Time for a renewed economic partnership

By Eduardo Paes Saboia Ambassador of Brazil

As the host of the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Brazil congratulates Japan for organizing the

Tokyo 2020 Games, and for giving the world an example of resilience and capability by overcoming the complexities posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our relations with Japan are as strong as ever, as exemplified by Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi's visit to Brazil last January. As a reelected member of the U.N. Security Council for the biennium



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2022-2023, Brazil supports Japan's membership in 2023. We expect to reinforce our partnership in the G4, comprising Brazil, Japan, Germany and South Africa, toward the United Nations Security Council's reform and achieve meaningful results together at UNFCCC COP26 in November.

Tackling climate change is urgent, and essentially an energy challenge: Energy produces 3/4 of global emissions. Brazil is the only large economy with a low carbon power matrix, with renewables representing 85% of our power generation. Brazil also has the largest pro-

portion of renewables in the total energy mix among G20 countries – 48%. As Japan reviews its Strategic Energy Plan, Brazil is keen on contributing with bioenergy solutions that could lower CO2 emissions while generating jobs, income and energy security.

Brazil is the missing link in Japan's network of trade agreements: Being the world's third-largest exporter of agricultural products, Brazil currently accounts for only 5% of Japan's food imports, so an Economic Partnership Agreement between Mercosur and Japan would reinvigorate our traditional partnership by promoting better access to markets, products and investments. Also, Brazil is among the few large economies to have opened their domestic market to Fukushima's agricultural production, and Japan's DNA is imprinted in our agriculture, since it was the Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) technical cooperation that supported the expansion of Brazil's grain production.

Finally, Brazil-Japan relations display a singular feature that unites our countries as no other: Our human ties. Brazil is proud to have the largest Nikkei population in the world, while Japan has one of the biggest Brazilian communities abroad. We've recently celebrated 30 years of the Brazilian community in Japan, and we're thankful for their role in promoting a better understanding of both countries' culture and values.



Courtesy of Embassy of Brazil

The facade of the Embassy of Brazil in Tokyo, with a mural celebrating the bonds between Brazil and Japan

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on the Occasion of the 199th Independence Day of the Federative Republic of Brazil



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