

**Japan-Uruguay Summit Meeting  
Measures for Strengthening the Relationship  
toward the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations in 2021  
(Fact Sheet)**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December of 2018, H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, payed an official visit to Montevideo, Uruguay for the first time as the Japanese Prime Minister and held a summit meeting with H.E. Tabaré Ramón Vázquez Rosas, President of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

The two leaders reaffirmed that both countries are important partners sharing universal values, such as freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, that are key for peace and prosperity in the international community.

The two leaders shared the importance of strengthening the bilateral relations in the following areas toward the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their diplomatic relations in 2021:

- The two leaders shared the view that the bilateral trade and investment between Japan and Uruguay has been increasingly expanded, thanks to the open and free economic system of Uruguay.
- They highly valued the efforts of the both competent authorities to open each market for Japanese beef and Uruguayan beef at the same time, which will certainly contribute to further development of the bilateral economic relations. They also directed the competent authorities to conduct on-site visits within this December, in order to realize commercial trade at the earliest opportunity.
- The two leaders welcomed the advancement of establishing legal framework for the enhancement of the economic relations; for example, the entry into force of the bilateral investment treaty, the commencement of the negotiation on double tax convention, and the agreement in principle of the Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement.
- Recognizing the Uruguay's leadership as current President pro tempore of MERCOSUR, the two leaders reinforced their commitment to strengthening mutual trade and economic relations between Japan and MERCOSUR.
- Prime Minister Abe expressed the intention of the Japan External Trade Organization(JETRO), in cooperation with "Uruguay XXI," to send its business mission to Uruguay in April of 2019 in order to promote Japanese investment in Uruguay, which will contribute to the establishment of the regional value chain in the MERCOSUR area.
- President Vázquez congratulated Japan for the election of Osaka as host-city for the EXPO 2025 that will promote a future vision of human society, looking for solutions to the common challenges such as human health, food, agriculture, environment, climate change, energy, gender equality and natural disaster prevention. Prime Minister Abe appreciated Uruguay's support and expressed hope for participation of Uruguay in EXPO 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

- Prime Minister Abe expressed his acknowledgement for Uruguay's robust economic development. President Vázquez showed his appreciation for the cooperation provided by Japan, including Official Development Assistance (ODA), and expressed his expectation for the continued support from Japan to Uruguay as a country in transition. Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan's intention to continue to cooperate with Uruguay so that Uruguay overcomes its social and economic challenges.
- The two leaders shared the view that information and communications technology is aimed to play a key role in the future of both countries and the international community at large. They shared the views of the related authorities to explore cooperation in this area including the exchange of information. President Vázquez introduced Uruguayan experience in the Digital Nations Group, whose Summit will be chaired and hosted by Uruguay in 2019.
- Prime Minister Abe expressed his hearty appreciation to the long-standing hospitality by the Uruguayan Government and citizens to the Japanese immigrants, called Nikkei people. The two leaders welcomed the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nikkei immigration in 2018, and shared the same view that the Nikkei people laid the foundation of the friendship between the two countries.
- The two leaders highly valued the development of the exchanges between the two countries in wide-ranging areas, such as sports exchange, university exchange and cultural exchange.
- The two leaders welcomed the signing of Memorandum of Cooperation Between Japan Sports Agency and National Secretary of Sport of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay on Sport Cooperation in October of 2018, as well as the participation of Uruguay in Rugby World Cup Japan 2019 and in the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.
- The two leaders reaffirmed the importance and continuity of the political consultations, which promote further mutual understanding and enhance political cooperation including in the international fora.
- Stressing the mutual cooperation in the United Nations Security Council during the term 2016-2017, they are also committed to strengthening cooperation in the UN in a wide range of areas.