

# Romanian president's visit

## Romanian president's agenda on first visit to Japan in five years

Romanian President Traian Basescu and his wife, Maria, will pay an official working visit to Japan March 9-11 to further strengthen the friendly relations between Japan and Romania, which dates back to 1902.

During their stay in Japan, the president and his wife will make a state call on the Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, who will host a court luncheon in honor of the Romanian president and his wife on March 10.

President Basescu is also scheduled to hold a meeting with Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama on the same day.

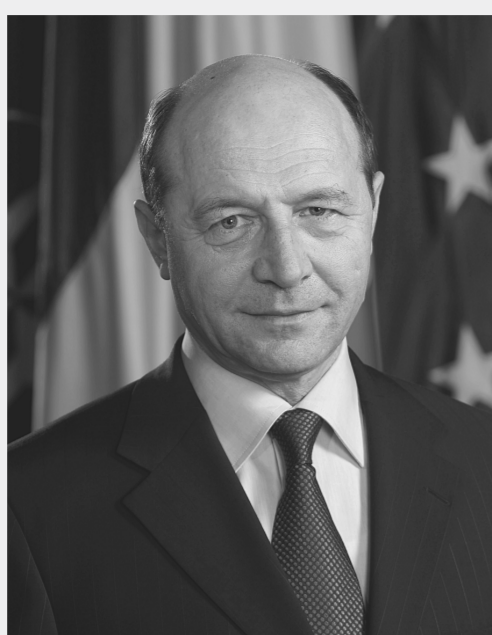
The relations between Romania and Japan have remained friendly over more than a century of exchanges. In 2004, various events were organized in both countries to mark the centennial of the commencement of bilateral ties, including the official visit to Japan by then Romanian President Ion Iliescu.

President Basescu, who was re-elected to a second five-year term in December last year, visited Japan in June 2005 to attend the ceremony marking the Romanian National Day at the country's venue at EXPO 2005 Aichi. On that occasion, he held a meeting with then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

Born in November 1951 in Murfatlar, southeast Romania, Basescu graduated from the Naval Institute of Constanta in 1976 and became a Merchant Marine Officer at Navrom, the Romanian state-owned shipping company.

Between 1981 and 1987 he served as captain on Romanian commercial ships. He entered politics after the 1989 anticommunist Romanian Revolution as a member of the large National Salvation Front (FSN) party. In April 1991, he became minister of transport. After the FSN split in two factions in 1992 — the Social Democratic Party of Romania and the Democratic Party (PD) — he joined the PD faction.

In 1992, he was elected to the lower house of the Romanian Parliament, then re-elected for the



Traian Basescu

1996-2000 term. Basescu served as transport minister in the country's first reformed communist government between 1991 and 1992, and later held the same office in a centrist-liberal Cabinet from 1996 to 2000.

In 2000, Basescu was elected mayor of Bucharest. In 2004, he was elected for a second term in office but resigned as mayor later that year after winning the presidency of Romania. While serving as mayor, he was elected chairman of the Democratic Party in 2001.

During his first five-year tenure as president, Basescu helped Romania achieve its accession to the European Union on Jan. 1, 2007. He also focused on a strong strategic partnership with the United States, as evidenced by his continued commitment to maintain Romanian troops in Afghanistan and a smaller contingent in Iraq.

## Romania seeks to expand ties with Japan

Traian Basescu  
PRESIDENT OF ROMANIA

During my visit in Tokyo, I shall have the privilege, for the second time, to be received by their Imperial Majesties the Emperor Akihito and the Empress Michiko of Japan. This is my second visit to your beautiful country since 2005, when Romania participated at the Aichi World Expo. This time I am accompanied by a numerous delegation of high government officials, which proves our major interest in upgrading the strong partnership established with Japan in 2002.

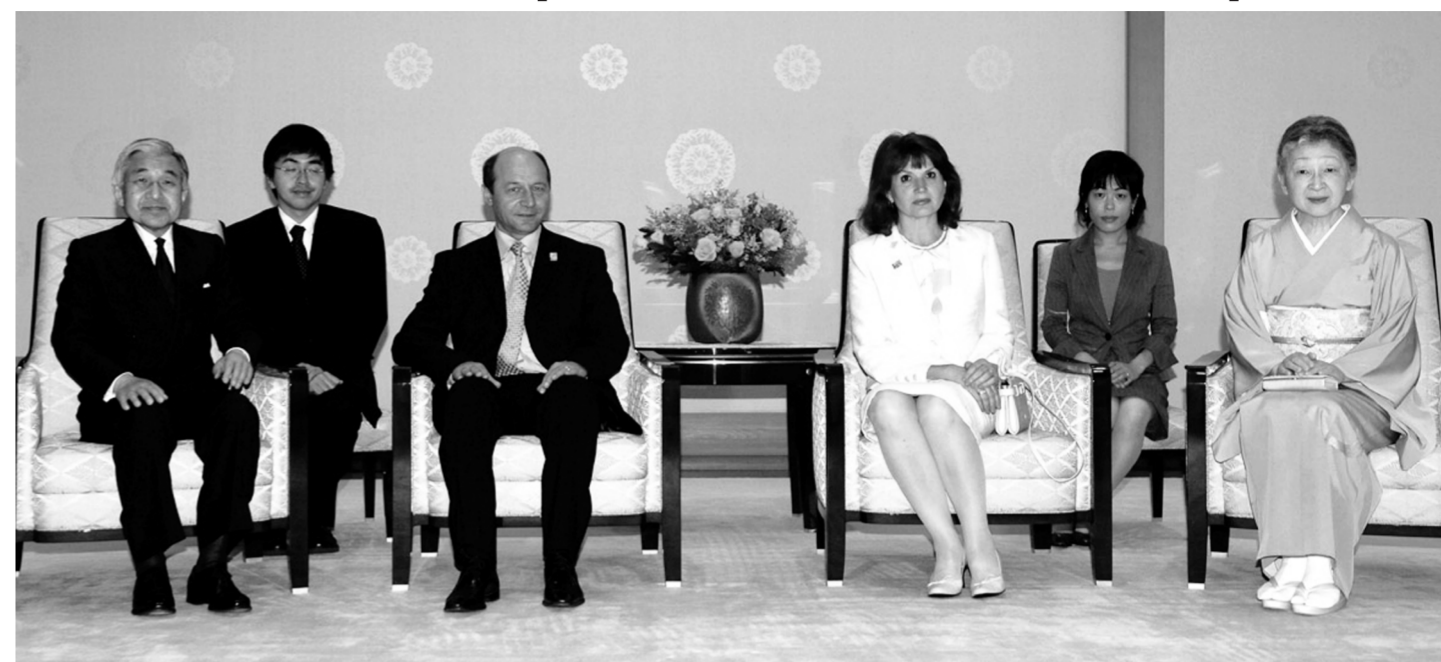
Romania and Japan share fundamental values, such as democracy, rule of law, human rights and basic freedoms, market economy principles. They also enjoy a sound economic cooperation.

Last year Romania and Japan celebrated the 50th anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relations, and I had the pleasure to host the visit of their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino.

During my stay in Japan, I shall have consultations with Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and I shall meet the presidents of the two Houses of the Diet, Mr. Satsuki Eda and Mr. Takahiro Yokomichi. I shall also meet the leadership of Keidanren and I shall address the bilateral Business Forum.

My visit will give us the occasion to sign a new bilateral agreement for an important infrastructure project in Romania, with a significant ecological component.

I would like to stress that Romania's EU membership offers a significant added value to the traditional comparative advantages of my country. Romania is involved in a very complex program of developing its infrastructure, including the pan-European transport infrastructure. We actively support energy projects of European relevance, and most importantly the Nabucco gas pipeline, as well as



Imperial debut: Romanian President Traian Basescu and his wife, Maria, meet Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko in Tokyo during their first visit to Japan in 2005.

large scale projects such as the European Danube Region Strategy.

I take this opportunity to warmly invite Japanese companies to participate in these projects. I would like to acknowledge the Japanese companies that have already invested in Romania, including in green field projects like JTEKT, Sumitomo Wiring, Makita, Yazaki, YKK, etc.

Romania is interested in further developing the automotive industry in the use on a larger scale of green sources of energy and in putting a greater emphasis on green technologies, fields in which Japan has an impressive expertise.

Romanian companies cooperate very well with Japanese companies in third markets and we would like this tradition to be continued. We would like to boost our trade relations and to increase Romania's exports to the Japanese market.

Tourism is another field we would like to promote. Romania benefits from a great natural diversity and numerous UNESCO World Heritage sites. I would like Japanese tourism companies and Japa-



Golden year: Prince and Princess Akishino call on Romanian President Traian Basescu and his wife, Maria, during their visit to Romania in May 2009 in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the resumption of Romanian-Japanese relations.

nese people to take greater advantage of Romania's extremely diverse traditions and of our hospitality because, as an old Japanese saying goes, "Seeing once is worth more than hearing a hundred times."

The prospects for strengthening the economic cooperation between Romania and Ja-

pan are encouraging. Romania supports the negotiation between the EU and Japan regarding an economic partnership agreement.

Last but not least, I would like to draw your attention to the great cooperation potential in such fields as education, culture and science. We already have in place coopera-

tion agreements between Romanian and Japanese universities. There are Romanian students in Japan, as well as an increasing number of Japanese students in Romania, studying medicine, mathematics and music, to name just a few examples. In Romania we also have an increasing number of young people interested in the study of Japanese language and culture. They will create the basis for a more profound awareness in both our countries and will expand people to people exchanges.

Romanian culture is one of the most interesting and original cultures in Europe. Many of our recent films have gained an excellent reputation in Europe and I trust that some were screened and enjoyed in Japan.

In 2017 Romania and Japan will celebrate a century of diplomatic relations. I sincerely hope that we will welcome that significant moment with new achievements. I know that there are many bilateral friendship associations, both in Japan and in Romania, working with enthusiasm with the aim of deepening the mutual understanding of our cultures, traditions and ways of life. I therefore invite you all to start preparations for celebrating in 2017 the year of Romanian-Japanese friendship!

## Highlights in the life of Romania's Traian Basescu

**Personal:** Born Nov. 4, 1951, Basarabi Town, Constanta County; married to Maria Basescu; two daughters  
**Religion:** Christian Orthodox  
**Nationality:** Romanian  
**Citizenship:** Romanian  
**Foreign languages:** English

**Education:**  
1995 — Advanced course of management in the field of maritime transport, Norway  
1976 — "Mircea cel Batran" Naval Academy of Constanta, Faculty of Navigation, Merchant Navy Section

**Professional Career:**  
2004-present, President of Romania  
2000-2004, Mayor of Bucharest  
1996-2000, Minister for Transport in the Victor Ciorbea, Radu Vasile and Mugur Isarescu Cabinets  
1992-1996, Member of the Parliament of Romania, Chamber of Deputies

1991-1992, Minister for Transport in the Petre Roman and Theodor Stolojan Cabinets  
1990-1991, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Transportation, Department of Maritime Transports  
1989-1990, General director, Merchant Navy Department, Ministry of Transportation  
1987-1989, Head officer of the NAVROM (the Romanian state-owned shipping company) Agency in Anvers  
1981-1987, Merchant Navy Captain  
1976-1981, Merchant Navy officer, NAVROM, Constanta

**Political Career:**  
2003-2004, Leader of the Justice and Truth Alliance  
2001-2004, President of the Democratic Party  
2000-2001, President of the Democratic Party branch in Bucharest  
1996-2000, Minister for Transport in the Victor Ciorbea, Ra-

du Vasile, Mugur Isarescu Cabinets  
1996, leaves Parliament; director of the electoral campaign of Petre Roman  
1992-1996, Member of Parliament from the Democratic Party; Vice President of the Industry Committee, Chamber of Deputies  
1991-1992, Minister for Transport in the Petre Roman and Theodor Stolojan governments



Nature, history: UNESCO World Heritage sites in Romania include Biertan village in Transylvania, with its fortified church built in the Middle Ages (above), and the Danube delta (left), the second-largest in Europe and one of the best-preserved, where some 300 species of birds live.

**Heartiest Welcome to His Excellency Traian Basescu President of Romania**

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