

# Italy National Day Special

## Close friendship continues to deepen

GIORGIO STARACE  
AMBASSADOR OF ITALY



On June 2 Italy celebrates its 73rd anniversary as a republic. No other occasion is better suited to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of the Italian community, whom I shall hereby thank,

to the political, economic and cultural life of Japan. Likewise, the deep Japanese appreciation for our professionalism, creativity, culture and language has always kept constant throughout the years.

Today, Italy and Japan — among the world's largest economies, members of the G7, and top-tier cultural leaders — are like-minded partners who share the same stance on the international stage: both are highly committed toward defending international peace and security, willing to consolidate Europe-Asia relationships and connectivity as well as supporting Africa's development.

During 2019, several important events will further our relationship, starting with the G20 Summit, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VII) and the 2019 Rugby World Cup. 2019 — being the first year of the newly inaugurated Reiwa Era — appears to hold the promise of fruitful outcomes that will contribute to such a special bond. Indeed, the entry into force of the widely praised economic partnership agreement witnessed in February between the EU and Japan has carried positive results regarding trade volumes that are likely to increase further benefits for Italian and Japanese enterprises.

As the ambassador of Italy in Tokyo it is my pleasure to confirm, also on behalf of my fellow nationals, that I am truly honored to represent the country we love — Italy — in a country that we love and deeply respect: Japan.

*Viva l'Italia! Viva il Giappone! (Long live Italy! Long live Japan!)*

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



**An old poster of the Italian National Tourist Board founded in 1919. The organization has 28 branches around the world.** ENIT

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***Congratulations  
on the Anniversary  
of the Italian Republic!***

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on the Anniversary  
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