

Q&A Ambassador Patricio Torres (Chile)

<Covid-19 related questions>

**Question1 - How do you see the situation of Covid-19 in Chile?
How about its impact to the representative industrial
sectors in Chile and the social life of the citizens?**

Answer1 : Thanks to a very successful vaccination campaign as well as other preventive measures, new cases of Covid-19 in Chile have greatly diminished. The positivity rate, as of August 11, is 1.7% and we have already begun in August to provide a third dose of anti-Covid-19 vaccine to Chileans older than 55 years. The impact on the economy was substantial in the year 2020, but the recovery is already underway this year with a probable increase in GDP of 7.5%.

**Question2 - How rapid do you think the recovery of economy in
Chile compared to the other Latin American countries?
And, what will be the key for the recovery?**

Answer2 : As said, Chile will keep recovering its economy during 2021 and 2022. Key to this recovery has been an enormous fiscal effort to support industry, employment and competitiveness, with an emphasis in small and medium sized businesses. Trade and investment play a key role in this recovery. Chilean external trade has shown a strong increase in the first 7 months of this year.

**Question3 - What will be the promising fields of business amid and
post Covid-19 especially brought by Covid-19?**

Answer3 : The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted in all areas of our economy, but I would like to highlight the emergence of sustainability as a cross cutting concept as we recover from the crisis.

Chile has changed its energy matrix in a radical way during the last ten years. Energy produced by non-traditional renewable sources of energy now account for 25% of total energy produced by Chile. If we add hydro projects, this number increases to over 40%. This transformation is now experienced by all sectors in our economy, including mining, agro business and industry in general. This radical change towards clean energy sources will also support the emergence of Chile as top producer and exporter of green hydrogen to the world.

<General Questions>

Question4 - Your evaluation about the result of the election of Constitutional Convention, and what impact will it give to the upcoming General Elections in November?

Answer4 : The result of the election of a Constitutional Assembly in Chile, showed strong support by the people to the drafting of a new Constitution for Chile. The Constitutional Assembly is already discharging its mandate.

The Assembly is entrusted only with the drafting of a new Constitution, so the Presidential and Parliamentary election which will take place on November 21, 2021 is a separate process.

Question5 - China is the No.1 trade partner of Chile. What impact do you see as a result of the current confrontation between USA and China in terms of the relations between Chile and China?

Answer5 : Chile enjoys a thriving economic relationship with both China and the United States. They are our first and second trading partners. It is important to avoid disruption in the global economic field as a result of bilateral disagreements between nations. Dialogue and effective multilateralism are important to promote.

Chile is also expanding its markets and diversifying its trade in goods and services in order to minimize the impact of these kind of situations.

Question6 - What changes do you expect in respect to the relations between Chile and USA under the Biden's administration?

Answer6 : We expect to deepen the close relationship we enjoy with the United States, which is our second trade partner and an important investor in Chile. We share principles and values with the United States, as we do also with Japan, and they provide a solid base for mutual understanding and friendship.

Question 7 - Your suggestion to Japan as to how to further promote the relations between Chile and Japan from the viewpoint of the Amabssador of Chile en EU

Answer7 : My experience as Ambassador of Chile to the European Union, these last two years, has been very enriching. The current negotiations between Chile and the European Union to modernize our bilateral Association Agreement are a priority for us in Brussels, as we advance to their conclusion.

I believe it is fundamental to keep bilateral agreements updated and to continuously discuss new areas of coordination and cooperation in order to create optimal conditions for trade and investment to grow.

Question8 - Your valued comment on the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Vision" Japanese Government is promoting based on the "Rule-based International Order" which seems to be getting the empathy from EU as well

Answer8 : A rule based international order is a necessary condition for progress and peace. For a country like Chile, which is open to the world, stable rules, multilateral dialogue and respect for international law are essential.

