

Colombia Independence Day Special

Partnership continues to grow despite COVID-19

SANTIAGO PARDO
AMBASSADOR OF COLOMBIA



I would like to express special greetings to the Japanese people and Colombian nationals in Japan, on the occasion of the celebration of Colombia's Independence Day.

The pandemic we are now facing has challenged the world in ways we are still trying to assimilate. The government of Colombia has taken timely and appropriate decisions to tackle it. President Ivan Duque has firmly stood by his commitment to balance and safeguard the population's health, the protection of the health system, and offer a responsible, sustained and progressive recovery of the national economy.

Our conviction is that solidarity is the path to solve collective challenges and the certainty that we would be stronger together. In this regard, we extend our gratitude to the government of Japan for its unfettered support to Colombia. Counting on Japan's aid through bilateral and multilateral channels amid the challenging times will contribute to strengthening our capacities.

We can confirm today that the bilateral relationship has become even stronger. Confidently, the internal procedures in Colombia to approve and ratify the convention for the elimination of double taxation will soon enable this instrument to come into force. The negotiations of a bilateral economic partnership agreement will also hopefully conclude in the coming months.

Earlier this year, Colombia officially



Panoramic view of the city of Medellin
MEDELLIN.TRAVEL

became the 37th member state of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The desire and opportunity to invest in Colombia has never been greater. The Colombian economy grew by 3.3 percent last year. Foreign direct investment (FDI) increased by 25.6 percent, exceeding annual goals. Likewise, total FDI increased by 4.9 percent in the January to April period. Additionally, the country has registered an excellent performance of the nonoil and mining inward FDI, registering 141 percent growth.

Despite the outbreak of coronavirus and the global difficulties shared by the international community, we are positive that these milestones will lead us to display our full potential and make growth more inclusive and sustainable.

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

Global solidarity remains crucial

KEN KOBAYASHI
CHAIR, JAPAN-COLOMBIA ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, KEIDANREN



On behalf of Keidanren's Japan-Colombia Economic Committee, I wish to congratulate the government and people of the Republic of Colombia on their 210th anniversary of independence on July 20, as well as the country's formal accession to the OECD this April.

The coronavirus pandemic has plunged the world into one of the most serious crises of modern times. I am deeply saddened by the suffering faced by people around the world. Global solidarity is

critical to address the huge economic and social impacts of this predicament.

While the current situation is very challenging, it also provides us with an opportunity to bounce back better than before and promote even stronger economic integration between Japan and Colombia. This requires us to continue working together to ensure a free, fair and stable trade and investment environment in both countries. As for policy responses, I look forward to the early conclusion of a high-quality Japan-Colombia economic partnership agreement, as well as Colombia's participation in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

On the occasion of their independence anniversary, I would like to extend my best wishes for good health and prosperity to all Colombians and reaffirm our committee's commitment to further enhance the economic relationship between our countries.

A rich history of bilateral relations

TATSUMARO TERAZAWA
PRESIDENT OF THE COLOMBIA-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



On behalf of the Colombia-Japan Friendship Association, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to President Ivan Duque and the Colombian people.

Since the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between Japan and Colombia was signed in 1908, both countries have strengthened favorable political, economic and cultural relations.

It is worth noting that Colombia has a tradition of democracy based on freedom of speech, stable economic growth without inflation after World War II and a foreign policy of openness. Moreover, the

country has been a leader in the protection of the environment and biodiversity.

Considering Colombia's high potential and the circumstance of the bilateral relationship, further tightened in recent years, as well as the significant security improvements in the country, I sincerely wish that Japan can contribute even more to the further development of Colombia.



The city of Cartagena
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to the People of
the Republic of Colombia on
Their Independence Day

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of
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