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# Slovenia National Day Special

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## Bolstering ties in business, politics, science

**JANEZ PREMOZE**

CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.,  
THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA



This year, Slovenia is celebrating its 32nd Statehood Day. It is the day on which Slovenia gained its independence in 1991. Since then, Slovenia has shared Japan's values of human rights,

democracy, a rules-based international order and the rule of law. Our relations with Japan are friendly and without any open issues. Our bilateral trade relations show a healthy increase both in terms of volume and content. Slovenia is interested in increasing Japanese investment in other areas, particularly in the high-tech field.

Slovenia's activities in the international arena have been recognized and rewarded

this June with the election as a nonpermanent member of the U.N. Security Council for the 2024-to-2025 term. As a UNSC member, we will actively contribute to global peace, security and to the integration of the divided UNSC. In that respect, Slovenia is looking forward to cooperating with Japan.

We are also looking forward to one of the most important sports events this year, the 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup. We are honored that Japan, as one of the organizing nations, chose to host the Slovenian team, which finished in fourth place in the postponed 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

Slovenia will also participate in the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, where our efforts will relate to the main theme of the exhibition, "Designing Future Society for Our Lives," and to the more specific topic of "Connecting Lives." We aim to demonstrate that Slovenia has been successfully implementing Society 5.0, which was initially presented by Japan.

Our aim is to share with Japan our love

for food. For that purpose Slovenia participated at Foodex Japan this year, where we successfully presented organic and natural Slovenian products, including wine, salt, ham, honey and honey-based food supplements. Our success was supported by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia Irena Sinko, who visited Foodex this year and decided Slovenia would return in 2024.

While the relations between Slovenia and Japan have never been stronger, we are looking forward to further developing our close connection through the potential signing of a social security agreement between our countries, which would strongly benefit citizens of our nations who have found their new home in Japan or in Slovenia.

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*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*