

Argentina National Day Special

Partnership persists in face of challenges

ALAN CLAUDIO BERAUD
AMBASSADOR OF ARGENTINA



Argentina celebrates its National Day on May 25th, marking the 210th Anniversary of the May Revolution of 1810. On this occasion, on behalf of the government and the people of Argentina,

I convey my sincere congratulations to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako on the second year of the Reiwa Era, as well as my warmest greetings to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the Japanese government and the friendly people of Japan.

This year 2020 is one of exceptional circumstances since the COVID-19 pandemic has affected every single country in the world, Argentina and Japan among them. International cooperation and solidarity, as well as social and personal commitment at the community level are more urgent than ever in order to cope with the pandemic. The Argentine Embassy is fully engaged in

preventing the spread of the virus and is following the recommendations regarding the "Three Cs," by avoiding closed spaces with poor ventilation, crowded places and close contact settings. As a result, we have decided to cancel our traditional national day gathering. President Alberto Fernandez took office in December and the new Argentine government's initial focus has been concentrated on finding solutions to the most pressing social and economic issues. This included a proposal for debt reprogramming, as well as the assessment of Argentina's global position facing this completely unprecedented international environment and its uncertain evolution. In this framework, Japan is and will continue to be a strategic partner for Argentina now and in the years to come.

Argentina expects to continue working together with Japan to foster our strategic partnership established in 2016, with a commitment to strengthen our traditional political and economic relations, promoting more trade, more investment, additional cooperation projects and further cultural, artistic and sports-related activities, as well as to intensify the bonds between our people.

With a long-term perspective, we are

cooperating with Japan for the development of green hydrogen, especially from wind energy. In the short term, following the introduction of Argentine beef from Patagonia to the Japanese market in 2018, we trust that the sanitary procedures to allow the supply of Argentine beef from the whole country will be completed this year so that our flag product can be more widely enjoyed by the discerning consumers in Japan.

Technical cooperation programs such as Kaizen Tango and One Village One Product (OVOP) are successfully in progress in my country. While Kaizen Tango seeks to improve business management, involving around 1,000 Argentine businesspeople and more than 100 enterprises, the OVOP program aims to promote local revitalization.

Despite the fact that the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games have been postponed, Argentina continues to work with the host towns that agreed to receive and support our athletes for the planning of this magnificent event to take place next year. I am certain the Olympic and Paralympic Games will be a great success for Japan, and Argentina wants to be a part of this grand occasion.

During this year of unexpected challenges, we are grateful to the Japanese authorities and to the Japanese civil society, in particular to our friends of the Nippon-Argentina Association for their help in improving the situation of the Argentine nationals stranded in Japan as a consequence of worldwide travel and flight restrictions. Within the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to test the resili-



Tango dancers in La Boca, a well-known neighborhood of Buenos Aires INPROTUR

ience of all countries and societies around the globe, Argentina and Japan's current strategic relationship and cooperation has become more important than ever. We are striving to prove that our nations are capable of winning the battle against the novel coronavirus and to restart our everyday lives, pushing forward to reinvigorate our friendship and cooperation for a brighter future together.

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

Admirable resilience, commitment during unprecedented pandemic

KEN KOBAYASHI
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-ARGENTINA
BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Japan-Argentina Business Cooperation Committee, I am delighted to extend my warmest congratulations to the government and the people of Argentina as the

country celebrates its National Day. The inauguration of President Alberto Fernandez in December 2019 marked the beginning of a new chapter in the proud and long-standing relationship between our two nations. While both countries are experiencing unprecedented challenges from coronavirus, the resilience and commitment demonstrated by the president's government in the face of the pandemic is encouraging and surely has set a fine example for other Latin American nations. Relations between Japan and Argentina have steadily strengthened over the years. In 2018, we commemorated the 120th anniversary of diplomatic relations with a series of visits by key government officials before and after. In the same year, Japan's import ban on Patagonian meat was lifted, another veritable step forward in those relations. It is critical that we do not allow the current pandemic to adversely affect

the momentum we have gathered to date. To strengthen our ties even further, we must explore opportunities in a post-coronavirus world, as new norms may emerge. At the 25th Argentina-Japan Joint Business Conference held in Buenos Aires in May 2018, our two nations discussed the significance of cooperation in artificial intelligence, the "internet of things" and other innovative sectors. As chairman, I will continue to foster an even stronger friendship and better economic relations between our two nations.



Mendoza, located in the Cuyo region, is considered the heart of Argentina's wine culture. INPROTUR

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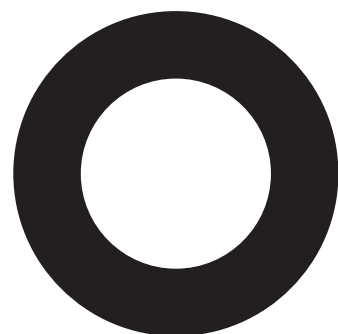
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