
Slovakia constitution day

Close bonds help warm friendship develop

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To firmly bind the emerging statehood of Slovakia with democratic principles and the rule of law, the Slovak National Council adopted the constitution on Sept. 1, 1992. Ever after, the Slovak people commemorate this day around the world as Constitution Day. Today marks the 20th anniversary of this historic moment that paved the way for Slovakia to be acknowledged as an independent member of the international community on Jan. 1, 1993. We are glad to be able to celebrate this auspicious occasion as an advanced democratic country fully integrated in the European and trans-Atlantic structures and maintaining strong partnerships around the globe with like-minded countries, including Japan.

If you look at the story of Slovakia, it is almost unbelievable



that next year it is going to be “only” 20 years since we gained independence. .

The Japanese government and people, among other friendly countries, made it all easier through providing development assistance and support, as well as through numerous friendly and heartfelt people-to-people ties. I feel greatly honored to extend upon today’s occasion, and on behalf of President Ivan Gasparovic, the government and people of Slovakia, warm greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, members of the Imperial family as well as to the government and friendly people of Japan.

Bilateral relations between Slovakia and Japan are firmly rooted in common values, and based on mutual friendship and respect. Our two countries support development strategies in which aspects of sustainability and social responsibility remain essential.

In June this year, Slovak President Gasparovic visited Japan, the first visit by a Slovak head of

state. Science and technology, research and development, university-level ties and social security arrangements together with traditional investment and trade cooperation were highlighted as our areas of focus in years to come. Admiration of the strength and resilience of Japanese people in the process of rebuilding the disaster-affected Tohoku area was reflected as the president visited the city of Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture. As a token of our continued solidarity, the president presented a donation for the reconstruction of Kadonowaki Elementary School and musical exchange between students and Slovak musicians was arranged. In parallel with bilateral relations, Slovakia supports a deeper and more ambitious partnership between the European Union and Japan in all fields.

Japan is Slovakia’s third-largest export market in Asia. The favorable and transparent investment environment attracted up to 20 Japanese companies to place their production units in Slovakia.

Slovakia is becoming more

well-known to Japanese travelers. The combination of a rich cultural heritage, which brings together elements of indigenous Slovak and various European traditions, living folk culture, vibrant city life, famous spa resorts and the beauty of its nature underlined by traditional Slovak hospitality make Slovakia a sought-after holiday destination.

I would also like to send a special greeting to all Slovak nationals in Japan and especially from the areas affected by the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident, and to express my acknowledgment for their continued support to the Slovak Embassy and the role they play, particularly in the cultural sphere, in further enhancing bilateral relations between Slovakia and Japan. My sincere appreciation also goes to all the Japanese agencies and companies that are actively engaged with Slovakia. Sincere thanks for a huge portion of enthusiastic work and support that comes from our friends in the Slovakia-Japan Associations in various cities.