

**Video Message by H.E. Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,
for the ceremony of the 150th anniversary of establishment of
diplomatic relations between Japan and Peru**

21 August 2023

Buenas tardes a todos. Good evening everyone.

I am very pleased that today marks the 150th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Peru. Our diplomatic relations are the longest among those between Japan and a Latin American country. Moreover, we are important “strategic partners” that share values and principles.

I had the honor to visit Peru in May of this memorable year, and held a talk with Foreign Minister Gervasi. At that meeting, I expressed Japan's strong desire to reinforce bilateral relations with Peru, as well as to work closely together in the international arena.

Japan and Peru share the view that the two countries work closely together to address the current severe international challenges, including the situation in Ukraine. We are also on the same page in strengthening the functions of the United Nations, including Security Council reform.

Japan and Peru are important partner to realize a free and open international order based on the rule of law. Our two countries are also promoting liberal and open economic policies, as we both are members of CPTPP, which is a high-standard economic partnership agreement. As Peru hosts APEC next year, Japan stands ready to continue working with Peru.

From the economic and geoeconomic point of view, we count on Peru's role as an important partner to realize a resilient global supply chain of mineral and food resources. Japan will continue to work together with the public and private sectors to enhance our broader economic relations.

Lastly but not least, people-to-people exchanges are an essential component of our bilateral ties. A recent estimate by Asociación Peruano Japonesa shows that the number of Nikkei community members in Peru amounts to more than two-hundred-thousand. Their impressive presence, along with approximately fifty-thousand Peruvians living in Japan, is a symbol of the long-standing friendship between the two countries.

Moreover, when I visited Peru in May this year, the Japan Foundation opened its office in Lima, first of its kind in Spanish-speaking countries in South America. We hope that it will serve as a foundation for building up cultural and academic exchanges with Japan.

At the same time, I also hope that, taking an opportunity of the 150th anniversary, Japanese people will get more familiar with Peruvian culture including its heritage sites and cuisine. Already, a world-renowned Peruvian Restaurant opened its brunch in Tokyo and is highly appreciated by Japanese People.

I conclude my remarks by expressing my sincere hope that the 150th anniversary will serve as an opportunity to deepen our strong bond.

I wish today's ceremony a great success.

¡Muchas gracias!