

Argentina National Day Special

Flurry of collaboration follows strategic partnership

ALAN CLAUDIO BERAUD
AMBASSADOR OF ARGENTINA



Argentina celebrates its National Day on May 25th. On this auspicious occasion, on behalf of the government and people of Argentina, I convey my profound respect to Their

Majesties, Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako at the dawn of the Reiwa Era, as well as my warmest greetings to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the friendly people of Japan.

Argentina and Japan's strategic partnership was established in 2016, setting a framework to intensify our traditional, political, economic, trade and investment bonds. The prime minister visited Argentina in 2016, and President Mauricio

Macri reciprocated in 2017. Last December, our leaders again held a bilateral summit and celebrated the 120th anniversary of diplomatic relations and friendship in Buenos Aires, on the occasion of Argentina's Group of 20 summit. A forthcoming bilateral summit is expected to be held in Osaka in late June, on the margins of the G20 summit. These summit meetings show the solid links that are being built between Argentina and Japan.

Both countries are committed to the defense of a world order based on international law and a fair and equitable multilateral trade system.

A bilateral investment treaty was signed in 2018 and a substantive agreement has been achieved in negotiations on a treaty to avoid double taxation. This regulatory framework aims to promote the business environment, trade flows and investment in Argentina. A seminar on investment opportunities and financing in agribusiness in Argentina took place in early May,

following two seminars targeting investment in the mining industry. Shale oil and gas, as well as renewable energies and tourism may also offer an array of opportunities to Japanese investors.

Beef and lamb from Patagonia are now available in the Japanese market, and wagyu on Argentine tables. Argentine beef from the Pampas is expected to arrive in Japan very soon. I invite readers of The Japan Times to enjoy an Argentine beef experience! More natural products from Argentina are on their way to Japanese consumers.

Osaka has become particularly relevant for Argentina as the president will be visiting the city in June. Argentina supported Osaka's candidacy for the 2025 World Expo and congratulates its achievement; the Argentine Embassy held a beef promotion event there last November; Malbec World Day was celebrated in Osaka on April 17 and our national rugby team Los Pumas will play at Hanazono Stadium in



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Mauricio Macri shake hands at their meeting on the sidelines of the Group of 20 leaders summit in Buenos Aires in November. GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA



Estancia Jesuitica Santa Catalina, a church complex in Cordoba in central Argentina.



Horsemen known as gauchos in traditional attire.



The Obelisk from Hotel Panamericano in Buenos Aires.

the 2019 Rugby World Cup.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency this year celebrates its 40th anniversary of technical cooperation with Argentina. The Kaizen Tango program to improve business management is in full implementation, targeting 1,000 Argentine businesspeople and more than 100 enterprises. The One Village One Product program to promote local revitalization is already in place.

Argentine and Japanese people working together for a brighter future in all areas to strengthen our strategic partnership is our common goal.

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



A cruise ship passes a glacier in the Patagonia region, located at the southern end of Argentina.

High hopes for continued progress

KOZO YAMAMOTO
PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN-ARGENTINA PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On behalf of the Japan-Argentina Parliamentary Friendship League, I am pleased to extend my warmest congratulations to the people and the National Congress of Argentina on the occasion of its National Day.

Last year, I visited Argentina with my colleagues of the Japan-Argentina Parliamentary Friendship League in response

to the kind invitation of the President of the Chamber of Deputies, the Honorable Emilio Monzo, to participate in the commemorative ceremony of the 120th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two nations. It was a great honor for me to attend the ceremony and celebrate the anniversary with my Argentine and Japanese friends. I'll never forget the surprised and delighted expressions of the audience when I danced the tango on the ceremonial stage. During my stay in that beautiful country, I also had several significant meetings with congress members and high-level government officials, including Vice President Gabriela Michetti.

For a long time, Japan and Argentina have built great relationships in a wide

range of fields. We can see many positive developments in recent years, especially after the inauguration of President Mauricio Macri's administration 3.5 years ago. The signing of the bilateral investment agreement and commencement of Patagonian beef exports to Japan and of Japanese beef to Argentina are emphasized as among the most important achievements in recent months.

It is my sincere hope that this friendship and strategic partnership between our two countries will continue consolidating. I would like to exert maximum efforts to enhance bilateral relations between Japan and Argentina as president of the Japan-Argentina Parliamentary Friendship League.

Pursuing further growth in business sphere

KEN KOBAYASHI
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-ARGENTINA BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE



On behalf of the Japan-Argentina Business Cooperation Committee, I am delighted to extend my warmest congratulations to the government and people of Argentina as the country celebrates its National Day.

February 2018 marked the 120th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Argentina and, in the same year, Japan fittingly lifted

the import ban on Argentine beef from the Patagonia region. The import of high-quality beef from Argentina presents a real opportunity to strengthen business relations between the two countries, promoted by events in major Japanese cities last November.

On the other hand, the lack of an economic partnership agreement (EPA) between Argentina and Japan has led to a highly competitive market environment with 11 Trans-Pacific Partnership and bilateral EPA countries. The Japan-Argentina Joint Business Conference, held in Buenos Aires in May last year, released a joint statement calling on the two governments to launch early EPA negotiations to promote the expansion of Japan-Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Para-

guay and Uruguay) trade, investment and business.

The Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, along with the Japan Business Federation, subsequently submitted a proposal to the chief cabinet secretary supporting this call for an "early start of Japan-Mercosur EPA negotiations." In this way, we endeavor to continue expanding business between the two countries building on more than 50 years of the committee's activities.

Lastly, the Rugby World Cup will begin in September, and the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020. We hope that the mutual understanding and exchange in a wide range of sectors will be enhanced through not only business, but also sports, food and culture.



A couple dance the tango, Argentina's most famous dance, in Republic Square in Buenos Aires.

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