

# Greece National Day Special

## Cooperation rooted in various mutual interests

**CONSTANTIN CAKIOUSSIS**  
AMBASSADOR OF GREECE



Greece and Japan share, among other national features, the fact that they are both sea power states, which means that seafaring is not only a means of generating wealth, but it also permeates

their culture and civilization. It generates an outward mentality and a tendency for reaching the new and incorporating the foreign, thereby creating a genuine corpus of knowledge and aesthetics. This common approach to reality makes it effortless for the two countries to work together in

many fields.

Besides the ever-present merchant marine sector where cooperation in both building and managing fleets comes natural to the two biggest merchant marines in the world, we also collaborate in cultural production — a result of which was the successful holding of the ninth Theater Olympics in the village of Toga, Toyama Prefecture, in 2019.

The organization of the Olympic Games is also such an area. Japan has proved its adherence to the Olympic principles and ideals by having held three times very successful editions of the Olympic Games and is poised to hold them for a fourth time in the same high spirit and perseverance. We all look forward to Japan delivering a successful Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, the way only Japanese people know

how. I am certain that they will be safe for participants and spectators alike.

My confidence in the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games has been strengthened these days by the way the people and the leadership of Japan are facing the COVID-19 crisis. We all hope that the recent public health challenge will soon be overcome. The “*ganbaru*” resilience and commitment displayed by Japanese people in the face of adversity has set a fine example closely followed by Greece and other affected nations in their own fight against this new universal plight.

Last year we held various events in Greece and Japan in commemoration of 120 years since the conclusion of the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation and both nations have proved that friendship and mutual understanding are today, as in the past, the living roots of our cordial and friendly bilateral relations. Throughout this over-a-century-long period we have approached each other, cooperated, as well as have contributed to each other's economy and culture, and left our mark in each other's modern history.

Today, the two countries are growing even closer, owing to the European Union-brokered economic partnership agreement and strategic partnership agreement. These two agreements create a framework for



deeper and wider cooperation and present new opportunities for mutually beneficial businesses, as well as new avenues to be explored for new synergies in the fields of security and safety. Moreover, the bilateral working visit of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Kostas Fragogiannis at the beginning of this year has generated a new momentum for our economic relations.

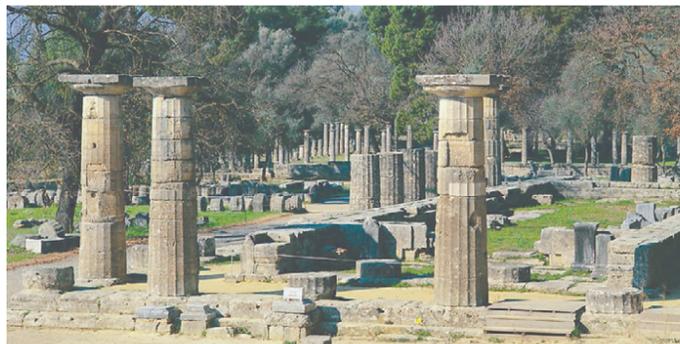
Today, celebrating the rebirth of the modern Greek state, I see the two ancient seafaring nations navigating through the troubled waters of actuality, exhibiting the same tenacity and steadiness as their illustrious ancestors, who had the ideals of freedom, democracy, rule of law and above all friendship as their guides.

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



**Left: Flame lighting in Olympia, Greece. Right: The Olympic torch relay has gone on for decades.**

YOSHIHIRO NOMURA



**Remnants of where the early Olympic Games took place**

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to the People of Greece  
on Their Independence Day

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