

Albania Flag Day Special

Excellent investment hub lies at crossroads of Europe

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AMBASSADOR OF ALBANIA



Japan on the 108th anniversary of the independence day of Albania. Also, my greetings go to all Albanian citizens living in Japan and abroad.

Our people and the Albanian culture are at the very foundations of the European continent. One of Europe's most ancient nations, we are the speakers of one of the oldest languages of humankind, Albanian. From our national hero, Skanderbeg, to the worldwide famous Albanian nun and missionary, Mother Teresa, testimonies of

our brilliant civilization exist throughout history.

Albania, where Muslims and Christians marry together and live in harmony, has always demonstrated an excellent example of high religious tolerance.

Offering friendship, cooperation, and peace to everyone, this tolerance is a major factor in regional stability.

Being a NATO member has brought more advantages, not only in terms of security. The embrace of the rule of law, human rights, a market economy, and judiciary reforms also signify Albania's eagerness to embrace the European Union (EU). Albania is steadfastly driven and is working hard toward membership in the EU.

Albania is considered a strategic place to invest as it is located in the center of natural crossroads of the major corridors in Europe. Albania is the gateway to the Balkans and the nation's domestic economy and exports are expanding. Albania has friendly legislation and a free trade area where labor costs are lower than compa-

rable countries. We have an adaptable and flexible skilled labor force that is highly educated and has extensive language skills.

In recent years, visits to Japan by the state's main leaders have become more frequent than ever, as seen by H.E. Ilir Meta, president of the Republic of Albania and H.E. Gramoz Ruci, the speaker of the parliament of the Republic of Albania. These visits are a clear indication of the excellent diplomatic relations between Albania and Japan. Next year we will celebrate 100 years of diplomatic relations between our two countries. Many activities are scheduled to mark this occasion.

Japan is establishing more of a presence in the Balkans, such as the Western Balkan Cooperation Initiatives that set forth new cooperation projects through the auspices of the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security programs. More positive news is that the industrial giant Sumitomo opened a new manufacturing plant in Tirana for wiring harnesses for the

automotive industry.

It is natural to say that the coronavirus pandemic has changed global circumstances and our normality. But as in the story about the lady called Pandora and when she opened her jar, all sorts of bad things escaped. She then closed the jar before hope could escape so that hope remained inside.

So, together with hope and hard work, we will overcome the virus and see the end of the pandemic. As has been shown throughout history, the human race has

often succeeded in its quest for a better world.

When the coronavirus situation becomes calmer and times are right to visit a new and reasonably priced destination with specialized hospitality, great food and beautiful beaches, we hope that people will consider Albania in lieu of exotic beaches. They will not be disappointed.

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



Gramë Bay, or Gjiri Gramë, is considered a pearl of the Ionian coast.



Theth, a national park in northern Albania centered on the Albanian Alps, is famous for its natural beauty.

**Congratulations
to the People of the Republic of Albania
on the Occasion of The Flag Day**

Honorary Consul, Professor: Hiroshi Maeda

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