

Turkmenistan Independence Day Special

Ties built on many years of trust

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The succession of national holidays and significant dates is a celebration of the Turkmen nation's successes and achievements in a new era marking the return of a powerful Turkmenistan. Every holiday our happy people meet with a spirit of national pride and great enthusiasm.

The celebrations in honor of independence, which has become a strong basis for the inviolability of our sovereign state, unity and solidarity, now constitute our main holiday. Today, we celebrate the 32nd anniversary of our Independence Day, which will be marked by glorious events as well as creative and labor achievements. This year, proclaimed as the "Year of Happy Youth With Arkadag Serdar," has added new and glorious pages to the historical record of permanently neutral Turkmenistan.

In preparing my article, I have tried to express my views on the importance of Turkmenistan's independence and neutrality and also the relationship between Turkmenistan and Japan.

In the autumn of 1991, an independent Turkmenistan was established and recognized by the international community. Since that historic day, having independently determined the internal and foreign policy of the country, great work has been undertaken to build a democratic, legal secular state with a rapidly developing economy and an improved social sphere, favored with great prestige in the international arena.

Since the first days of independence, Turkmenistan has chosen the way of neutrality and peace in its foreign policy strategy. With the adoption on Dec. 12, 1995, of the historic resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, our country achieved the legal status of permanent neutrality, becoming a partner that guarantees reliability, openness and security. In 2015, on the initiative of National Leader of the Turkmen people, Chairman of the People's Council of Turkmenistan H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the U.N. General Assembly once again adopted a permanent neutrality resolution. On this occasion, on the initiative of our own country, a new holiday — International Day of Neutrality — was established on the world's political calendar. In this regard, independence and neutrality as our main achievement is written in golden letters in Turkmenistan's history.

Another strategic direction of Turkmenistan's foreign policy is the establishment of productive relations with the countries of the world, particularly within the Asia-Pacific region. The Asia-Pacific today acts as one of the most powerful centers of global development and progress. Therefore, the Land of the Rising Sun is one of Turkmenistan's most important partners.

Our interstate dialogue will continue to be based on many years of friendship, trust and mutual understanding. Strengthening our multifaceted and long-term strategic partnership with Japan remains one of the priorities of the foreign policy of Turkmenistan.

In this regard, President Serdar Berdimuhamedov always notes with satisfaction the high level of relations between our countries and the productivity of the established cooperation in various areas, including politics, trade, economics, and humanitarianism.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to

mention the significant events in the relations between Turkmenistan and Japan over the past year.

In September 2022, Chairman Berdimuhamedov paid a working visit to Japan, during which he held talks with His Excellency Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

During the visit, much attention was paid to inter-parliamentary relations, which were strengthened by the meeting with Japan's Speaker of the House of Representatives His Excellency Hiroyuki Hosoda.

In addition, the visits of members of Japan's parliament and deputy foreign minister to Turkmenistan this year provided impetus for the expansion of political and diplomatic relations between our countries.

Today Turkmen-Japanese cooperation is successfully developing in trade and economic spheres. This is evidenced by the major projects that are already underway and being implemented jointly with Japanese partners. These include a polymer



President Serdar Berdimuhamedov

plant built in the village of Kiyanly in Balkan province, the largest gas chemical complex in the region for the production of polyethylene and polypropylene, as well as an ultramodern industrial giant — the world's first plant for the production of petrol from natural gas, built in Ahal province.

The Turkmen-Japanese and Japanese-Turkmen committees for economic cooperation are actively communicating with each other, and exchanges between members of both committees are expanding.

On Dec. 22, 2022, the 14th joint meeting of the Turkmen-Japanese and Japanese-



President Serdar Berdimuhamedov poses with children during the inauguration ceremony for the new city of Arkadag on June 29.

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Turkmen committees for economic cooperation was held in Tokyo. To participate in the work of this forum, a delegation of Turkmenistan headed by the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs His Excellency Rashid Meredov arrived in Japan for a working visit.

Furthermore, bilateral cooperation is strengthening in the humanitarian sphere. This is confirmed by the education of Turkmen youth in Japan, the teaching of the Japanese language in a number of secondary and higher educational institutions of our country and the establishment

of ties between representatives of science and education.

I would like to proudly note that rectors of the four prestigious universities of Turkmenistan visited Japan over the past year and that in September, the president of Tsukuba University visited Turkmenistan.

In conclusion, I would like to express my great gratitude to our Japanese partners and the creative team of The Japan Times newspaper for sharing the happiness of the Independence Day of Turkmenistan with us.

May Turkmen and Japanese brotherly relations flourish!

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