National Day of Argentina

(第3種郵便物認可)

Argentina-Japan ties reaching new heights

By Eduardo Tempone **Ambassador of the Argentine Republic**

May 25 is a day of profound significance for Argentines, not only as the day we commemorate the May Revolution and the First National Government, but

also as a time for us to reflect and reaffirm our shared values. As the Argentine Ambassador to Japan, I am honored to convey a message to both Japanese and Argentine residents, emphasizing the deep-rooted significance of our bilateral ties. For over 126 years, Japan has been a pivotal



partner and a trusted friend, bound to us by shared his-

tory and common values.

Our Embassy in Tokyo and all representatives of our country worldwide will celebrate with Japanese authorities and our communities the 214th anniversary of the May Revolution in memory of the day, in 1810, when the First National Government was formed. That critical historical episode was the first step in the process that concluded with our Declaration of Independence six years later, on July 9, 1816.

That is why, on this exceptional day, we feel close to our roots and beginnings despite the distance to our home. It becomes a perfect occasion to reflect on our history as an autonomous nation and our relations with the rest of the world as a free and independent country.

The end of the 19th century marked a significant turning point for Argentina and Japan, as it was a defining moment for both nations. We forged a robust bilateral relationship that has endured over a century, transcending geographical distance and cultural barriers. This relationship has been punctuated by numerous successful collaborations, such as our ventures together with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to improve agriculture practices, strengthen small and middle size enterprises, and make a resilient logistic network and supply chain, all through triangular cooperation, which not only benefited our nations but also contributed to global progress.

One of the key pillars of our fruitful relationship is the mutual trust we share. Argentina has consistently demonstrated its reliability as a partner for Japan across various sectors such as investment, trade, science, technical cooperation and multilateral affairs. Today, as we navigate different international scenarios and face common challenges, it is crucial that we further strengthen our shared values: freedom, democracy, good practices, respect for human rights and the rule of law, and

the defense of life and peace. In 2016, both countries agreed that the close cooperation we had developed so far granted us mutual benefits and confirmed the further development of cooperation in the international forum based on global perspectives as strategic partners. We will soon reach ten years since the critical milestone of establishing our Strategic Partnership. The time has come to upgrade our cooperation and advance to a Strategic and Global Partnership. We should work closely with this aim during the next two years, focusing on our role in our regional systems and their important complementarities. Examples of areas in



Mendoza Province — western central Argentina — is home to 76% of all the vineyards in the country. Its location at the foot of the Andes Mountain range allows the vines to receive the perfect conditions for their cultivation.

which we can work together are energy transition, food security, and technological innovation.

Regarding investment, more than 60 top Japanese companies are currently doing business in Argentina. We look for a higher reciprocal involvement in 2024 thanks to the huge potential in renewable energy and minerals (lithium). When it comes to science and technology, we promote the dialogue between JAXA and CONAE, our space agencies, as well as an inter-agency dialogue on Pacific uses of nuclear energy.

Since December 2023, we have seen interaction among the authorities expanding at the bilateral level. On the occasion of President Javier Milei's inauguration, Japan participated in the ceremony through Special Envoy and House of Councillors member, Akiko Santo. During her stay in Buenos Aires, she held fruitful meetings with Argentine authorities.

Diana Mondino, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade, and Worship of Argentina, visited Japan in March. This was her first official visit to East Asia, which reflects Argentina's interest in strengthening its historical ties with Japan and the region.

Another element to highlight is the number of multibusiness delegates that accompanied Minister Mondino, which allowed us to expand the agenda, including highlevel political meetings, such as the one between Minister Mondino and the Foreign Minister of Japan, Yoko Kamikawa, business-to-business meetings, business seminars, meetings with the Chairs of institutions, such as JICA and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), among others.

In May, Masaji Matsuyama, a member of the House of Councillors, visited Argentina and met with the Chief of Cabinet and other Argentine authorities.

Likewise, we plan to have other high-level meetings this year to deepen the bilateral relations. The meetings of the bilateral Enterprise's Committee and the one on bilateral political dialogue between our governments will be held in Buenos Aires in the following months as a part of a comprehensive agenda.



people form queues to enter the Teatro Colón, considered one of the 10 best opera houses in the

Argentina is moving forward with its accession to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). This is a significant step for us, as it will open new paths for economic growth, enhance our international standing, and promote good governance. In particular, it will allow us to participate in high-level policy discussions, access knowledge of best practices in various sectors and attract more foreign direct investment. It will improve transparency, security and accuracy in the measures our country must implement to meet the membership requirements of the organization. The goal is to help policymakers find solutions that stimulate growth and improve living conditions in our economies.

During the recent OECD's Ministerial Meeting, which Prime Minister Fumio Kishida chaired, we received the Council's Roadmap. We deeply value and rely on Japan's expertise to cooperate to accomplish this goal, recognizing Japan's integral role in our journey. Furthermore, Japan can be a crucial partner in exchanging experts and know-how at the technical level in multiple areas regarding policies and good practices.

The G20 is another forum where Argentina and Japan can enhance cooperation. It provides space for interaction on issues that interest both countries, including agriculture, trade and investment, development, digital economy, energy transition, education, culture and labor. Furthermore, the multiple meetings of the different working groups allow experts at the technical level and authorities at the decision-making level to interact and contribute to solutions to most of the challenges we currently face. In other words, we should broaden the dialogue in a relevant forum for our countries and the rest of the world.

I want to make a special mention about the people-topeople bonds. This is an area where we have been strongly linked since the beginning of Argentina-Japan relations. During the 19th and 20th centuries, we saw thousands of Japanese cross the ocean and reach South America. They chose Argentina as their home and worked tirelessly to improve their lives and contribute to the well-being of Argentina. The Nikkei community, in particular, has significantly contributed to our country through its cultural events, business ventures, and academic achievements.

The Argentine society recognizes their values of respect, kindness, and responsibility as a whole, and we are proud of their daily contribution to the ties that unite Argentina and Japan. Likewise, the 21st century has shown us, particularly in recent decades, how thousands of Argentines made Japan their second home. Their effort and work are pillars of our relation, and we are glad to see how they promote our food, culture, sports, and music in Japan every day. Over the past year, I met Argentine tango dancers, sportsmen, sportswomen, artists, and scientists, among many others, who bring our countries together in multiple ways.

On this significant day for Argentina, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Japan: Their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress, and the Japanese people. We sincerely appreciate the institutions, authorities, and individuals who tirelessly work to enhance our relations. The doors of our Embassy are always open, ready to collaborate and elevate our bilateral affairs to new heights.





Purmamarca is in Jujuy Province (northwest Argentina). Every year, thousands of tourists visit the Hill of Seven Colours.



The Esteros del Iberá — also known as Iberá Wetlands — are in Corrientes Province (northeast Argentina). Distinguished by its fauna that is spread over 3.900.000 hectares.



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