

Brazil, Japan celebrate 130 years of diplomatic relations

By Octávio H. Côrtes
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In 2025, Brazil and Japan celebrate 130 years of diplomatic relations. Our friendship defies the laws of physics and geography: despite being on opposite sides of the globe, our countries share deep human ties, significant trade and investment relations, and a global and strategic dialogue spanning across many areas. On this significant milestone, we decided to work together not only to pay tribute to our past, but to build an even more prosperous future.



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In March, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva made a historic visit to Japan — the first state visit hosted by Japan since the COVID-19 pandemic, and only the second during the Reiwa era. During this visit, we signed 10 agreements between our governments and over 80 instruments between our private sectors — including the sale of 15 aircraft by Brazilian manufacturer Embraer to All Nippon Airways.

Our leaders have also agreed on an ambitious Action Plan, charting a path toward even closer bilateral relations over the next five years, encompassing areas, such as trade, agriculture, energy, science and technology, and people-to-people exchanges. Some of these initiatives have already yielded results — notably, the



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Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, right, with the Emperor during his state visit to Japan in March

establishment and inaugural meeting of the Brazil-Japan Foreign Affairs and Defense Dialogue, held this August in Brasília. In other areas, negotiations have gained momentum, such as the ongoing efforts to open the Japanese market to Brazilian beef, with the aim of achieving tangible outcomes in the near future.

One sector in which there is a lot of potential for cooperation is the environment, climate sustainability and energy transitions. In 2024, Japan became the first Asian donor to the Amazon Fund, a project to preserve the Amazon rainforest and promote the sustainable development of the millions of people living in it. We are

also exchanging experiences in biofuels, especially ethanol — in which Brazil has a proven record of success.

In November, Brazil will host and preside over the 30th Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30) in the Amazon city of Belém. After years of tough negotiations, we want to move from vision to action, from text to reality. We call on all national leaders to honor their resolve to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase on the planet to 1.5 C, and all stakeholders to mobilize \$1.3 trillion in annual climate finance by 2035. We count on Japan's contribution for the success of the conference.

We are proud of what we have achieved in these 130 years of friendship. Brazil hosts the largest community of Japanese nationals and their descendants, estimated at 2.7 million. In Japan, over 210,000 Brazilians are building their lives, working, studying, and contributing to their local communities. This year we had the honor of hosting Her Highness Princess Kako for a 10-day visit to Brazil, a gesture that further reinforced this human bond between our peoples.

We embrace the responsibility of working each day to bring our countries even closer together. Our Action Plan outlines a bold roadmap for deepening our ties, benefiting our nations, our economies, our peoples. May the years ahead be marked by continued friendship and ever more reasons to celebrate the unique partnership between Brazil and Japan.

Congratulations
to the People
of
the Federative Republic of Brazil
on the Occasion
of
Their Independence Day

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