

Hungarian prime minister's visit

Forging a stronger bilateral partnership

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AMBASSADOR OF HUNGARY

Hungary and Japan will celebrate the 145th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations next year. We count ourselves lucky to have such an excellent bilateral relationship, and strong political, economic and cultural ties.

Especially these past years have seen a special strengthening of the partnership that we are striving to uphold. Prime Ministers Shinzo Abe and Viktor Orbán met in June in Warsaw in the framework of the V4-Japanese high-level meeting while V4 foreign ministers met Nov. 11 on the margin of the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi.

Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida paid his first European bilateral visit to Hungary in August this year. During the visit, Kishida and his Hungarian counterpart János Martonyi successfully reached an agreement on social security, which comes in response to the increasing number of Japanese companies operating in Hungary, a number currently standing at over 130.

The most important upcoming event is Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's visit to Japan, on which he will be accompanied

by a large business delegation. We give special importance to this visit as it will undoubtedly boost Japanese-Hungarian cooperation in all fields and further strengthen bilateral economic ties.

A great example of our mutual collaboration is the different scholarship programs, which might enable us to bridge gaps through the education of our future generations. Recognizing the overall long-term benefits of the scholarship programs, the Hungarian government introduced the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Program.

Japanese-Hungarian relations are, however, not only restricted to the bilateral level: the EU-Japan and the steadily evolving V4-Japan cooperation are adding further dimensions to our partnership. Hungary currently holds the presidency of the so-called Visegrád Group and 2014 was officially declared as the "V4-Japan Exchange Year" by the prime ministers of these Central European countries and Japan.

Last, but not least, Hungary, which bears good memories of the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games, where our athletes won 22 medals, among them 10 gold, including soccer, not only wholeheartedly congratulates Japan and Tokyo for the triumph of the 2020 Olympic bid but also hugely looks forward to the games.



Prime Minister of Hungary
Viktor Orbán

Building an independent, democratic Hungary

Viktor Orbán was born on May 31, 1963, in the small Hungarian village of Alcsútdoboz. In 1977, his family moved to Székesfehérvár, where he finished his grammar school studies, specializing in English.

In 1983, as a student at the Faculty of Law of Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, he was a founding member of Bibó College. A year later with his fellow students he founded Századvég, a journal of social sciences, and became one of its editors. He graduated as a lawyer in 1987.

From 1988 he was a member of the Central-Eastern Europe study group, a program financed by the Soros Foundation. In 1989-1990, Viktor Orbán studied the history of British liberal political philosophy at Pembroke College, Oxford, sponsored by the foundation.

Prime Minister Orbán's visit agenda

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán is paying an official working visit to Japan from Nov. 21 to 23.

During his stay in Japan the prime minister will be received in audience by Emperor Akihito at the Imperial Palace.

Orbán will have a summit meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, with the main objective to agree on further strengthening political, economic and cultural ties between Hungary and Japan. Abe will also host a dinner for Orbán.

On the economic front, Orbán will deliver a presentation at the Japanese-Hungarian Business and Investment Seminar held in JETRO on Nov. 21, and participate in the Japan-Hungary Business Forum organized in collaboration with Keidanren on Nov. 22.

At the cultural level, the prime minister will inaugurate the Center for Hungarian Culture and Tourism in the building of the embassy in Mita ward, Tokyo.

Also, Prime Minister Orbán is scheduled to visit Kyoto.

On March 30, 1988, as a founding member of the Federation of Young Democrats (Fidesz), he became a politician well-known throughout the Western world for his commitment to an independent and democratic Hungary free of privileges, and an advocate of joining the Euro-Atlantic alliance.

On June 16, 1989, at the reburial ceremony of former Prime Minister Imre Nagy, who was executed after leading the Hungarian revolution and uprising in October 1956, Viktor Orbán made a speech in which he demanded that all Soviet troops be immediately withdrawn from Hungary and that free elections be held. He was a member of the delegation to the Opposition Roundtable in the summer of 1989.

Viktor Orbán has been an MP since the first free elections following the political changes in 1990.

In May 1993, he was elected chairman of Fidesz. Under his leadership the party changed its profile from a radical youth movement to a moderate, center-right people's party. He was elected vice chairman of the Liberal International at its 1992 congress in Mainz, Germany, then a member of its Executive Committee in January 1993.

Following the victory at the polls in 1998, Viktor Orbán became the prime minister of the center-right coalition of Hungary. The civic government carried out a number of projects to improve the living standards of families by granting tax allowances, and boosted the economy by programs sup-

porting small and medium-sized enterprises, and a student credit system was also introduced. During his mandate the Mária-Valéria bridge connecting Hungary with neighboring Slovakia, which was bombed in World War II, was rebuilt and a new National Theater was also constructed. Due to a successful economic policy, rising incomes along with a constantly low inflation rate, decreasing budget deficit and public debt, by the year 2002 Hungary was ready to join the eurozone in four years' time. In March 1999, Hungary became a member of NATO.

After eight years in opposition, on May 29, 2010, the National Assembly elected him prime minister of the Republic of Hungary again.

His government was the first in Europe to realize that the state of affairs that existed prior to the economic crisis could not be reinstated, and realized the need for an economic policy paradigm change and for the introduction of modern decisions. These solutions initially led to strong resistance at a European level, however, an increasing number of states now realize and recognize these measures, and in fact several have introduced the innovations of Hungary's economic policy.

Viktor Orbán is married to Anikó Lévai, they have five children.

Since his childhood Viktor Orbán has been a keen sportsman; he is currently a signed player of FC Felcsút and a founder of the Ferenc Puskás Foundation for young soccer players, created in April 2007.



Democracy landmark: The Hungarian Parliament on the banks of the Danube in Budapest HUNGARYTOURISM

Heartiest Welcome

to H.E. Viktor ORBÁN,

Prime Minister of Hungary,

on the Special Occasion of

His Official Working Visit to Japan

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