

Poland independence day

Strong bonds of friendship despite distance

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CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE REPUBLIC
OF POLAND

On the auspicious occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Poland I would like to extend my respectful greetings to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor Akihito and the Empress Michiko, the Imperial Family, the government and the Japanese nation. It is my honor and pleasure to greet also the distinguished readers of The Japan Times on the occasion of our Independence Day, commemorating the regaining of independence and freedom in 1918.



Poland and Japan, though

geographically distant, have become increasingly close because of so many things that bind us historically and the numerous values we share. Today, we assess the political relations between Poland and Japan as excellent, even exemplary. I welcome the growing intensity of political contacts between our countries in the past year. In March, the speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Poland and a group of Polish senators paid an official visit to Japan.

This year, on April 10, one of the biggest tragedies in the history of contemporary Poland occurred. On their way to the commemorations of the 70th Anniversary of the Katyn Crime, the President of the Republic of Poland Lech Kaczyński and his wife, Maria Kaczyńska,

who had visited Japan in 2008 and were great friends of Japan, were killed in a plane crash near the city of Smolensk in Russia. I would like to express my gratitude for condolences and words of compassion conveyed by His Majesty the Emperor Akihito, the prime minister of Japan, the minister of foreign affairs as well as other representatives of the government of Japan, governors, foreign embassies, many Japanese organizations, business associations, cultural institutions, companies and private persons. We were deeply touched by sympathy that flowed to us from all corners.

Economic cooperation between Poland and Japan in 2010 was dominated by activities in the energy sector, which evidently strengthened cooperation

between both economies in this particular field.

In March, in Cancun, Mexico, the ministers of economy of Poland and Japan signed the Memorandum of Cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy in Poland. Implementation of the agreement was further discussed during the visit of Hanna Trojanowska, the Polish government commissioner for nuclear power, who came to Japan in May. The visit was followed by the exchange of visits of numerous missions of the representatives of the Japanese and Polish industries and institutions related to the nuclear energy sector to Poland and to Japan.

In September, during the visit of representatives of the Polish Ministry of Economy to Japan, the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the use of coal was signed by the Institute of Chemical Processing of Coal in Zabrze (IChPW), the Central Mining Institute in Katowice (GIG) and the Japan Coal Energy Center (JCOAL). The agreement paves the way for further cooperation in development of highly efficient next-generation power technologies, clean coal technologies, carbon capture and storage and sustainable management of coal resources.

Cooperation in environmentally friendly technologies under the Kyoto Protocol Green Investment Scheme was one of the main topics discussed during the visit of the Polish minister of environment to Japan at the beginning of November.

A very good performance of the Polish economy in 2009 and 2010 has drawn the attention of Japanese investors. After the recent turbulence of the financial markets, Japanese companies are looking for investment opportunities in countries with a stable economic outlook.

This year, we celebrate the 200th anniversary of Frederic (Fryderyk) Chopin's birth. The celebrations include numerous concerts as well as exhibitions, film screenings and theatrical performances. A special concert in February inaugurated the celebrations of Chopin Year in Japan. Later this year many Polish artists came to perform in Tokyo and other Japanese cities. There is one more special event yet to come in December: a banquet in honor of all Japanese participants of the International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw. Ambassador of Poland Dr. Jadwiga Rodowicz-Czechowska decided to organize this historical meeting in order to express Poland's gratitude to the generations of Japanese pianists for spreading the awareness about our country among the people of Japan through Chopin's music.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey our gratitude to all our Japanese friends who organized and joined concerts of Polish music, and exhibitions of Polish art, performances of Polish theater and screenings of Polish films. Poland's greatest contribution to culture undoubtedly is in film.



Commemoration: Lazienki Park in Warsaw is home to a monument of composer Frederic Chopin. This year is the 200th anniversary of his birth. EMBASSY OF POLAND

No fewer than three of the world's top directors are Polish: Roman Polanski, Krzysztof Kieślowski and Andrzej Wajda. Please allow me to invite the esteemed readers of The Japan Times to the Polish Film Festival to be held at Ebiisu Garden Cinema in Tokyo from Dec. 4 through 10. All films, to be screened for the first time in Japan, display an entirely new approach to depicting Polish history and present-day life. Some of them are serious, some are light and all have a common theme — love. I encourage you to take this short trip to Poland through participating in the Polish Film Festival in Japan.



Medieval: Completed in 1406 by the Teutonic Order, Malbork Castle is a classic example of a Gothic fortress and is designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.

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to the People of the Republic of Poland
on the Occasion of the 92nd Anniversary
of Their Independence Day

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