

Albania Flag Day Special

Progress, cooperation bolster friendly ties

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AMBASSADOR OF ALBANIA



It is a privilege and honor for me as the ambassador of the Republic of Albania, to extend on behalf of the Albanian government my warmest greetings to their imperial majesties and the friendly

people of Japan, on the 109th anniversary of the Independence Day of Albania. Also, my greetings go to all Albanian citizens residing in Japan.

On Nov. 28, Albania marks the day in 1912 that the Albanian flag was raised in the city of Vlora, coinciding with the same day that the national hero Skanderbeg raised the same flag in the city of Kruja in 1443. On Nov. 29, Albania will celebrate the 77th anniversary of Liberation Day.

Independence day is also an important

event for Kosovo, for all Albanians living in the Balkans and the diaspora.

These times of unprecedented global challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on people's lives and the economy, especially as Albania was still recovering from the late-2019 earthquake. The government acted quickly to contain the spread of the virus and took measures to mitigate the negative effects of restrictions on the economy, supporting the health care system, enterprises and households affected by the confinement measures. Thanks to these prompt actions, Albania had the lowest number of registered deaths from COVID-19 in the Western Balkans. From June 2020, the steadfast commitment of the Albanian authorities managed to set up a steady recovery in one of our country's core industries, namely travel.

In the international arena, Albania has acquired a new status and role in international relations, a logical consequence of the growing partnership with all structures of regional and global security after gaining

NATO membership in April 2009. Within this year Albania will have the first inter-governmental meeting with the European Union, which will mark the start of negotiations for EU integration. Albania has also made remarkable achievements, such as the 2020 chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Also, on June 11, Albania was elected for the first time as a nonpermanent member of the U.N. Security Council for the 2022-2023 period. The mandate will begin on Jan. 1 and end on Dec. 31, 2023.

Bilateral relations between Japan and Albania are deeper than ever, and ties in political, economic and other fields have been built and continue to develop on the basis of mutual trust. Through Japan International Cooperation Agency programs, Japan has provided and continues to provide important assistance to Albania in various fields, such as economics, energy, transport, environment and education, among others.

Next year, Japan and Albania's friendly relations will mark their 100th anniversary.

Also, 2022 will mark the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Japanese Embassy in Tirana.

As the ambassador of the Republic of Albania to Japan, I wish to see a full recovery in the number of Japanese tourists discovering the numerous beauties of Albania.

Last but not least, I would like to thank The Japan Times for giving me the opportunity today to share my message on the 109th anniversary of the independence day of Albania.



Zverneq, an island community in Vlora, is home to St. Mary's Monastery.

EMBASSY OF ALBANIA



TID Tower and the giant Namazgjah Mosque on the right are some of the landmarks of Tirana, Albania's capital.

EMBASSY OF ALBANIA

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

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

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