

# Serbia National Day

## Investment-driven goals priority for growth

**NENAD GLISIC**  
AMBASSADOR OF SERBIA



On the occasion of the Serbian Statehood Day on Feb. 15, I would like to extend my greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family, the government and people of Japan. At the same time, I also wish to extend greetings to my fellow Serbians in Japan who continue to contribute actively to Serbia-Japan relations.

Last year we marked 135 years since the

first official communication between Serbia and Japan, initiated by the King of Serbia Milan Obrenovic and Emperor Meiji. This year has started in a memorable way with the historic visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Serbia on Jan. 15, where he had fruitful meetings with President Aleksandar Vucic and Prime Minister Ana Brnabic. He also participated in an important business conference that was held to further promote the rising economic cooperation between our two countries.

A significant priority of ours is to further increase business contacts and continue to attract Japanese investments in Serbia. Last year's visit from the Japan External Trade Organization, and especially Abe's visit at the beginning of this year, were important

Last year, the effects of economic measures implemented in the previous period were felt in Serbia; the current goal is endurance on the reform path and maintenance of economic stability.

in making our economic ties more robust and dynamic. Yazaki Corp. opened a factory in Serbia, while Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems, Ltd. will provide Serbia's largest power plant, the Nikola Tesla, with one of the world's largest flue gas desulfurization systems for reducing sulphur dioxide. The city of Belgrade has signed a waste management contract with Itochu Corp. and France-based Suez for a 25-year waste management and resource recovery project, making it the largest public-private partnership ever signed in Serbia with an overall investment at around €300 million.

Looking toward the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, I am pleased that Hofu in Yamaguchi Prefecture and Kashiwazaki in Niigata Prefecture will be host towns as the Serbian volleyball and water polo teams prepare for the games.

Cultural exchange between our two countries is growing. Serbian folklore ensemble Ivo Lola Ribar has just arrived

and will be performing for audiences around Japan. Kolo, a traditional dance, was awarded a place on the UNESCO List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in December.

In 2017, globally acclaimed filmmaker and musician Emir Kusturica visited Japan and performed with his band the No Smoking Orchestra. He was also engaged in promoting his latest movie, as well as his newest book that has been translated into Japanese. The theatrical group A La Place

performed the Serbian drama "Bizarre," by author Zeljko Hubac, in Japanese.

During a time of year that also marks 40 years since the conclusion of my first stay in Japan as a student of Sophia University, I look forward to continue working closely with the government of Japan, business and industry representatives, scholars, scientists and the friendly people of Japan at large to advance Serbian interests and build upon the already strong ties and friendship between Serbia and Japan.

## Regional key to stability, prosperity

**ICHIRO AISAWA**  
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-SERBIA  
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



Let me express my sincerest congratulations on the occasion of the Republic of Serbia's National Day.

Serbia holds the key for stability and prosperity in southeastern Europe. It is crucial that Serbia works for a stable and democratic political process under the banner of freedom and democracy. When talented and capable Serbians live up to their potential, the country's economy will surely achieve remarkable growth. I hope Serbia will be able to join the European Union in the near future.

It is also important for international society to understand the history and current conditions of Kosovo. I hope the former Yugoslav

countries establish stable ties among themselves by overcoming ethnic and religious differences.

Serbia is a country boasting world-class athletes and I am sure Serbians will perform superbly in the 2020 Olympics.

Japan and Serbia have a long history of friendship. In January, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Serbia, and he was very much welcomed by the government and the people. I believe his visit created a momentum of friendship and cooperation between Japan and Serbia. I will do my utmost to further bilateral ties as president of the Japan-Serbia Parliamentary Friendship League.

## Fostering relations through culture

**TADASHI NAGAI**  
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-SERBIA SOCIETY



It is my great honor to address my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of Serbia, on behalf of the Japan-Serbia Society and myself.

I am proud to mention that recognition and the familiarization of Serbia in Japan has greatly improved in recent years. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit in January is expected to contribute to promoting our bilateral relations in various fields, including economic and trade relations. I am personally interested in the effective

implementation of the notes exchanged during the prime minister's visit between Junichi Maruyama, ambassador of Japan to Serbia, and Jadranka Joksimovic, Serbia's minister of European integration, on the "Agreement to Dispatch Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to the Republic of Serbia."

Last year, new steps were taken to implement the 2020 Olympic Games host town projects between Hofu in Yamaguchi Prefecture and the Serbian Volleyball Association, as well as Kashiwazaki in Niigata Prefecture and the Serbian Water Polo Association. This will create even more opportunities for sports and cultural exchanges between our countries.

The Japan-Serbia Society will further strengthen its role for better mutual understanding and development of our relations in all fields.

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AMBASSADOR OF SERBIA NENAD GLISIC

Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Serbia on the Occasion of Their National Day



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The Pioneer of Household Insecticide in Japan



**Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Serbia on the Occasion of Their National Day**

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**Congratulations to the Republic of Serbia**

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