

Brazil National Day Special

Year of important milestones in bilateral relationship

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AMBASSADOR OF BRAZIL



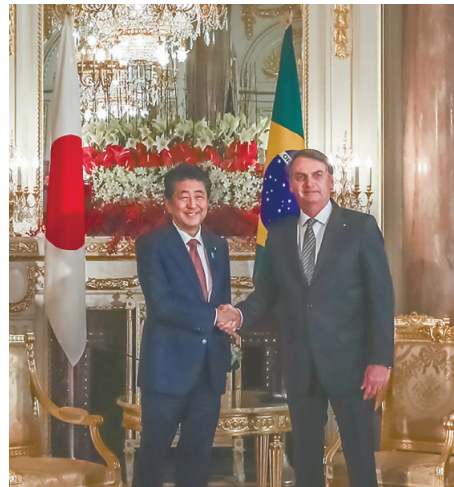
I am pleased to address the readers of The Japan Times once more on the occasion of Brazil's National Day, Sept. 7. This year, 2020, is one of the most difficult years humanity has faced in decades

as we struggle with the unprecedented challenges posed by the coronavirus. The Brazilian government has reacted with a wide range of measures, from an expansion of hospital capacity and the signing of international agreements on vaccine production, to the provision of funds to help businesses stay afloat and to assist citizens financially.

Looking beyond the short term, Brazil has been working with international partners to build the conditions that will allow the world to become more resilient to crises. We have joined in the critical discussions on how to bolster the World Health Organization's effectiveness in helping countries stay safe against global health threats. Brazil also continues to work actively toward a reform of the World Trade Organization and has recently presented a proposal for

investment facilitation rules that can help revitalize economic flows after the end of the pandemic. Also, having joined the International Transport Forum as an observer in July, Brazil continues to move closer to the goal of accession to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, for which we have counted on Japan's support. Domestically, we are expanding market-oriented reforms with a simplification of our tax system that will bring additional dynamism to the world's eighth-largest economy.

Despite the sobering context of the pandemic, 2020 is a remarkable year for Brazil-Japan relations. The 125th anniversary of the bilateral relationship is an opportunity to recall our history of converging interests and productive partnerships in areas as varied as agriculture, industry, technology and culture. Looking to the future, Brazil and Japan have been working together to establish a new agenda for our strategic and global partnership that adds to our traditional cooperation, with talks on biodiversity and trade. One important way forward is the signing of an economic partnership agreement that can elevate our economic and trade relations to a level befitting two of the world's 10 largest economies. We are confident that better access for Brazilian agricultural products will help provide



Prime Minister Abe and President Bolsonaro shake hands during their meeting on the occasion of the enthronement ceremony in October. GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL

Japanese consumers with a wider variety of goods at better prices, in keeping with Brazil's traditional position as a reliable partner for food security in Japan.

As soon as the coronavirus allows us, we are keen on resuming to high-level talks that, in 2019, included three meetings between President Jair Bolsonaro and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. His dedication to our bilateral relations, as well as his excellent

relationship with Bolsonaro, have been of the greatest importance to strengthening the Brazil-Japan friendship even further. We wish the prime minister a quick recovery from the health issues that regrettably led to his resignation.

This year we are also celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Brazilian community in Japan and the 112th year of Japanese migration to Brazil, reminders of the unique intertwining of human ties that connect Brazil and Japan. The community in Japan has proudly been able to build on the legacy of the first Brazilian workers that arrived in the 1990s and strengthen its contribution to the Japanese society and economy.

Due to the pandemic, celebrations of these special milestones have been hosted on our social media pages (@Brasemb-Tokyo), as has been the case of many of the embassy's activities. While having to abstain from face-to-face interactions has been frustrating in part, it has also allowed us to explore new ideas; for instance, an online version of the Brazilian music series we traditionally hold at the embassy, as well as an innovative partnership with the Chain Museum and its ArtSticker app, which now features ArtSticker-Brazil, a section devoted to Brazilian artists and culture.

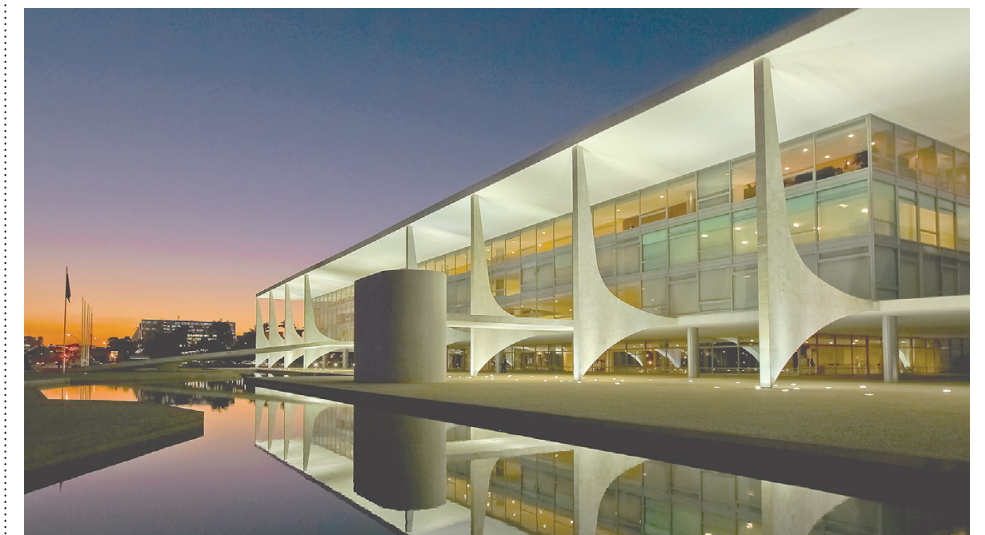
Finally, as the hosts of the previous Sum-

mer Olympic and Paralympic Games, we were heartbroken that the 2020 Games had to be postponed, but we remain committed to completing the Olympic bridge from Rio to Tokyo in 2021. It will be the opportunity to show our solidarity and perseverance in overcoming the global challenge we are facing, in keeping with the Olympic spirit.

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



The Embassy of Brazil in Japan boasts a unique facade. GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL



Palacio do Planalto, the presidential palace located in Brasilia. GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL

**Congratulations
to the People of Brazil
on the Occasion of
the Anniversary of
Their Independence**



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of
Brazil
on the Occasion
of Their Independence Day



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