

Chile National Day Special

Reaching for the stars on trade, tech, SDGs

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This month, Chile celebrates the 211th anniversary of its independence. This date finds the country steadily returning to normal life thanks to a massive vaccination campaign against COVID-19

fully covering more than 80% of the population. There is no doubt the pandemic has restrained relationships among countries and peoples, but it is encouraging that the world is moving again.

In the case of Chile and Japan this is particularly meaningful, given the fact that our countries enjoy a long and comprehensive relationship that will commemorate 125 years in 2022. Our diplomatic relations were established in 1897, when the Amity, Commerce, and Navigation Treaty was signed. Today, Chile and Japan share a rich trade, investment, cooperation and innovation agenda.

One of the main areas of collaboration between Chile and Japan is astronomy,

where the Tokyo Atacama Observatory of the University of Tokyo stands out. The observatory is under construction in Chile's Atacama Region and is scheduled to start operations in 2022, when it will become the world's highest research facility.

Chile and Japan, conspicuously prone to natural disasters, have jointly developed a successful cooperation program called Kizuna (bonds of friendship) that has strengthened the technical capabilities of more than 5,000 professionals in Latin America and the Caribbean, improving the population's preparations, response times and reconstruction processes to generate a more resilient region.

During 2021, we had the opportunity to be part of one of the most challenging sporting events of this time, the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. This major and successful event, organized by Japan, gave the world a much needed optimistic signal and allowed us to celebrate our athletes' performances and medals. We are particularly grateful to the host cities of Mitaka in western Tokyo and the town of Kami, Miyagi Prefecture, for giving such a warm welcome to our team.

Trade has been resilient to the pandemic and continues to expand thanks to a mix

of strategies adopted by the private sectors of both countries, and the support of the Chilean Embassy in Japan, ProChile, the Agricultural Office and InvestChile. As part of this, we have developed business strategies aimed at opening new distribution channels and created a business platform focused on importing, distributing and selling Chilean products in retail format via e-commerce sites such as PayPay Mall and Amazon Japan.

Chile has a solid commitment to climate change mitigation, adaptation and protection of the environment. We adopted the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and committed to advancing the 17 sustainable development goals. Through our nationally determined contributions, we have committed to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 30% by 2030 compared with 2007 levels.

Chile's wealth of clean renewable energies is an engine for decarbonizing the country's activities. Our National Green Hydrogen Strategy enables us to become the world's lowest-cost supplier of green hydrogen, green ammonia and clean synthetic fuels suited to the global climate actions aimed at reducing emissions in all sectors. It will also enable us to produce and export



The Hacienda Los Andes lodge and observatory in Rio Hurtado SERNATUR

greener products, which reduces our carbon footprint, distinguishes our exports as clean products and helps end users fulfill their global commitments to decarbonization.

In the food and beverage sector, Japanese wine lovers can now enjoy Chile's excellent sustainable premium products in master classes, and foodies can delight in the taste of our outstanding Patagonia natural lamb. Other sustainable Chilean products, including wine, pork, honey, olive and grapeseed oils, salmon, trout and other fresh and frozen agriculture products, are now available at retailers.

Other exciting sectors moving forward are the startup acceleration programs run by



A view of San Cristobal Hill in Santiago SERNATUR

ProChile, the Tsucrea Incubation Program for Chilean Startups, and the new Chilean acceleration fund Magical II, which looks likely to attract Japanese investment. After Nintendo Co. and Square Enix Co. visited Chile in 2020, video game companies were energized. Several participate every year in the Tokyo Game Show.

As we approach 125 years of diplomatic relations between Chile and Japan, we

unmistakably reaffirm the importance of our partnership. Many challenges and opportunities lay ahead of us, but we are sure that continuing to work together assures us a better society for our peoples.

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

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the Republic of Chile
on the Anniversary of
Their Independence*

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<https://www.nmm.jx-group.co.jp/english>

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Group companies in Chile



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