

Kosovo national day

Opportunities abound in a young nation

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AMBASSADOR OF KOSOVO

Today, on Feb. 17, all Kosovar citizens are celebrating the fifth anniversary of the declaration of Kosovo's independence. This is a day when Kosovo's leaders, in coordination with the international community, formalized the will and the long-standing dream for the freedom and independence of Kosovo.



At the same time, this is a day to reflect and remember those women and men and all friends who have contributed to this. This is the day to forgive but not to forget. This is a day to look forward for a brighter future for all of us.

Japan was among the very first countries that recognized Kosovo's independence and it

is continuing to support its economic and institutional consolidation.

Kosovo and its people will be forever thankful to the Japanese people and the entire international community, who helped and supported the Kosovo people's dream.

The fundamentals of the Declaration of Independence are based on the values of human civilization, such as: freedom, democracy, equality and human dignity. The constitution, laws and principles of operation of the Republic of Kosovo reflect the highest standards of democracy, multiethnic society, equality of all citizens, the rule of law, freedom of expression and the market economy.

Kosovo's legislation is in full compliance with European Union standards.

Recognition of Kosovo independence by, so far, 98 countries around the world, proved to be a factor of peace and sta-

bility, cooperation and good neighborly relations in the entire Balkan region and wider in southeast Europe.

Thus, on this semi-jubilee day of our statehood we explore the opportunity to invite all those countries that (for any reason) did not recognize Kosovo yet to make that final step forward. By joining almost 100 countries that have recognized Kosovo you will contribute to the peace, stability and economic prosperity of the entire region.

Today, the Republic of Kosovo is a full member of the most relevant financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Kosovo's strategic goal is to be part of NATO and the EU.

Kosovo's priorities and development policies aim to provide conditions for a sustainable economic growth through private sector development and public-

private partnerships.

Kosovo's great human and natural potentials at the heart of Europe are a unique opportunity for investments. We not only invite all Japanese but also other international investors and businesspeople to explore and exploit a virgin stage of these resources and potentials and be the pioneers in this emerging economy.

We also invite all Japanese educational and cultural institutions and donor organizations to find ways to support Kosovo's young institutions in the educational field and offer to the youngest population in Europe the most advanced knowledge and experience, and through that to help this young country have a faster integration into the EU and the international community.

Kosovo firmly is moving toward its brighter future along with free nations and developed democracies.