

“Looking for better future”

(Looking for better future, promoting exchanges of youth,
deepening mutual understandings and working together
between Japan and Republic of Guatemala)

H.E. Mr. Eiichi Kawahara, Ambassador of
Japan,

August 19, 2016 at Chiquimula, Guatemala



Hon. Director of USAC Chiquimula
CUNORI, Sr. Galdámes,



relations, exchanges of youth and promotion of academic program.

*Thank you for giving me an
opportunity to talk to the students of
USAC and the people of Chiquimula.
I wish to talk on Japan's experience in
the last 71 years, our good bilateral*

Japan's experience in the past;

We rose from the ashes in Japan in 1945 after WWII. The Allied Occupation Forces in Japan supplied food aids to hungry Japanese. Japan started as a recipient country of international aid. But, in 1964 Japan became the host for the Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo. This was a very symbolic event to reflect Japan's recovery and miracles of its economic growth. In 1964 we started technical assistances in Asian countries. In 1968, Japan became the second largest economy in the world. In 1990's we have been largest aid donor in the world.

Japan is surrounded by waters, and only rich resource Japan has is its people with education. We inherited rich cultures and traditions. Our parents were hard working people with compassion, creativeness and shared values to overcome hardships in the difficult years. Japanese has inherited this spirit in its DNA. We believe in creating better future and partnership through the joint efforts of the people of Japan and Guatemala.

-Good bilateral relations(Japan- Guatemala) :

We have been enjoying good bilateral relations between Japan and Guatemala. Last year we celebrated 80th anniversary of diplomatic relation between Japan and Guatemala. Taking this opportunity, I strongly hope that more people of both countries deepen their understandings each other.

In this connection, I am most grateful for being here in Chiquimula to bridge and promote further understandings between the two countries across the Pacific Ocean. I would like to refer to what we are doing between the two countries, in particular the followings;

-Youth exchanges:

-Sports for tomorrow (promotion of capacity buildings in sporting area)-

After Rio in Brazil, Tokyo Summer Olympic Games will be held in June 2020. Taking this opportunity Japan promotes exchange of sporting activities globally, including Guatemala.

My government has dispatched youth volunteers here to promote sports among the Guatemalan children and youth, such as baseball, gymnastics, swimming.

March this year, our embassy sent five young and brilliant Guatemalans to Japan by the government of Japan invitation program called “Juntos!” This Juntos program has been initiated by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe after his trip to Latin America in August, 2014.

Sr. Jorge Wong of USAC and four other Guatemalans went to Japan. 100 participants from Latin American countries enjoyed their stay, and travelled western part of Japan, such as Kyoto and Hiroshima under this program. The second Juntos invitation program by Japan will commence before the end of this year.

-Japanese government scholarships-

Every year, we send several scholarship students from Guatemala to Japan for their post-graduate studies, undergraduate studies, professional skill training at institutes and teachers’ training at colleges. We sent so far total of 101 scholarship students to Japan to further develop their academic careers in specific fields. This government scholarship become popular among young people here since all necessary expenses for studying and living in Japan have been wholly supported by the Japanese government. Every year we also send the winner of Japanese oratorical contest to Japan for two week Japanese training. This August a Guatemalteco teaching Japanese at USAC has been invited to Japan by the Japan Foundation to undergo Japanese teacher’s training for two month.

-Promoting partnerships between universities-

University of Kanazawa of Japan and USAC, University Del Valle and UFM have decided to have partnership relations and start to promote exchanges of students and faculty staff.

The President of Del Valle told me that a Japanese Nobel Prize scientist. Dr. Amano of Nagoya University, would visit Del Valle for lecture in early January 2017. We look forward to having concrete programs and projects for joint study and research between the two countries at academic level. UFM has been providing the venues for Japanese dentist groups to do advanced level of practices in dental surgeries here in Guatemala for last 3 years. August this year, groups of Japanese dentists come to UFM in Guatemala for course jointly organized by University of New York in improving their latest skills.

Thank you