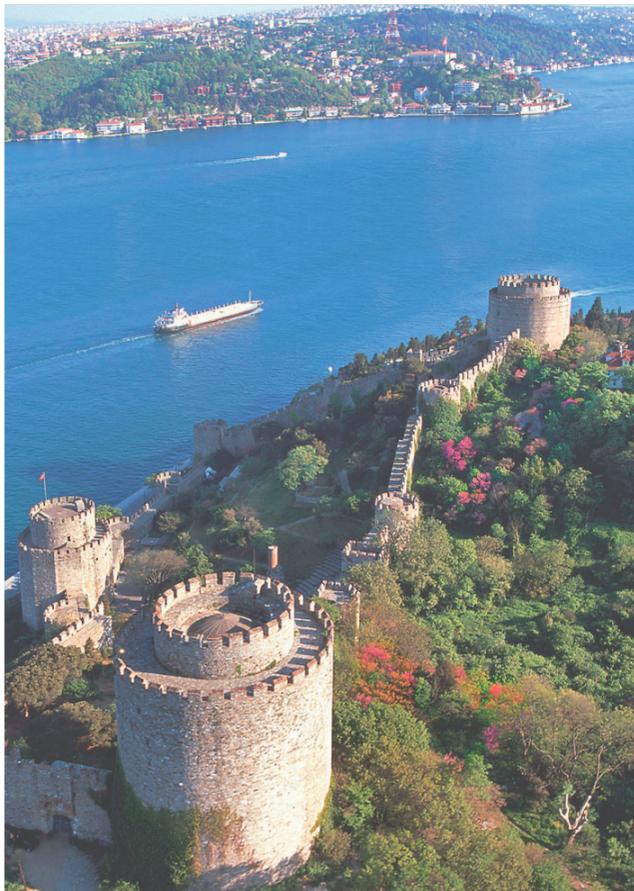


# Turkey National Day

## Enjoying strong and friendly bilateral relations across all fields



Rumelihisari, also known as Roumeli Hissar Castle, is a fortress on a hill at the European side of the Bosphorus at the narrowest point of the strait. It was built by the Ottoman Sultan Mehmed II between 1451 and 1452, before his army's conquest of Constantinople. EMBASSY OF TURKEY

Bulent Meric  
AMBASSADOR OF TURKEY,

It is a great pleasure for me to address the readers of The Japan Times on the occasion of the 92nd anniversary of the Republic of Turkey. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest greetings to our Japanese friends and my congratulations to the growing Turkish community in Japan.



The Turkish nation, under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, gained victory in its struggle for ending foreign occupation after World War I and declared the republic on Oct. 29, 1923. After more than nine decades, Turkey stands as an embodiment of her founding father's ideals and vision: a secular democracy, a social state of law, an active member of the Euro-Atlantic community and a dynamic free market economy supported by a vibrant private sector and a young, well-educated population.

Stable governments and an annual growth rate of 5 percent on average in the last decade

have contributed significantly to the development of Turkey; which currently chairs the G-20 as the 17th-largest economy in the world. In this capacity, Turkey focused on the continuation of the previous achievements of the G-20 and carried out important tasks in line with the G-20's priorities for the global economy. We shall be honored to host H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the occasion of the G-20 Leaders Summit that will take place in Antalya on Nov. 15 and 16.

Turkish foreign policy is based on the principle of "Peace at Home, Peace in the World" as set out by Ataturk. It is with this understanding that Turkey pursues a dynamic foreign policy in a region where the impacts of global changes are greatest. This role is especially vital in the face of the recent surge of regional instability where political exploitation of history, extremism and violence are unfortunately on the rise.

In this general context, our relationship with Japan has a pivotal place. Last year, we celebrated the 90th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Japan. Yet, the origins of our bi-

lateral relations go back to the 19th century. Ironically, the tragic sinking of the Imperial Ottoman frigate Ertugrul due to a typhoon, off the coast of Kushimoto, Wakayama Prefecture, in 1890, was a milestone in this regard. Numerous commemorative ceremonies have been held this year to mark the 125th anniversary of Ertugrul's voyage to Japan, including the visit of TCG Gediz Frigate of the Turkish Navy to Shimonoeki, Wakayama Prefecture, and Tokyo Port in June. "Kainan 1890," a film jointly produced by Turkey and Japan focuses on the story of this tragedy and the evacuation of Japanese nationals by Turkish Airlines from Tehran during Iran-Iraq war in early December.

Today, Turkey and Japan enjoy strong and friendly relations in all fields. We share similar ideals, common values and like-minded approaches toward global issues. The strategic partnership between our countries has been further consolidated by our President H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan's recent visit to Japan on Oct. 7 and 8. Turkey is willing to engage Japan in her 2023 Vision that envisages a population of 80



Ballooning is a popular activity to get a bird's-eye view of the fairy tale-like landscape of Cappadocia. EMBASSY OF TURKEY

million people, \$2 trillion GDP, \$25,000 per capita income and total exports exceeding \$500 billion. Japanese companies play a big role in major infrastructure projects in the areas of energy, transportation, urban infrastructure and education and health, all of which are part of our rapid growth strategy. In addition to the already completed Marmaray Tunnel and the ongoing Izmit Bay Bridge, the Sinop Nuclear Power Plant and Turkey-Japan Science and Technology University projects stand as the

flagship objectives in our strategic partnership. We look forward to seeing Japanese firms in our mega-projects like the Canakkale Bridge, which will be the longest suspension bridge in the world. On the other hand, the completion of negotiations on economic partnership and social security agreements will open a new chapter for our cooperation in the economic and commercial fields.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate, as the ambassador of Turkey, my commitment to contribute to

further strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between Turkey and Japan. I have no doubt that our like-minded countries will develop a more streamlined coordination for addressing the challenges of the contemporary world. The similarities and cordial connections between our countries and people constitute a good basis for advancing our strategic vision.

With these thoughts, I would like to once again greet the readers of The Japan Times with my most heartfelt sentiments.

Congratulations  
 on the Occasion of  
 the 92nd Anniversary of  
 the Proclamation of  
 the Republic of Turkey



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**Congratulations**  
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**The Japan-Turkey Society**  
**President: Hiroshi Sawada**

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