

# Uruguay Independence Day Special

## Relations flourish through various exchanges

**CESAR FERRER**  
AMBASSADOR OF URUGUAY



Today marks the 195th anniversary of the National Independence of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay. On this special occasion, I am deeply honored to express my respectful greetings

and best wishes in the Reiwa Era to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, the imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, ministers, Diet members, government institutions and the people of Japan.

These difficult times around the world call for international cooperation in order to be able to overcome our common crisis. So far, Uruguay has been successful in controlling the spread of the coronavirus, earning international recognition.

The Uruguayan citizenship has followed the principle of "responsible freedom" announced by our national authorities.

On March 1, Luis Lacalle Pou took office as president of the republic after being democratically elected in November. Japan was represented in that occasion by special envoy Takeo Kawamura, president of the Japan-Uruguay Parliamentary Friendship League.

Japan and Uruguay have common values, including promotion of peace, freedom, democracy, human rights, a rule-based global society, open and free trade, international cooperation and multilateralism, which are the foundations to keep building and expanding our relationship.



**Inaugural Address at Parliament of President Luis Lacalle Pou on March 1.** PRESIDENCIA URUGUAY

2021 will mark the first 100 years of bilateral diplomatic relations. This will be an opportunity to celebrate, reflect and have a common vision for the future in order to foster and deepen our bilateral ties in all aspects.

We are looking forward to high-level visits, political dialogue, economic promotion, as well as cultural and sports activities taking place in both countries that will represent the full scope of our relations and the great potential to keep developing our bilateral ties into the future.

Youth and sports exchanges are suitable ways to generate awareness and lasting friendships between young people. During the Rugby World Cup, when our rugby team Los Teros and fans visited the prefectures of Iwate, Saitama, Oita and

Kumamoto, they experienced *omotenashi* (hospitality).

Additionally, there was the visit in April of 300 university students from Uruguay to Japan. Both occasions were great successes and demonstrated the mutual empathy between our countries.

During this semester, Uruguay holds the temporary presidency of Mercosur (the trade bloc of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and will strengthen the dialogue between Mercosur and Japan, while looking forward to expanding our economic and commercial ties in the near future.

On the bilateral economic front, we fully expect to see in the next few weeks the entry into force of the already agreed upon bilateral agreement to avoid double taxation which, together with the 2017 bilateral agreement on the liberalization, promotion and protection of investments, provides an ideal framework to promote investment from Japanese companies in Uruguay, as well as the successful investment regime promotion in free zones.

Bilateral trade is increasing in both directions with excellent perspectives through private sector efforts and the professional support of the respective ministries, embassies and trade and investment promotion agencies such as the Japan External Trade Organization and Uruguay XXI.

Uruguayan beef has been successfully represented in the Japanese market during the last 15 months.

It has been increasingly distinguished by the preference of the discerning Japanese consumers because of its high quality and taste. In Uruguay the beef industry is emblematic and part of our national identity. Therefore, we hope to keep increasing

our presence in this world-class market.

In regard to other fine products from Uruguay such as wine, cheese, olive oil, propolis, honey, caviar and frozen fish, interest is increasing in this exclusive market, which highly values our natural way of production.

Japan's technological and scientific cooperation promoted over decades by the Japan International Cooperation Agency is highly appreciated in Uruguay and a source of friendship and partnership in the fulfillment of the United Nations sustainable development goals.

As ambassador of Uruguay in Japan, I believe that the pillars of our relationship are strong and solid. We should continue to work together for the greater benefit of our people in this challenging world.



**Local schoolchildren cheering for Uruguay during the 2019 Rugby World Cup in the city of Kamaishi, Iwate Prefecture**  
KYODO

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



**President of the Japan-Uruguay Parliamentary Friendship League, Takeo Kawamura, expressed his wishes for a strengthened relationship with Uruguay at the inauguration ceremony of President Luis Lacalle Pou on March 1.** PRESIDENCIA URUGUAY

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**on the Anniversary of**  
**Their Independence**

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