

Serbia National Day Special

Honoring 137 years of friendship with Japan

NENAD GLISIC
AMBASSADOR OF SERBIA



On the occasion of Serbian Statehood Day, Feb. 15, I would like to extend my greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family, the government and people of Japan.

Last year was highlighted by the historic visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Serbia, which marked a breakthrough for the increasing economic cooperation and the arrival of new Japanese investments into the Serbian market.

As we celebrate 137 years of friendship with Japan, we plan to use this positive momentum to further increase business exchanges and continue to attract Japanese investments to Serbia, as well as further enhance bilateral relations in all fields.

Serbia remains strongly committed to and focused on pursuing the European Union accession process. The issue of Kosovo and

Metohija, however, remains the key challenge for Serbia. Twenty years after the NATO aggression, the unilateral decisions of Pristina to raise import taxes and announce the transformation of security forces into an army currently pose the biggest threat to the Serbian people, Serbian property and Serbian heritage in Kosovo. Serbia strongly insists on the full implementation of the Brussels Agreement and the continued presence of international institutions in the province, in line with U.N. resolution 1244.

Looking toward the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, the cities of Hofu,

Kashiwazaki and Fujimi are making extensive preparations to host the Serbian national teams. With the cooperation of the Nikola Tesla Museum in Belgrade, the city of Hofu is currently hosting an impressive exhibition on Serbia's most famous scientist.

As Serbia's ambassador to Japan, I look forward to using all my acquired experience here to work closely with the government of Japan, business and industry representatives, scholars and scientists, and the friendly people of Japan, to further enhance the ties and friendship between the two countries in the new era that is to come.



The Gracanica Monastery, built by the Serbian king Stefan Milutin in 1321, was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2006. DRAGAN BOSNIC

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

Towns prepare for Olympics

TADASHI NAGAI
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-SERBIA SOCIETY



It is my great honor and pleasure to address my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Serbia, or Sretenje (Statehood Day), on behalf of the Japan-Serbia Society

and myself.

In reviewing the recent development of relations between Japan and Serbia, in addition

to the visit to Serbia by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in January 2018, let me mention developments made between the host towns toward the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo with the Serbian counterparts.

The Serbian women's volleyball team enjoyed the hospitality of the host town of Hofu, Yamaguchi Prefecture, prior to winning their first world championship title in Yokohama in October 2018. Hofu is also now hosting an exhibition on Serbian-American inventor Nikola Tesla.

The Japan-Serbia Society will further strengthen its role for better mutual understanding and development of our economic and cultural relations.

Exchange programs in culture, sports expected to flourish

ICHIRO AISAWA
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-SERBIA
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

Let me express my sincerest congratulations on the occasion of the Republic of Serbia's National Day. Serbia, formerly a part of Yugoslavia, has experienced challenging times during the civil war of former Yugoslavia. But today, the country has grown and developed as a key nation on the Balkan Peninsula. I hope the nation continues to make leaps forward.



Serbia holds the key for stability and prosperity in south-eastern Europe. It is crucial that Serbia works for a stable and democratic political process under the banner of freedom and democracy.

When talented and capable Serbians live up to their potential, the country's economy will

achieve remarkable growth. I hope Serbia will join the European Union in the near future.

Serbia is a sports power, with athletes in soccer, basketball, tennis and other events stunning the world. I am sure Serbians will perform superbly in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. Serbians are also demonstrating exceptional talent in the field of art and culture, including music.

Japan and Serbia have a long history of friendship. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Serbia in January 2018 was a tremendous

success and he was very much welcomed by the government and the people of Serbia. I am sure trade and investment between the two countries will grow significantly. I also expect exchanges in sports, culture, academic fields and people to flourish. In my home city of Okayama, Serbian students at Okayama University are working hard in exchange programs, putting me in high spirits. I will do my utmost to develop bilateral ties as president of the Japan-Serbia Parliamentary Friendship League. Congratulations once again.

Congratulations
to the People
of
the Republic of Serbia
on the Occasion
of
Their National Day



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Congratulations
to the Republic
of Serbia
on the occasion of the National Day



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as Mr. Naohide Ueyama, KINCHO president,
serves as honorary consul general
of the Republic of Serbia in Osaka.

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Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Serbia
on the Occasion of
Their National Day

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