

# Macedonia National Day

## Working to build stronger relations

**ANDRIJANA CVETKOVIKJ**  
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
MACEDONIA



On the occasion of our nation's 26th birthday, Sept. 8, I am delighted to extend warm wishes to all Macedonians residing in Japan, and to express heartfelt gratitude to their

Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the government and people of Japan.

Guided by the will of further strengthening the bilateral ties established in 1994, the Republic of Macedonia opened an embassy in Tokyo in May 2013. This year, Japan responded by establishing its embassy in Skopje and appointing its first resident Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia, H.E. Keiko Haneda.

I would like to express my satisfaction with the upward development trend of the bilateral relations and to highlight the continuous multilateral and bilateral support.

Last year, we saw several new milestones in the parliamentary, academic, scientific and economic relationship. The first and most crucial milestone we achieved was the formation of the Diet's Japan-Macedonia Parliamentary League, which had its inaugural meeting on Dec. 17.

Fostering relations in the academic field is among our priorities and it resulted in the signing of several memorandums of understanding (MOUs) between Macedonian universities and prominent Japanese institutions. Among the most noteworthy are the agreement between the Hydro biological Institute-Ohrid and the Lake Biwa Museum of Japan and the agreement between Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Art and the Slavic-Eurasian



**Japan-Macedonia Parliamentary League inception meeting in December 2016** EMBASSY OF MACEDONIA

Research Center of Hokkaido University. We also had several doctors from Macedonia visit Japan to participate in medical training at Japanese hospitals, based on previously signed memorandums of cooperation.

Macedonia is multiethnic, democratic, safe and a country leader in economic reforms in the Balkan region. The country is among those that have the lowest taxes in the world, and last year in the Ease of Doing Business report from the World Bank it was ranked 10th in the world and fifth in Europe, providing an excellent environment for foreign investors.

In order to promote these incentives we signed MOUs with the Japan Institute for Overseas Investment, and organized business forums for small and medium sized enterprises, presenting the country's investment benefits. I'm especially proud of the increased number of Japanese tourists last year, despite the migrant crisis and other safety issues associated with the region. Japanese tour operators are discovering that Macedonia is a very safe country and has tremendous touristic potential ranging from rock climbing and mountain tourism, to wine tourism and eco tourism. Known as the birthplace of Mother Theresa and one of the earliest Christian countries in the world, Macedonia is also a magnet for religious tourism.

I invite all the readers of The Japan Times to visit this ancient country with its timeless beauty and experience the synergy of natural beauty, historical treasures and excellent food and wines.

## New embassy to bolster bonds

**TAIMEI YAMAGUCHI**  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-MACEDONIA  
PARLIAMENTARY LEAGUE



I'd like to express my warmest greetings, together with the Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia Andrijana Cvetkovikj, on the occasion of Macedonian Independence Day.

Lawmakers of the Liberal Democratic Party formed the Japan-Macedonia Parliamentary League in December to advance exchanges between our countries and contribute to the further development of the two countries. I was honored to take the post of chairman of the league.

This year a Japanese embassy was established in Skopje, the capital of Macedonia. I'm confident that we will see further advanced exchanges in a wide range of areas, including the economy, culture, health care and education.

To conclude, I sincerely hope for the further development of the Republic of Macedonia and happiness of the people in the country.



## Japan embraces country's charms

**MASATAKE MATSUDA**  
HONORARY CONSUL-GENERAL OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA IN JAPAN



Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia Andrijana Cvetkovikj has many friends in Japan and is very familiar with the Japanese culture and history.

She has been very active in various fields and I feel this helps to better showcase Macedonia's charms to the Japanese people.

Earlier this year, a Japanese embassy opened in Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, with Ambassador Keiko Haneda representing Japan in the country. I'm fairly sure that bilateral exchanges will be further strengthened in the future.

Despite the geographical distance, I personally feel proximity to the Republic of Macedonia, as the weather in the country is similar to that of Hokkaido and agricultural products grown there are almost the same as those found on the Ishikari Plain in the Japanese prefecture.



**Ambassador Andrijana Cvetkovikj and President of the Japan Institute for Overseas Investment Junichi Kondo at the signing of a memorandum of understanding** EMBASSY OF MACEDONIA

*Congratulations  
to the People of  
the Republic of Macedonia  
on the Occasion of  
the 26th Anniversary of  
Their Independence*



**Japan-Macedonia Friendship Association**

**Honorary Consul-General Masatake Matsuda, Ambassador Andrijana Cvetkovikj and Hokkaido Governor Harumi Takahashi**  
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MACEDONIA