

Mexico National Day Special

Solid relationship continues to strengthen and grow

MELBA PRIA
AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO



Sept. 16 marks the 210th anniversary of the beginning of our country's independence movement, a moment that occupies a very special place in our history and in the identity

that we have as Mexicans; it is a date that undoubtedly makes us feel proud of our country and all its peoples. We have a unique history and vast culture, and the Mexican people are well known for their empathy and hospitality.

The people of Mexico are known around the world for their joy, generosity and warmth. Above all, we are recognized because of the way we show our support to others in times of difficulty.

This is when our characteristic traits of companionship, solidarity and the ability to work as a team stand out the most. These are some of the qualities that we share with the people of Japan and they have been pivotal in strengthening our bilateral relationship during unfortunate situations such as the Fukushima disas-

ter in 2011 or the earthquake in Mexico City back in 2017 when rescue teams and experts from both countries have been of critical help to one another.

The last few months have represented a big challenge for the whole world. This has allowed us to learn to live in a new way, stronger and adapting to a different reality. Due to these circumstances, we are required to celebrate our Independence Day through a virtual ceremony.

We decided to look at the bright side of the situation. We take it as a challenge that has only expanded our possibilities and sparked our creativity to achieve an exciting program.

Thanks to this, we will reach and include more members of the Mexican diaspora, the international community and will celebrate our culture together.

Throughout September, our national month, people will also be able to enjoy online content that we have prepared for everyone.

This content includes such things as traditional folk stories for children; dance performances; virtual tours of some of the most important museums and cultural sites in Mexico, such as the Blue House where celebrated artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera lived in the south of Mexico City; and an online festival of Mexican

cinema, among other special collaborations with academics, artists and other celebrated personalities.

This year we are also celebrating a decade since the inclusion of traditional Mexican cuisine on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

In light of this, we have been working to develop a program for Mexican restaurant certification in Tokyo, to guarantee you can enjoy our foods and culinary traditions at their best.

2020 also marks the 15th anniversary of the free trade agreement between Mexico and Japan, representing the first comprehensive free trade agreement that includes the agricultural sector.

For Japan, it's the first free trade agreement with a Latin American country. This agreement opened the door to business opportunities that have resulted in positioning Mexico as Japan's most important business partner in Latin America, and a natural gateway to the Asian market for

Mexico, as it is also the only Latin American country that holds daily direct flights between capitals.

We hope that the friendship between our countries, which started over 410 years ago, keeps strengthening and expanding.

I would like to take this opportunity to express on behalf of the government of Mexico and members of the Mexican community living in Japan, our sincere greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, members of the imperial family, H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his successor, government officials and the kind people of Japan.

Viva Mexico!



The Angel of Independence, one of Mexico City's landmarks, was built in 1910 by architect Antonio Rivas Mercado to commemorate the centennial of the beginning of Mexico's War of Independence. GUILLERMO VILLARREAL FOR #MEXICOENUNAFOTO

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



A diver approaches a stingray in Cabo Pulmo National Park, a marine park on the east coast of Mexico's Baja California Peninsula.

MARIA PAULA MARTINEZ JAUREGUI LORDA

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