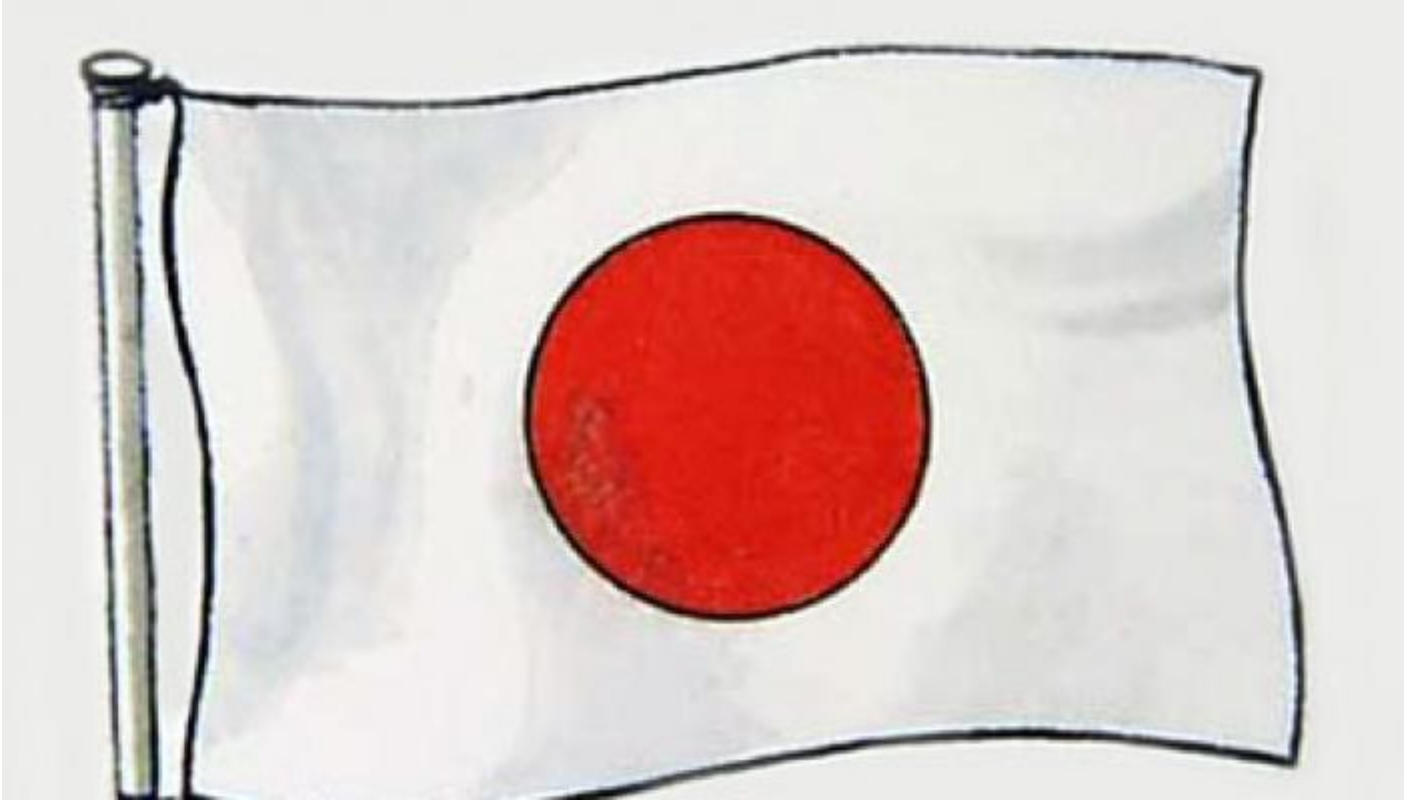


# *Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Likely to Visit Peru in July*

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Lima, May 22 (NNN-RHC) -- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is considering visiting Peru during a forthcoming five-nation tour of South America, a government source said on Wednesday.

The head of State will be flying to Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago in July with the aim of securing support for Japan's bid next year to win a seat on the United Nation's (UN) Security Council as a non-permanent member.

The Japanese leader has attached importance to attaining a seat on the 15-member Security Council as one of the 10 non-permanent members to advance his diplomatic initiative, which envisions greater overseas roles for his nation.

Abe seeks to confirm, with his counterparts from the region, plans to promote cooperation in areas ranging from economy to energy, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

Moreover, the Prime Minister hopes to agree with top authorities from Peru and Chile to expand cooperation in advancing the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks, Kyodo News International reported.

Japan is negotiating a Pacific free trade deal with the aforementioned countries.

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