

Peru National Day Special

Friendship endures despite 'complex times'

HAROLD FORSYTH
AMBASSADOR OF PERU



Last year we celebrated the 120th anniversary of the Japanese immigration to Peru. We were honored to receive the official visit of Princess Mako for such an important commemoration. It was a timely occasion to reflect upon the many things we have accomplished and also to envision the future of our bilateral relationship.

We were going to unfold a comprehensive work agenda in 2020, but the coronavirus outbreak caused a change of plans. In these difficult times, Japan's aid has proven once again to be important, becoming a meaningful source of financial and technical cooperation to Peru during the pandemic. For this I can only express my deepest gratitude on behalf of the Peruvian people.

On May 19, President Martin Vizcarra and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held a telephone summit. Our leaders had a

very productive dialogue where they exchanged information about initiatives to combat the coronavirus and discussed concrete actions to further deepen cooperation.

Despite the challenges ahead, we need to resume our common agenda. As our private sectors restart their operations, we must encourage new trade and investment approaches in areas with great potential such as agriculture.

This year, exports of exquisite Peruvian fruit to the Japanese market increased considerably. Hopefully this will inspire more joint enterprises, boosting the recovery of our economies and bilateral trade. Surely this can thrive under the support of the Peruvian Embassy and the Japan-Peru Business Committee.

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

I want to take this opportunity to thank Shoei Utsuda (former president and CEO of Mitsui & Co.) for his outstanding work as chairman of the committee. During his tenure, business relations between our two countries significantly increased, and also I welcome the new chairman, Masami Iijima (chairman of the board of directors and also former president and CEO of Mitsui & Co.), with whom I look forward to keep working in enhancing further economic exchanges.

The signing of the Convention for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance on Nov. 18, was one of the highlights of the past year. We are working to get the agreement approved by the Peruvian congress.

Also, with regard to the pending approval of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, to which Peru and Japan belong, I want to express that this is a high priority for our government. The agreement is paramount since it will put Peru at the forefront with a group of countries that seek to define this century's trade standards and its final approval, according to the legal procedures of my country, will hopefully be ready in the near future.

I am confident that the strengthening of bilateral relations between our countries will continue during the Reiwa Era. Regardless of the very complex times we are living in, we will overcome current difficulties and resume our mutual endeavors.

Treaty and in-depth discussions a hopeful precedent for future

MASAMI IIJIMA
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PERU BUSINESS COMMITTEE



In April, I was appointed chairman of the Japan-Peru Business Committee, and on its behalf, I am delighted to extend my warmest congratulations to the people and government of Peru as

the country celebrates its National Day.

Last year we commemorated the 120th anniversary of the systematic immigration of Japanese nationals to Peru, and held the 13th

Japan-Peru Business Committee conference in Lima on Nov. 18 and 19. We had in-depth discussions on a wide range of topics, including innovation, infrastructure, mining, agriculture, tourism and human resources, while also strengthening our relationship.

Just prior to the conference, the bilateral tax treaty that had been requested by the business communities of both countries was signed in Lima, making the conference a memorable occasion.

As both countries are experiencing unprecedented challenges with the coronavirus, we must explore opportunities in a post-coronavirus world, as new norms may emerge.

As chairman, I will contribute to building an even stronger friendship and improving economic relations between our two nations.



Princess Mako and President of the Republic of Peru Martin Vizcarra during celebrations of the 120th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Peru in Lima, on July 11, 2019 THE EMBASSY OF PERU IN JAPAN

Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Peru
on the Anniversary of
Their Independence

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MITSUI MINING & SMELTING CO., LTD.

Gate City Osaki-West Tower 19th Fl.
1-11-1 Osaki, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-8584 Japan

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2-10-4 Toranomom, Minato-ku
Tokyo 105-8418, Japan