

Chile National Day Special

Long-lasting friendly relations continue to develop, strengthen

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AMBASSADOR OF CHILE



In 1810, a group of Chileans and Spaniards met to assess how best to conduct government business while the King of Spain, Fernando VII, remained in prison under orders of Emperor Napoleon. That early discussion was to become the unique seed for a prosperous nation — Chile — that has achieved many goals and continues to stand as a country that through its initiatives, seeks to contribute for the betterment of the life of its people.

The bilateral history between Chile and Japan features plenty of meaningful episodes. The Japanese vessel Stonewall, looking for commercial routes to conduct business, arrived in Punta Arenas, the southernmost city in the world. That same year, official contacts were initiated through the consulates that both countries had in San Francisco. In 1894, the Chilean Navy sold to Japan a cruiser Esmeralda III — renamed Izumi — that would play an

important role in the war between Japan and Russia in 1905.

Diplomatic relations were formally established in 1897 with the signing of a Amity, Commerce and Navigation Treaty. Throughout these years, the starting point and cornerstone of the bilateral relationship has been economic complemented by natural disaster cooperation and more recently, scientific innovation. Symbolic of that, an agreement between Japan and the Republic of Chile for a strategic economic partnership was signed in 2007 that sees Japan as Chile's fourth trade partner worldwide.

In that same vein, Chile and Japan were among the founding fathers of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement that evolved into the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) that includes Australia, Brunei, Canada, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam, as well as Japan and Chile. The CPTPP is a trading bloc representing almost 500 million consumers and 13.5 percent of global gross domestic product. Chile is doing its utmost to become a full member as soon as possible.

Our existing, robust ties have even become stronger since the coronavirus appeared in March. Recently, the Japanese



A panoramic view of Torres del Paine National Park, in Magellan's region, Southern Chile FELIPE CANTILLANA - MARCA CHILE

government announced a generous donation of medical supplies to strengthen Chilean capabilities to face the coronavirus.

Bilateral trade and the Chilean presence in Japan continue to expand. New initiatives and agreements as to engage Chilean small and mid-sized enterprises in e-commerce with Rakuten, Amazon and Yahoo are taking place. Through MITANI Business Partners Inc., 20 new Chilean food products (honey, olive oil and blue mussels among

others) will be sold in Japan with hopes to expand to 300 products next year.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between TSUCREA and ProChile to allow three startups from Chile to initiate their acceleration programs in Japan from next month.

As a result of an agreement between Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and ProChile that also involves three main video game Japanese developers, as well as Chilean developers, a business-to-business meeting took place to develop new businesses. Eight Chilean companies will attend the first virtual online edition of Tokyo Game Show 2020 this month. That participation will be followed by a webinar on Oct. 27. An international forum on digital transformation will be held with the participation of NEC Corp. next month, as well as a Chilean wine tasting and seminar organized by ProChile and Catador.

Communication is essential while facing the 21st century. Chile has proposed the building of a submarine fiber optic cable to join Asia and South America. Active participation from Japan is expected to fulfill technical and security standards that such a big engineering project demands.

Over the years, Chile has relied on the

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for its own development and now for the agency to help other countries in the Latin American region to cope with consequences from natural disasters. We look forward to JICA's renewed presence in Chile.

As we are nearing the 125th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Chile and Japan, the balance is absolutely positive. Strong commerce based on free trade, a solid bilateral relationship built on common principles, outstanding cooperation concerning natural disasters, as

well as the promising development of initiatives on e-commerce and communications, are only some of our achievements. I invite on this occasion the government, peoples and companies from both of our countries to further strengthen the traditional ties of friendship, trade and cooperation for our mutual benefit.

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



The moai statues on Easter Island were carved between approximately 1400 to 1650 A.D. by the natives of the island to honor chiefs or other important people who had passed away.

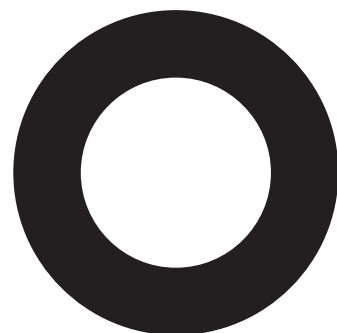
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