

National Day of Chile

PUBLICITY

Chile, Japan celebrate 125 years of diplomatic ties

By Ricardo G. Rojas
Ambassador of Chile

One hundred and twenty-five years ago, in 1897, Chile and Japan signed a Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation, which marked the beginning of diplomatic relations between our countries.

Since then, Chile and Japan have developed a solid friendship based on mutual respect and deep-rooted shared values. Through these core principles, trade, investment and co-operation have become significant cornerstones of the relationship, making Japan the first source of foreign investment from an Asian country in Chile, and one of the four main trading partners of our country.

Our relationship has deepened, taking on increasingly diverse aspects. Today we have numerous agreements that cover areas such as disaster risk reduction, where the “Kizuna” project stands out, as well as the



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Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development Program (SATREPS), which has facilitated the exchange of experts and good practices in areas such as the prevention of red tide.

Chile and Japan are strongly committed to fighting against climate change and decarbonizing our societies. Throughout this past year, our Embassy has visited remarkable hydrogen production projects in Japan, such as those located in Fukuoka City and Namie Town. Creating the global supply chains needed to provide clean fuels will be a crucial area for co-operation between Chile and Japan in the upcoming years.

To celebrate this 125th anniversary, we prepared a program of activities that allowed us to showcase our shared values. We created a commemorative logo whose image represents the Pehuen or Araucaria, an indigenous sacred tree, nourished by the energy of the Japanese Solar Disc or “Hinomaru.” This symbol has

been used by the Chilean Embassy in Tokyo and the Japanese Embassy in Santiago to promote this year’s activities.

Last April we organized a haiku contest together with Mitaka City, Team Chile’s Host Town for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. The aim of this contest was to highlight our visions of our countries, through this Japanese poetic expression. The award ceremony will be held in Mitaka City in October.

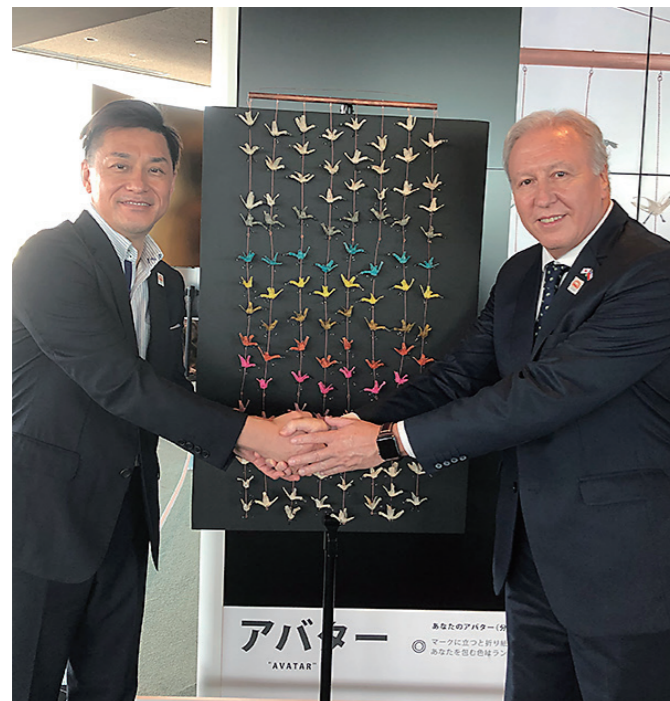
Furthermore, inspired by the story of Sadako Sasaki,



we presented the artwork “Rari Crin Cranes for Peace” at the Hiroshima Orizuru Tower on Sept. 7. The exhibit consists of a hanging loom of 108 woven dyed horse-hair cranes that resembles a senbazuru, and it will be exhibited for a year at the Hiroshima City landmark for people to enjoy.

From October to December, the “Chile-Japan Workshop on Sustainable Wood Architecture” will be implemented by the University of Chile and the University of Tokyo. This is the first collaborative university course between Chile and Japan and will include lectures and studio designs centered on the innovative ways wood can be used in structures in order to attend to present-day construction and urbanistic challenges in a post-pandemic context.

Looking ahead, we are certain that the new fields being developed within our bilateral agenda will further strengthen our ties at all levels, increasing the awareness and knowledge between our two nations.



Courtesy of the Chilean Embassy

Chilean Ambassador to Japan Ricardo G. Rojas, right, presents to the Hiroshima Orizuru Tower an artwork named “Rari Crin Cranes for Peace” via Tetsuya Matsuda, Executive Chairman and CEO, Hiroshima Mazda Motor Corporation, which runs the tower.

Congratulations
on the 212th Anniversary of
the Independence of the Republic of Chile
and
the 125th Anniversary of
the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations
between Chile and Japan

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