

# Romania National Day Special

## Solid foundation for new level of relations

**OVIDIU DRANGA**  
AMBASSADOR OF ROMANIA



When President Klaus Iohannis and then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe decided in January 2018 that Romania and Japan should have a strategic partnership, the world was different — Europe

was still hoping Russia's appetite for aggression and violence could be contained with economic instruments and positive interaction, while in Asia the dominating issue was the vigorous affirmation of a free and open Indo-Pacific, which had been drawing wide attention both in Japan and internationally.

This year, the National Day of Romania is celebrated in Japan at a moment of fundamental change for the international community, when a war of aggression has been waged in Europe for over 500 days, a major crisis in the Middle East is looming and a confrontation in the Indo-Pacific looks like more than a theoretical scenario.

In Tokyo on March 7, our leaders signed a statement establishing a strategic partnership between Romania and Japan, aiming to shape the future of our cooperation based on long-standing friendly bilateral ties, as well as on common interests grounded in shared democratic values.

The document is comprehensive and visionary, confirming that Romania and Japan are closer than ever in supporting a rules-based international order. Both countries have set a new level of ambition on security cooperation, mutually recognizing their geopolitical weight as front-line states confronted with similar challenges and complementary responsibilities.

Reaching this historic milestone was the result of many meaningful political and diplomatic interactions, including at the parliamentary level, and of fast-growing economic cooperation. Cultural exchanges also played a role. Above all, the strategic partnership has been motivated by an unprecedented level of mutual trust and the common

understanding of new geopolitical imperatives, acknowledged as strong reasons to foster cooperation on security and defense.

The severe and rapid deterioration of regional security in the Black Sea and Indo-Pacific regions has created new strategic interdependencies. Japan's new defense posture and its expanding cooperation with the European Union and NATO, of which Romania has been a valuable member, have given a new boost to our bilateral cooperation. Romania's voice and expertise can make a difference in strengthening ties between the Euro-Atlantic community and like-minded countries and partners in the Indo-Pacific, Japan in particular.

As Ukraine's neighbor, Romania has been a strong supporter of Ukraine and has provided significant and multifaceted assistance to help its neighbor cope with the war, and alleviate the global consequences of the conflict. Earlier this month, Romania established a center for training allied and Ukrainian pilots on F-16 fighter jets. Romania is also playing a pivotal role in securing exports of Ukrainian cereals, vital for global food security.

Against this background, the bilateral political dialogue in the past year has been very dynamic and substantial. In addition to

the summit between our leaders in March, high-level contacts have been consistently taking place in Bucharest and Tokyo. Talks between the foreign and defense ministries have become regular, tackling issues such as Black Sea security, the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy, continued support for Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, and cooperation with the EU and NATO on global challenges.

As the strategic partnership renews the incentives for further Japanese investments in Romania, hand in hand with the expansion of our strategic dialogue, we have explored opportunities for deepened cooperation in other areas, such as health care, cybersecurity, information technology and green energy, while conducting a consistent economic dialogue with Japanese institutions and the business community. Year after year, Japan External Trade Organization reports have highlighted the favorable perception of Japanese companies on the conditions for doing business in Romania.

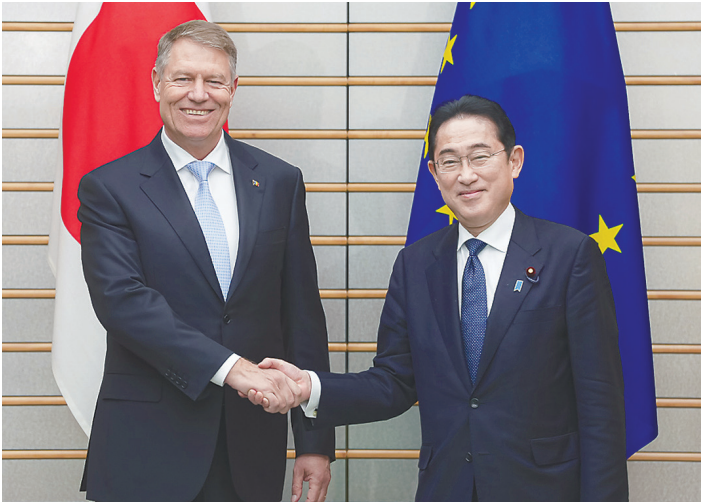
Along with companies such as Tamura Corp., Makita Corp. and NTT Data Corp., there is also significant Japanese involvement in automobiles, infrastructure and other areas. The Japanese consulting and engineering company Padeco is playing an

important role in the construction of the M6 metro line in Bucharest. IHI Corp. participated in the design and construction of the Braila Bridge, the third-longest in Europe, over the Danube River. The bridge was inaugurated and opened to the public on July 6.

The Extreme Light Infrastructure-Nuclear Physics platform (ELI-NP) near Bucharest, home of the most powerful laser in the world, is also an important facility for advancing research partnerships. The ongoing collaboration with Okamoto Optics and the Institute of Laser Engineering of the University of Osaka will soon take the shape of a high-power optics center on the ELI-NP platform at Magurele.

It is not by chance that, in June, the first edition of the Romania-Japan Innovation Forum took place in Cluj-Napoca, creating opportunities for effective collaboration between Romanian and Japanese entities active in cutting-edge sectors, under the logic of progressive intertwining of specific innovation ecosystems in both countries.

In the financial sector, the memorandum of understanding between the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Romania's Ministry of Finance and Eximbank Romania opens opportunities for cooperation in energy security and climate change in



**Romanian President Klaus Iohannis and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida shake hands on March 7 in Tokyo after establishing the strategic partnership between Romania and Japan.**

DRAGOS ASAFTEI

Romania and third-party countries, supporting Japanese companies in their direct investment and business expansion, while diversifying funding sources through the issuance of samurai bonds.

During my numerous contacts with local authorities, businesses, academia and students throughout Japan, I've experienced firsthand the Japanese people's interest to know more about Romania and to make the most of the existing opportunities for further cooperation and mutual understanding. Student and academic exchanges, sister city contacts and cultural activities between Romania and Japan have finally recovered from the hiatus of the difficult pandemic period, feeding the mutual curiosity about

our countries' traditions, history and cuisine.

Romania's uniqueness will also be showcased at the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, together with our vision to achieve the common aspiration for a sustainable future for generations to come, centered on fostering human connection, solidarity, innovation and creativity.

Looking ahead, the effervescence of meaningful dialogue and deepened cooperation in a multitude of fields will continue, as the natural friendship and partnership between Romania and Japan is entering a new phase, adapted to the new geopolitical reality and committed to supporting the values we share and cherish — democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

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

**Japanese Ambassador to Romania Hiroshi Ueda and his spouse pose with Cluj-Napoca Mayor Emil Boc (center), Romanian Director General for Global Affairs Olivia Toderan (second from right) and Ambassador Ovidiu Dranga on the opening day of the first Romanian-Japanese Innovation Forum in June, in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.**  
ROMANIAN MOFA



# JACK DANIEL'S & COCA-COLA

## IT'S THE TASTE OF A PERFECT MATCH




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**A toast to Romania's National Day.**

**Coca-Cola BOTTTLERS JAPAN INC.**


# Congratulations to the People of Romania on the Occasion of Their National Day



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# Congratulations to the People of Romania!



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