



< Kazu Kumoto >

Country / Region: Mexico City, Mexico

Age : 76 years old

Current Position : Owner chef of “Kazu’s Kitchen”

Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador

○Spreading Japanese food culture in Mexico through Japanese ingredients

- 1995: Opened Japanese restaurant “Tori Tori”.
- 2007: Appointed supervisor of in-flight Japanese meals for Aeroméxico. (-2017)
- 2016: Opened Japanese restaurant “Kazu’s Kitchen Polanco”.
- 2017: Appointed supervisor of in-flight Japanese meals for ANA. (-2019)
- 2022: Appointed Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador.

Since opening Japanese restaurant “Tori Tori” in 1995, Kazu Kumoto has served as the owner chef of “Torobi”, “Kazu’s Kitchen” and “Murasaki” dedicating 27 years to spreading Japanese cuisine culture and Japanese food in Mexico.

For 10 years from 2007, when Aeroméxico, the flag carrier of Mexico, inaugurated its first Mexico City-Narita service, she served as a supervisor of Japanese in-flight meals on the same flight. Moreover, she acted as a supervisor of Japanese meals for business-class passengers for about two years on ANA's Mexico City-Narita flight inaugurated in February 2017.

During the widespread COVID-19 pandemic, she made a meaningful contribution to the local community through Japanese cuisine by, for example, providing complimentary Japanese “bento” meals for four months to medical facilities that were accommodating COVID-19 patients.

Moreover, in collaboration with JETRO MEXICO, she has contributed to expanding the market for Japanese ingredients in Mexico. She devised and offered complimentary menus featuring Japanese farmed yellowtail “buri” suiting the Mexican consumer's taste. Furthermore, in May and July 2023, she served as a workshop instructor for Japanese polished rice, whose import to Mexico had been newly permitted in March that year. During these workshops, she provided lectures and demonstrations on the characteristics, cooking methods, etc. of polished rice, contributing not only to the promotion of Japanese food culture but also to the expansion of Japanese food ingredient exports.