New developments bring new perspectives to our ties

Eugeny Afanasiev, ambassador to Japan

Russia national day

May 19, 2012, marks the 22nd anniversary of the declaration of state sovereignty on Russia’s part. On this day 22 years ago, the Soviet Union disintegrated, the Russian Federation was created and the Russian flag was hoisted for the first time on the territory of the newly formed Russian Federation.

Russia celebrated its national day with delight. President Vladimir Putin was the first to speak from the Great Kremlin Palace. He congratulated the Russian people on their national holiday and made a statement on the current international scene.

President Putin said, “May 19 is a day of pride and joy for the entire Russian people. This day is a symbol of our great historical past, and a source of inspiration for our future development.”

The Russian president went on to say that Russia today is a country that is growing and developing, with a strong economy and a dynamic society. He also stressed the importance of maintaining friendly relations with neighboring countries and Japan.

Throughout the day, Russians celebrated their national day with parades, concerts, and other events. The atmosphere in Moscow was electric as people gathered in Red Square to watch the military parade. The parade showcased Russia’s modern military hardware and reminded the world of Russia’s strength.

Russia’s national day is a significant event that celebrates the country’s independence and sovereignty. It is a day for Russians to come together and celebrate their remarkable history and bright future.

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Neighbors can address challenges together

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The relationship between Japan and Russia dates back to 1771, when D. D. Fedorov, whose boat drifted to Japan was granted an audience with the Great. In 1881, the three members of the diplomatic delegation led by the minister, Marius Poutoune, were granted an audience with the emperor of Russian. More than 200 years have passed since then, and Russia and Japan are the closest of neighbors and have a lot in common. Each of them has a long history and a culture to be proud of.

Our association was founded in 1980, originally as the Japan-Soviet Association, after Japan and the Soviet Union signed a Joint Declaration in 1978 providing for the end of the state of war and the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Japan, which was achieved by the visit to the USSR by my grandfather Prime Minis- ter Ichiro Hatoyama, in spite of his illness at that time. In 1980, the association was renamed the Japan-Russia Association. For 47 years, the association has expanded its membership activities in various fields, such as politics, economics, academics, culture, sports, and more, creating the overall society to develop mutual understanding and confidence building between the people of both countries.

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