

Colombia Independence Day Special

Shared values buttress hopes for recovery

SANTIAGO PARDO
AMBASSADOR OF COLOMBIA



Our Independence Day is a unique opportunity to celebrate Colombia and the people that shape it as a nation. This year's celebration honors our efforts to tackle the pandemic and reach a sound

recovery.

This commemoration offers the opportunity to acknowledge the remaining challenges and celebrate our achievements as a nation. The government of the Republic of Colombia has been working tirelessly towards a sustainable recovery, including economic growth that comes along with social development, massive vaccinations and conscious environmental action.

Today, we highlight our permanent defense of the rule of law, the democratic order and the principle of solidarity. This

year, Colombia has made a historic decision without precedent in the region: The Colombian government issued the Temporary Protection Statute for Venezuelan Migrants to regularize Venezuelan migrants, allowing them to transition from a temporary protection status to an ordinary migratory one. This exemplifies the commitment of the government of Colombia to the protection of human rights with solidarity and a responsible approach.

July 20 is also the opportunity to celebrate the special bond with our longstanding allies, among which, of course, is Japan, our oldest partner in Asia. The defense of freedom, democracy and the rule of law are shared values and objectives toward which we will keep working together in the years to come.

Nuqui, a municipality in the department of Choco where sea and jungle fuse into one of the most spectacular natural landscapes in Colombia
PROCOLOMBIA



The wax palm, Colombia's national tree, thrives in the Cocora Valley in the town of Salento, growing up to 60 meters high. PROCOLOMBIA

Overcoming hurdles to growth

TATSUMARO TERAZAWA
PRESIDENT OF THE COLOMBIA-JAPAN
FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



On behalf of the Japan Colombia Friendship Association, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to President Ivan Duque and all the Colombian people on

their Independence Day.

Since the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation in 1908, Japan and Colombia have maintained dynamic political, economic and cultural relations for many years.

In particular, the relationship

between the two countries has deepened as a consequence of the improvement of the security situation and sustained economic growth in past years.

However, Colombia has been greatly economically impacted, on one hand by the influx of Venezuelan migration in recent years, and on the other hand by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a rise in social tensions.

We hope the Colombian people overcome these obstacles to achieve strong economic growth based on the tradition of freedom of speech and participatory democracy.

These messages were compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Working together on commerce

KEN KOBAYASHI
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-COLOMBIA
ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, KEIDANREN



On behalf of Keidanren's Japan-Colombia Economic Committee, I am honored to offer my warmest congratulations to the government and people of the Republic of Colombia

on the 211th anniversary of their independence.

As the world continues to combat the coronavirus, Japan and Colombia are both accelerating vaccination programs, which are critical to bringing a swift end to this difficult situation. It is in the same spirit that both our countries remain committed to working together to fur-

ther strengthen bilateral economic and cultural ties well beyond the current challenges.

As part of such ongoing efforts, I congratulate the Senate of Colombia on its recent approval of the tax convention between Japan and Colombia, which will eliminate double taxation and prevent tax evasion, and I look forward to its ratification in the near future. I also look forward to the early conclusion of a Japan-Colombia economic partnership agreement. This is expected to build on current momentum to further expand trade and investment between our countries under an agreed free and fair trade framework.

In closing, I extend my very best wishes for the good health and prosperity of Colombians and reaffirm the committee's firm commitment to further enhance the economic relationship between our two countries.

Congratulations

to the People of
the Republic of Colombia on
Their Independence Day

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Congratulations
to the People
of
the Republic of Colombia
on the Occasion
of
Their Independence Day

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