

## Peru celebrates bicentennial as solid, stable democracy

By **Gustavo Figueroa**  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Peru

This is a special year for Peru as it marks the celebration of the bicentennial of its independence. Every July 28, Peruvians remember the proclamation made in Lima in 1821 by the "Open Cabildo," declaring the country's independence from all foreign domination.



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Two hundred years have passed since that date and Peru is now a solid and stable democracy that guarantees respect for constitutional democracy, the separation of powers and the rule of law, the respect and promotion of human rights, the free market, compliance with international law and sustainable development.

Thanks to efficient and timely action at different levels of the international scene and using its strengths and competitive advantages, Peru has established itself as a medium-sized emerging regional power with a powerful projection towards the Asia-Pacific region and as a key player in Latin America.

Peru shows strong regional leadership when dealing with the main issues on the multilateral agenda such as climate change, defense of democracy and humanitarian aid to immigrants.

Regarding its bilateral relationship with Japan, Peru occupies a privileged position in Japan's foreign policy with Latin America. Peru was the first Latin American country to establish diplomatic relations with Japan in 1873 and it was also the first South American country to accept the systematic immigration of Japanese people. Since 1899, the community of Japanese descendants in Peru has contributed to the



country's development and has played an important role as a bridge between the two countries.

The Peru-Japan relationship has a solid foundation in the economic sector with the Bilateral Investment Treaty and the Economic Partnership Agreement, in force since 2009 and 2012, respectively. Furthermore, Peru and Japan signed in 2019 a Convention for the Elimination of Double Taxation, which has already gone into effect.

Likewise, Peru and Japan share universal values in main issues on the international agenda — including defense and the promotion of democracy and human rights, free trade, the condemnation of terror-



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Machu Picchu, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983 and one of the New Seven Wonders of the world since 2007, is South America's most famous ancient ruins.

ism, advocacy for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the peaceful resolution of controversies and climate change — which make them close partners in multilateral forums.

Additionally, both countries share partnerships in the regional frameworks of the Pacific Basin, such as APEC, the Pacific Alliance and the Comprehensive and Progressive

Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

The Peru-Japan friendship is rooted in different aspects, an important one being their cultural ties based on more than 120 years of Japanese migration to Peru, the large Nikkei-Peruvian community settled in Japan, as well as the confluence of interests in multilateral forums.

It is worth noting that during the pandemic, Japan's cooperation was crucial for Peru to ensure necessary medical supplies. Now, Peru is on the path to recovering and celebrating its 200 years of existence as a free and strong country where ancient civilizations flourished in the distant past.

Nevertheless, as we commemorate Peru's bicentennial, we cannot fail to mention the hard times that Peru and the entire world have gone through during a pandemic that has claimed thousands of lives. I would like to pay tribute to all these lives lived and lost.

**Congratulations**  
to the people of  
the Republic of Peru  
on the Bicentennial of  
their Independence

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Honorary Consul of Peru in Kyoto  
**Dr. Gensitsu Sen**

Honorary Consul of Peru in Naha  
**Morimasa Goya**

Honorary Consul of Peru in Takayama  
**Tairiku Okada**

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