

Peru independence day

Historic bonds hold promise of closer future ties

Hugo Palma
AMBASSADOR OF PERU TO JAPAN

On the occasion of the 187th anniversary of Peru's independence, it is a special honor to present to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and to the illustrious government of Japan, greetings from a friendly government and people since 1873, when the first Peruvian mission arrived in Tokyo to establish diplomatic relations with Japan, signing a Treaty on Peace, Friendship, Commerce and Navigation.

Next year, we shall be celebrating the 110th anniversary of the beginning of Japanese immigration to Peru, whose approximately 100,000 descendants are a most appreciated constituent in Peruvian society. At this time, around 60,000

Peruvians contribute with their work and effort to the economy of Japan, and present to Japanese society further knowledge about our culture, music and gastronomy.

With these historical, social and human elements that few countries in the world can exhibit, relations between Peru and Japan are bound to become increasingly closer, more enriching, friendlier and mutually beneficial. This strengthening responds to the best interests of both peoples and countries.

In today's globalized world, it is the responsibility of societies and states that share an important common history, and especially common values on democracy, the rule of law, respect of human rights and international law, market economy and common perspectives toward the future, to make all possible efforts to consolidate ties. By doing so, they will additionally contribute to international peace and

stability. This is the case of Japan and Peru.

The Pacific Ocean is the natural space of our relationship. By its strategic geographical location, Peru is meant to be for Asia the gateway to South America. Moreover, the Peruvian economy is revealing itself as one of the most promising in the whole of the Latin American region.

Some data: Peru has had continuous economic growth for more than 80 months, reaching 13.25 percent last April, the highest rate in 13 years. National and foreign investment has been growing enormously in the last decade, and sends clear signs of strengthening. The potential for expansion of existing economic activities or the creation of new ones is enormous.

The Peruvian economy is receiving growing interest from specialized and general publications around the world. Recently, Peru has received an inversion grade from the Fitch Rating Agency and Standard & Poor's. The implementation of a free-trade agreement with the United States is in its final stages. We have already signed FTAs with Canada and Singapore,

and negotiations are ongoing with China, the European Union and the EFTA countries. The existing FTAs with Chile, Mexico and Thailand are being expanded while contacts for this purpose have been established with India, the Republic of Korea and some other countries.

Regarding our bilateral relations with Japan, the very successful official visit last March of the president of Peru, Dr. Alan Garcia, who was accompanied by five ministers of state and entrepreneurs, is an obvious highlight. In talks with the Emperor, Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda and other high-level authorities, there was complete agreement on the need for Japan and Peru to make every effort to develop closer bonds in every field. During the presidential visit, decisions were adopted to achieve this goal.

First and foremost, the rapid negotiation of an Agreement on Investment Protection and Promotion, which has already had two rounds in Tokyo and Lima, is expected to be signed in November, with Prime Minister Fukuda, in the capital for the APEC CEO summit, in attendance. A

Joint Declaration on Climate Change was signed and a number of loans for important development projects were approved. Peru expressed its deep gratitude for the generous support for victims of the August 2007 earthquake from the Japanese government as well as from private contributions. Peru has offered its wider support to Japan on its aspirations to become a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, as well as to some other important Japanese candidacies.

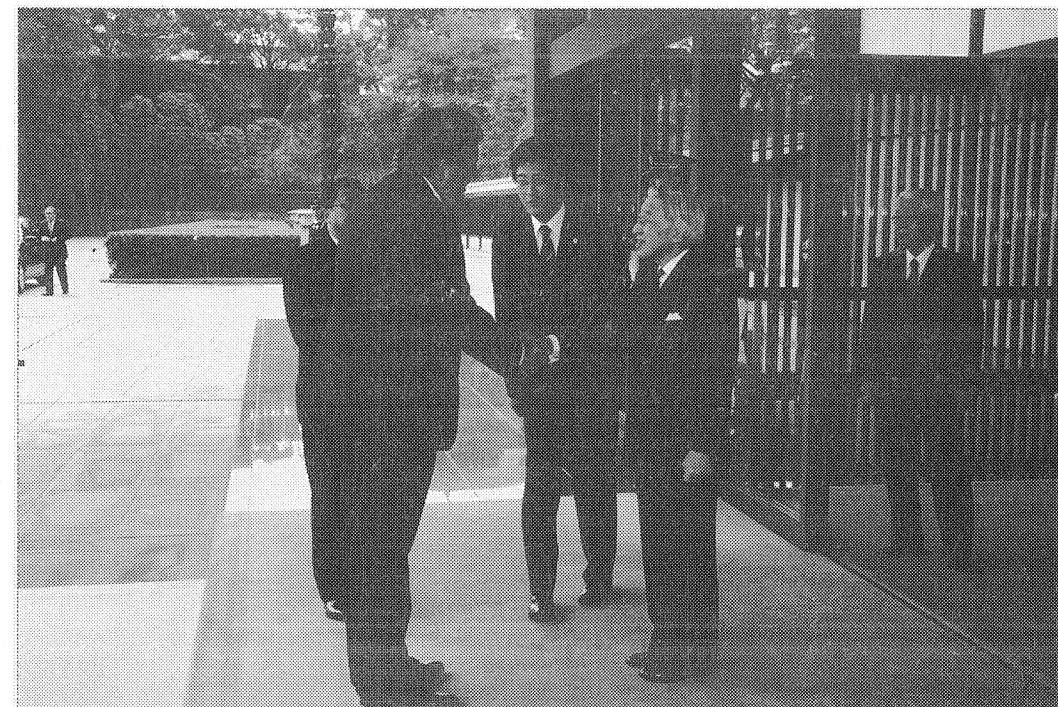
Also during the presidential visit the Peruvian Japanese Economic Council (CEPEJA), which had been inactive for many years, was reactivated. Under the able guidance of Shimpei Miyamura from Mitsui Mining and Smelting Co., and Luis Vega Monteferrri from Vega Enterprise Group, the CEPEJA must play a major role in the promotion of investment and bilateral commerce. More than 300 entrepreneurs participated in a seminar on investment, organized to present Peru as a business hub. The president and his ministers reiterated the aim of an economic partnership agreement

with Japan, for which any necessary effort shall be made.

Last May, Peru was host to the Latin America and Caribbean-European Union summit, which concluded with great success. This is the best precedent for the upcoming APEC CEO summit in November. Peru will have then the opportunity to receive its partners and friends from Asia and the Americas, to renew its compromise with a vision of open economies, mutual benefits and joint development, and show Japan and the world the advances made in modernity and progress. Our Asian friends will also have the opportunity to verify the importance of the Asian roots of Peru with the substantive number of citizens of Chinese and Japanese origin, as well as the incorporation of their culture, gastronomy and traditions.

In the cultural field, the very successful exhibits on Nazca culture, with the sponsorship of TBS, and on the world of the Incas, Mayas and Aztecs by NHK have to be mentioned. In their presentations in many prefectures in Japan and Tokyo, these beautiful exhibitions welcomed around 1 million and 750,000 visitors, respectively.

The number of Japanese tourists to Peru is growing every year. Presentations on television about Peruvian monuments, landscapes, festivities and traditions are frequent and of very high quality. Machu Picchu, one of many UNESCO Cultural World Heritage sites in Peru, is the iconic monument that the majority of Japanese would like to visit. Japanese archaeologists and scientists have been contributing for 50 years to the knowledge of archaeological sites in



Royal welcome: President Alan Garcia is greeted by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito during his official visit to Japan last March. PERU EMBASSY

Resource-rich Peru an investment gold mine

Shimpei Miyamura
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PERU BUSINESS
COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Japan-Peru Business Committee, I wish to express my heartfelt congratulations to the people of the Republic of Peru on the occasion of their 187th Independence Day.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Peru in 1873 — our very first with Latin America — the two countries have enjoyed a long and friendly relationship.

Over the past several years, Peru has achieved robust economic development, and more recently, thanks to its abundant natural resources, it has attained much higher economic growth, at around 9 percent per annum.

The Japan-Peru Business Committee was set up in 1993 with a view to enhancing the friendly business relationship, and promoting trade and

investment between the two countries through regular discussions. Following an unexpected hiatus, the committee started up again in October 2007 under President Alan Garcia's firm policy to place value on Japan, and I assumed the office of committee chairman.

In March this year, we welcomed key members of the Peru-Japan Business Committee to Tokyo for our seventh joint meeting. At this conference, we had lively discussions on a broad range of industries, including mining, manufacturing, energy, fishing, farming and the services sector.

The discussions concluded by confirming Japan's increased awareness of the importance of Peru from the aspect of resource supply, and expectations for increased exports from Peru to Japan and increased investment from Japan into Peru in the fields of infrastructure, energy, mining, farming, fishing and manufacturing.

At the close of the conference, a joint statement

was released to the effect that the committee calls for the early conclusion of a bilateral investment treaty between the two countries with the intent of contributing to sustainable economic relations through vigorous investment in various business fields, such as resource development and manufacturing.

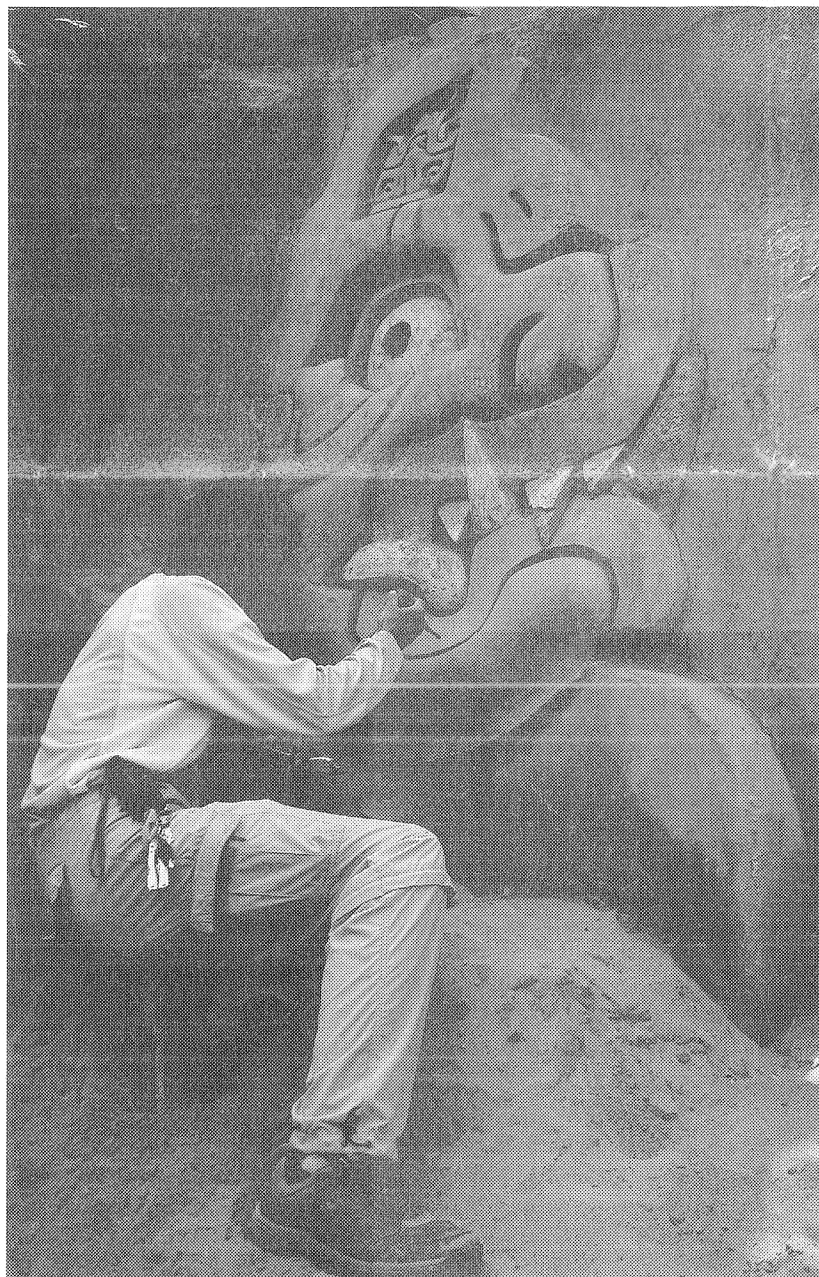
After the conference, we held a business seminar titled "Invest in Peru — Business Hub in South America," which was very successful. It was a distinct honor and a great pleasure for us to welcome President Garcia as a keynote speaker.

The APEC summit will be held in Lima this November. I have no doubt of the success of the summit under the strong leadership of President Garcia. With this opportunity, we have great hopes for deepening the economic ties between Japan and Peru for the increased prosperity of both countries.

The Japan-Peru Business Committee will do its utmost to contribute to the reinforcement of economic relations to ensure a fruitful future.



Stable food: Around 5,000 native potato varieties have been cultivated in the Peruvian Andes since about 8000 B.C. The United Nations has designated 2008 as the "International Year of the Potato."



Scientific cooperation: Professor Koichiro Shibata works at the pre-Columbian site at Huaca Prieta. Japanese archaeologists and scientists have contributed for 50 years to discovering the treasures of Peru's archaeological heritage.

Congratulations

to the People of
the Republic of Peru on
the 187th Anniversary of
Their Independence Day



MITSUI
KINZOKU

MITSUI MINING & SMELTING CO., LTD.

Gate City Osaki-West Tower 19th Fl.

1-11-1 Osaki, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-8584 Japan

Tel. 03-5437-8028

which has saved mankind from famine in times of pandemics and conflicts. Nowadays, the potato is of great help to vulnerable populations in the context of the world food crisis.

Peru has showed a consistent interest in consolidating a privileged relationship with Japan on the basis of common values, and visions about democracy and international peace and security, the widest cooperation, human interchange, market economy and mutual benefits.

Such a substantial historical and social relationship, and common interests toward the future demand that Peru and Japan strengthen their bonds. This is our compromise and working for this goal is our privilege.