

Visit of Swedish King and Queen Special

Ties expanding in various areas

MAGNUS ROBACH
AMBASSADOR OF SWEDEN



Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia, along with representatives of the Swedish government, will visit Japan this week to celebrate 150 years of relations between Japan and Sweden.

They are to be accompanied by 150 senior business and public service representatives. The level and size of this group illustrates an interest in engaging more strongly with Japan in light of the coming European Union-Japan trade deal. However, there is

also renewed interest related to Japan's rising importance as a gateway and partner in Asian growth markets and beyond. Through a Japan-Sweden business summit, held in cooperation with the Association of Japanese Business Executives, ways to reinvent business in a competitive and digitalized world will be examined. Several breakout sessions will highlight the startup scenes of both countries, as well as the latest trends in health care, transportation and energy.

Japan-Sweden relations are also about values and societal challenges; the king and queen plan to attend seminars covering topics including dementia care and the fight against child abuse.

Academic exchanges are also on the rise, particularly thanks to a new network dubbed Mirai that consists of 17 universities

from both countries. Additionally, a strategic agreement between the University of Tokyo and Stockholm University, the Karolinska Institute and the KTH Royal Institute of Technology also holds great potential. Two new scholarship programs have been launched this year, and cooperative research projects are under way, particularly in the areas of aging societies, new materials and sustainability. This was made possible through coordinated efforts by Japanese and Swedish research funding agencies.

During the second half of the year, focus will shift more to design, art, music and children's literature. We are pleased to be able to welcome the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in September. Overall, some 80 concerts will take place, catering to fans of chamber music, jazz and even heavy metal. The literary world of writer Astrid Lindgren will be the subject of a unique exhibition, opening in July, at the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum in Hachioji. In September, a major retrospective of renowned designer Ingegerd Raman will open at the National Museum of Modern Art. Those interested in learning more about Japan-Sweden events should visit the anniversary website, swedenjapan150.jp.

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



Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia.
PETER KNUTSON, KUNGAHUSET.SE, THE ROYAL COURT, SWEDEN



The Swedish royal family at Solliden Palace in July 2017.
JONAS EKSTROMER, KUNGAHUSET.SE, THE ROYAL COURT, SWEDEN



Stockholm stretches across 14 islands connected by 57 bridges. OLA ERICSON / IMAGEBANK.SWEDEN.SE

Heartiest Welcome

to Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of the Kingdom of Sweden on their Official Visit to Japan

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