose 500th anniversary we commemorate this year.

Spain continues to uphold the global and international vision that lies in the origins of the Oct. 12 endeavor. As the ambassador of Spain, I am honored to represent my country in Japan and to work to strengthen our ties, together with my colleagues at the embassy.

The relationship between our two countries dates back a long time. The arrivals of St. Francis Xavier to the coasts of Japan in 1549 and the first Japanese embassy (The Keicho Embassy) in 1614 were some of

the first and intense contacts between our countries and our people. Our relationship was finally formalized in 1868 when we established diplomatic ties — officially 150 years ago last year.

Our bilateral relationship is excellent but, at the same time, it has great potential to grow and develop in all aspects, both material and immaterial.

Bilateral trade has reached €6 billion in 2018, placing Spain as the sixth-largest supplier of Japan among EU member states, and making Japan our 16th largest customer globally.

The number of Japanese tourists visiting Spain went up significantly during 2018, reaching 551,000 visitors (an increase of 24 percent compared to 2017 figures). The data available for 2019 shows a 30 percent increase over the number of visitors during the same period of time last year, including an important increase of those traveling for longer stays in Spain benefiting from the working holidays bilateral program. If this upward tendency holds, 2019 will be a record year. Japan is also "in fashion" in Spain and among my fellow countrymen, and an important increase of visitors to this country will soon see Iberia increasing the number of its direct flights between Tokyo and Madrid from five a week to a daily flight.

Besides this positive economic data, I



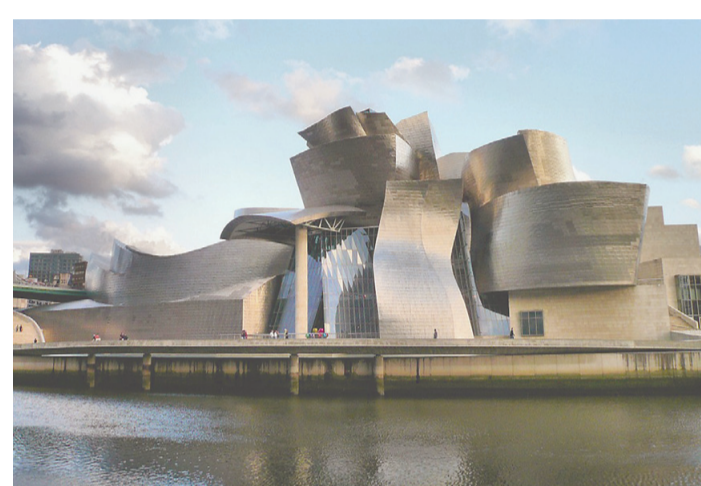
Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at their meeting in Osaka in June. EMBASSY OF SPAIN

want to point out that intangible relations between our two countries also play an important role and are getting stronger by the day. Our shared interest in our respective cultures (literature, gastronomy, music, architecture and fashion); the attraction to each other's lifestyles, so different and individual; and our shared point of view regarding many of the challenges posed by this new society brought about by the Fourth Industrial Revolution call for an even stronger and closer relationship between our two countries in the future.

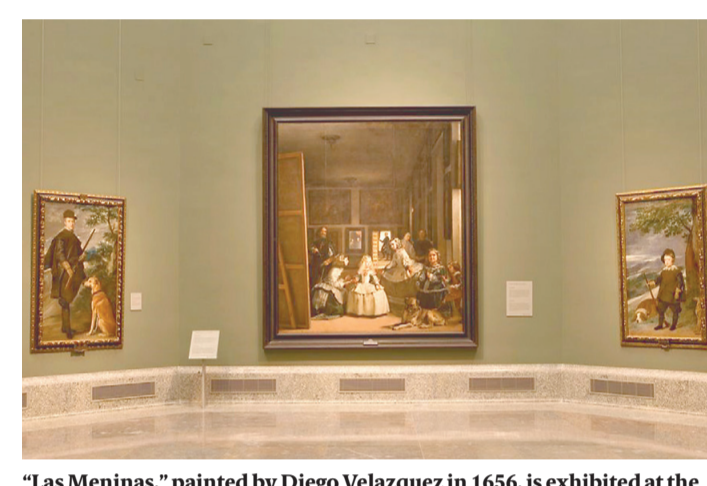
Since we celebrated the Spanish national day last year, Japan has played a very active role internationally, which has also brought about an increase of our bilateral official contacts in these last 12 months. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Spain last October, signing a bilateral agreement for a strategic partnership with his Spanish counterpart, Prime Minister Pedro San-



Left: Sagrada Familia in Barcelona is one of the most famous works designed by Spanish architect Antoni Gaudi. The cathedral has been under construction since 1882. Right: The "El Drac" sculpture at Guel Park in Barcelona is another masterpiece of Gaudi. TURESPANNA



Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in Bilbao, Basque Country. TURESPANNA



"Las Meninas," painted by Diego Velazquez in 1656, is exhibited at the Museo del Prado in Madrid. TURESPANNA

chez. Japan has also led a successful and very intense presidency of the Group of 20, with numerous visits of Spanish ministers to Japan to attend different meetings, and the visit to Osaka of Sanchez, to take part in the G20 summit.

Finally, we will have the honor in a few days to welcome Their Majesties King

Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain to Tokyo to participate in the enthronement ceremony of His Imperial Majesty Emperor Naruhito, further proof of the close relationship between the two royal households and our two countries.

Let me, on the occasion of our National Day, to wish peace and prosperity to Japan

and all its citizens, as well as to all my fellow thousands of Spaniards that have made this great country their home.

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



Spain is one of the largest producers of wind power in the world. TURESPANNA

Sharing a legacy of scientific advancements

NOBORU KINOSHITA
PRESIDENT, THE SPANISH SOCIETY OF JAPAN



On behalf of the Spanish Society of Japan, I would like to extend our congratulations on the National Day of the Kingdom of Spain.

The amicable relationship between Spain and Japan, beginning with the arrival in 1549 of Francis Xavier, has grown stronger as attested by many wonderful events. The ties are mainly due to the efforts of the Spanish embassy and the Instituto Cervantes Tokio.

The Instituto Cervantes was established in 1991 in Madrid by the Spanish government as a cultural institute for the propagation of Spanish-language education and Spanish culture, and the Instituto Cervantes Tokio was established in 2007 as an overseas branch. In the institute's auditorium,



The Spanish Society of Japan's President Noboru Kinoshita and Instituto Cervantes Tokio Director Victor Ugarte

presentations of the unique and impressive world of the music and the arts of Spanish-speaking countries are given almost every week. In 2018, the academic forum Catedra Instituto Cervantes was established to introduce the influential activities of Spanish science. The Catedra Instituto Cervantes started its activities with the introduction of the Spanish experts who have won international acclaim in a variety of scientific fields.

When we study the history of science, Spain has produced eminent scholars in various scientific fields. In the field of modern

medicine, the 1906 Nobel laureate in physiology or medicine was shared by Santiago Ramon y Cajal for his work on the structure of the nervous system. The 1959 Noble laureate in physiology or medicine was Severo Ochoa, who shared the award for his work on RNA and DNA. The present developer of clustered regularly interspaced palindromic repeats in genome editing, Francis Mojica, is also notable. Many Spanish scholars in Japan are carrying on the medical genealogy research that began in Spain. In 2018, the first Meeting of Spanish Researchers in Japan was held in the Spanish embassy auditorium, and in 2019, the first Meeting of Spanish Researchers in the Asia-Pacific Region was held at the Instituto Cervantes Tokio. The Catedra Instituto Cervantes is proceeding with plans for a symposium in January 2020 on the Spanish transplant system.

Spain has made outstanding contributions to medical science, and will continue to do so. We hope that Spain will stand at the head of the academic fields, in both the humanities and the natural sciences.

Diego de Almagro RESERVA

Los Molinos Tempranillo

Vina ALBALI 1962 Selección Privada

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Congratulations to the People of the Kingdom of Spain on the Occasion of Their National Day

JT

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