

Queen Margrethe II's Birthday Special

Similar beliefs alongside shared cultural values

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April 16 marks the 83rd birthday of Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark. True to tradition, many Danes will gather in front of the queen's residence, Amalienborg in Copenhagen, to celebrate the head of state and greet her at her balcony.

In February 2022, the Danish government lifted all restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has therefore now been more than a year without restrictions, which also means it is the second year where we once again can gather to celebrate the queen's birthday in Denmark. For Japan, this spring is the first in three years where there will be no restrictions due to the pandemic and it therefore

marks a very special and new and exciting time for the Japanese people.

As of this year, her majesty has served on the throne as the head of state in Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland for 51 years. Every year, on New Year's Eve, the Queen gives a speech on the year that has passed. One of the most important messages of the most recent speech was that Denmark still stands with the Ukrainian people more than one year after the invasion on Feb. 24, 2022. She noted that the return of war in Europe has indeed reminded us of the importance of standing together not only in Europe, but also in broader forums, such as the U.N.

Last September, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Frederik and Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary visited New York and participated in the U.N. General Assembly. There, Denmark stated its interest in making a special contribution for peace and security by once again taking a seat on the U.N. Security Council. Both Danes and the royal family condemn the acts of aggression toward Ukraine and

wish to support the Ukrainians in every way possible. It is encouraging to see Japan taking a strong stand on the Russian aggression against Ukraine by supporting Ukraine and standing together with the EU and the seven leading industrial nations on imposing sanctions against Russia. It is also positive to note Japan's leadership through its presidency of the G7 and nonpermanent membership of the Security Council to uphold and promote the international order based on rule of law.

Japan and Denmark are both working toward a decarbonized future, with offshore wind energy being a main pillar for a safe, reliable and cost-efficient decarbonized energy sector. The war in Ukraine has made the importance of this transition even clearer with sharply increasing energy prices in Europe as well as Asia. Therefore, we hope to share knowledge and experience that can accomplish these goals even faster and more efficiently through mutual inspiration. Currently, we see how fruitful the cooperation between Denmark and Japan has been in the wind

energy sector, where the first commercial offshore wind energy farm in Hokkaido was inaugurated on March 23, with wind turbines delivered by the Danish company Vestas. Based on fruitful discussions and plans at the G7 climate meeting in Sapporo on April 15 and 16, we can see Hokkaido becoming a green powerhouse in Japan.

It is safe to say that Denmark and Japan share many fundamental values and similarities. In addition to having two of the oldest monarchies in the world, we share many cultural values with our minimalist approach to design and lifestyle. Denmark and Japan both honor and respect democratic elections, human rights and the rule of law. Furthermore, Japan and Denmark are both striving to achieve the U.N. sustainable development goals, securing a better future for many generations to come. Cooperating on the U.N. SDGs is a main focus point for the work at the Danish Embassy, and we hope our strong cooperation with Japan on these goals will continue in the future.



Lovtag treetop hotel features cabins built around tall, old trees.

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