
Kosovo National Day Special

Strong diplomatic bonds built over 15 years

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AMBASSADOR OF KOSOVO



Today marks the 16th anniversary of the Republic of Kosovo's independence, a significant milestone in our country's history. Additionally, in one week's time, on Feb. 25, we will celebrate the 15th

anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Kosovo and Japan.

Since declaring independence, the Republic of Kosovo has seamlessly integrated into the community of free and independent European nations, establishing a robust democratic system and forging diplomatic relations with countries across the globe. Kosovo's steadfast dedication to democracy, the rule of law and the protection of human rights has served as the cor-

nerstone of our economic prosperity and internal cohesion.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to the many friends who have contributed to the liberation and reconstruction of Kosovo. In particular, we extend our sincere appreciation to our Japanese friends, whose support, especially through government programs and organizations such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency, has been instrumental in our rebuilding efforts.

Japan holds a special place as one of Kosovo's closest allies in Asia. Notably, Japan recognized Kosovo just one month after our declaration of independence. Diplomatic relations between Japan and Kosovo were established on Feb. 25, 2009. The Kosovo Embassy in Tokyo was inaugurated on July 16, 2010, while Japan opened its embassy in Pristina on Jan. 1, 2020.

The enduring friendship between our two countries was reaffirmed during Prime Minister Albin Kurti's visit in September 2022, following his participation in the state

funeral in honor of the late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a dear friend of Kosovo. Discussions during meetings with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and then-Speaker of the House of Representatives Hiroyuki Hosoda underscored the strength of our friendship and cooperation, with a focus on further deepening our relationship.

Last year witnessed visits from our minister of education and science, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and the mayor of Pristina. In July, we engaged in political consultations in Tokyo to bolster our relations.

Kosovo and Japan have reached an agreement for a visa-free regime for diplomatic and official passports, effective from March. We extend our sincere gratitude to Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diet for their unwavering support.

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