

Turkish President's Visit Special

Celebrating an age-old partnership, various aspects of cooperation

HASAN MURAT MERCAN
AMBASSADOR OF TURKEY



I am honored to contribute to this special supplement published by The Japan Times on the occasion of the official visit to Japan by President of the Republic of Turkey His Excellency

Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The president's current itinerary includes multilateral, as well as bilateral, programs. On the multilateral side, the president will start his visit in Osaka with

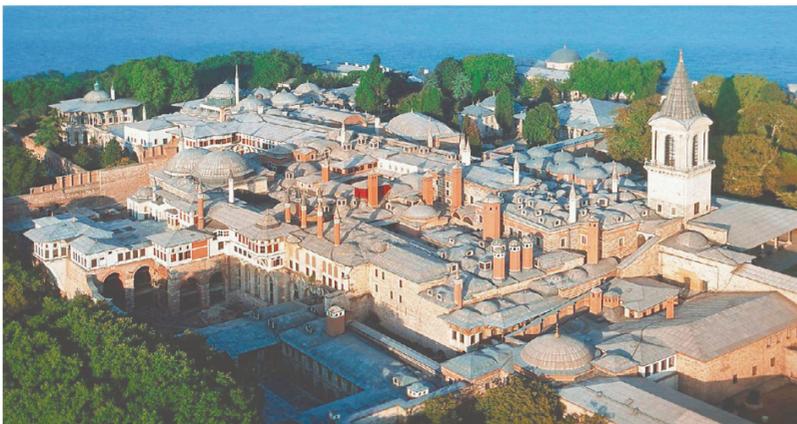
the Group of 20 leaders' summit, where he is scheduled to have a number of bilateral meetings with world leaders.

As we are celebrating Turkish Culture Year in Japan this year, the president's schedule will also include visits to two remarkable cultural events organized in Kyoto in order to highlight the importance of intercultural interaction between the Turkish and Japanese nations. These are the Topkapı Museum exhibition titled "The Treasures and the Tradition of 'Lale' in the Ottoman Empire" and the famous Turkish photographer Ara Gueler's photo exhibition, both of which are organized under the auspices of the Turkish presidency. In fact, the president will be opening the Gueler photo exhibition. On a final

note, the president will get together with the Turkish community in Japan.

Following programs in Osaka, Kyoto and Nagoya, the president will arrive in Tokyo for an official working visit, which includes a courtesy call to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, a working dinner with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and a luncheon with Secretary-General of Liberal Democratic Party and the Chairman of the Japan-Turkey Interparliamentary Friendship Group Toshihiro Nikai. These high-level meetings and contacts will further solidify our strong relations that we elevated to a strategic partnership in accordance with the mutual understanding of our leaders.

In addition to boosting the cordial political ties between Turkey and Japan, this visit is also aiming to contribute to further developing our economic, cultural and social relations. In this vein, the president is scheduled to hold a meeting with Japanese businesspeople, which will be hosted by



Topkapı Palace was the administrative center of the Ottoman Empire for roughly four centuries and now serves as a museum. The treasures of Topkapı Palace Museum's collection can be seen at the Museum of Modern Art in Kyoto until July 28th. EMBASSY OF TURKEY



Osman Gazi Bridge, constructed in collaboration with Japanese companies, is one of the longest suspension bridges in the world. EMBASSY OF TURKEY

Keidanren. Likewise, finalizing the ongoing negotiations on an economic partnership agreement will be high on the agenda of the bilateral discussions.

The president's visit to Japan is the culmination of our excellent relations based on the deep rooted Turkish-Japanese friendship that dates back to the 19th century, when the Imperial Ottoman frigate Ertugrul tragically sank off the coast of Kushimoto in 1890 due to a typhoon. Since this historical milestone, our relations have evolved into a multidimensional, strong partnership.

During the president's visit, various aspects of our strategic partnership will be on the agenda such as cooperation in the fields of energy; science and technology; trade and investment; the fight against terrorism; and culture and tourism, as well as regional and international issues. Therefore, the president will be accompanied by a high-level delegation including ministers, parliamentarians, senior officials and business professionals throughout his busy schedule.

Japan is one of Turkey's most important trade and investment partners in East Asia. Our bilateral trade volume reached approximately \$4.5 billion in 2018, while Japanese investments in Turkey amount to \$2.7 billion. Japanese construction companies have invested in infrastructure mega-projects in Turkey such as the Marmaray Tunnel and the Osman Gazi Bridge. Moreover, despite the considerable geographical distance between our countries, the number of Japanese tourists visiting Turkey surpassed 80,000 last year, marking an annual



President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands at their meeting in October 2015 during the Turkish president's last visit to Japan. EMBASSY OF TURKEY

increase of more than 60 percent. While these are promising figures, we believe there is high potential for further development in all of these areas.

As I conclude my message, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the government and friendly people of Japan for their gracious hospitality and warm welcome offered to the president, as well as for the excellent organization of the G20 summit in Osaka. We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to the success of this land-

mark visit.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank The Japan Times and all our partners and friends for their generous contributions and for giving me this opportunity to address the distinguished readers and inform them of the strong Turkish-Japanese partnership.

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

Heartiest Welcome

to His Excellency

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,

President of the Republic of Turkey,

on His Official Visit to Japan

for the G20 Summit

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