

Romania National Day Special

An innovation-driven strategic partnership

OVIDIU DRANGA
AMBASSADOR OF ROMANIA



On this anniversary day for Romanians everywhere, I am honored to convey my heartfelt wishes of health and happiness to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako,

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and the government of Japan, as well as my warm wishes of peace and prosperity to the Japanese people.

The National Day of Romania, celebrated on Dec. 1, is about our solidarity and our historic success in fulfilling the most cherished political aim of our nation: the irreversible unification, in 1918, of all

Romanian provinces into a modern and strong state. This day is a symbol of what a determined nation can accomplish when the vision, courage and perseverance of pragmatic leaders are put in the service of the people. After 1989, when Romania made the strategic choice for accelerated modernization, seeking membership of the Euro-Atlantic community, our national day has given us momentum toward new ambitious objectives.

We are living in times of strategic change. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge of unprecedented magnitude and complexity and other crises are looming. We have learned to address better, new and more complex problems, such as providing essential medicine and equipment to those in need, diversifying and making our supply chains more resilient.

Japan has offered an inspiring example in surmounting the difficulties of the pan-

demie and gave Romanian athletes, as well as athletes all over the world, the invaluable opportunity to participate in a once-in-a-lifetime Olympics and Paralympics in 2021. The 2020 Tokyo Games made history and brought Romania one gold and three silver medals in rowing and fencing. I congratulate the Tokyo Organising Committee, the Japanese government and the people of Japan for the indisputable success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games under the most unique of circumstances.

In 2021, we celebrate 100 years of diplomatic relations between Romania and Japan, a reliable and like-minded partner, with whom we share the respect for freedom, democracy and rule of law, as well as a common set of geopolitical sensitivities and the wish to promote peace. It is a good moment to take stock of our past accomplishments and build together toward a new level of bilateral interaction.

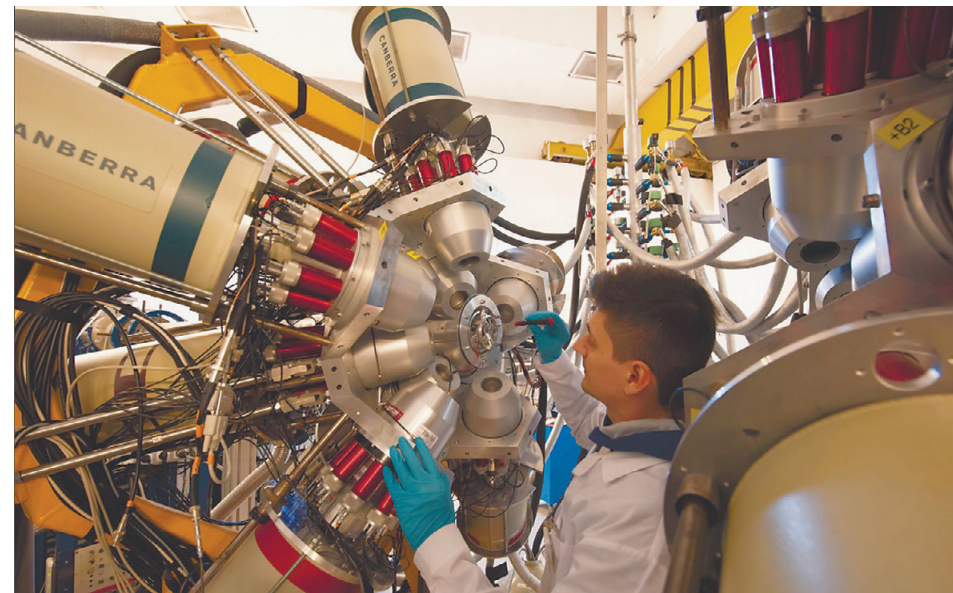
In looking forward to signing a strategic partnership between our countries, we aim to intensify cooperation in trade, science, research and innovation, with a special focus on security and defense.

Today, Romania is a net contributor to international security, supporting strengthened EU-NATO operational cooperation in geographic areas of common geopolitical interest, such as the Indo-Pacific, seeking synergies and complementarities between EU and NATO defense capabilities.

The recently released EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific is clear about what we should and can do together to ensure the stability, security, prosperity and sustainable development in the region, in line with the principles of democracy, rule of law, human rights and international law.

Romania is and will continue to be an active participant in this effort and is ready to facilitate the strategic coordination of Japan with the EU and NATO, which could lead to a broader space of shared responsibilities, including strategic resilience. The Euro-Atlantic Centre for Resilience in Bucharest could be called to provide independent expertise and ideas in support of NATO allies, EU member states and partner states, such as Japan.

Furthermore, Romania has been designated host of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre, which will soon become operational. The decision to locate this in Bucharest is an acknowledgment of Romania's firm commitment to the consolidation of the European project, as well as of our special expertise in digital technologies



A technician inspects equipment at the Horia Hulubei National Institute for R&D in Physics and Nuclear Engineering in Magurele. IFIN-HH

and cybersecurity. The center will work with the main European stakeholders, including industry, academic and research organizations, to form a cybersecurity competence community. It will also implement relevant parts of the Digital Europe and Horizon Europe programs by allocating grants and carrying out procurement, representing a powerful tool for bolstering resilience together with Romanian and EU partners, such as Japan.

In the area of research and technology, Romania is notably the home of the Extreme Light Infrastructure Nuclear Physics (ELI-NP) project, one of the most prestigious research infrastructures in the world due to its unique state-of-the-art equipment. ELI-NP has been designated by the Nuclear Physics European Collaboration Committee of the European Science Foundation as a major facility in the nuclear

physics long-range plan. Its scientific director is a Japanese professor. Collaboration between ELI-NP and the scientific community in Japan has developed naturally, given Japan's expertise in high-power lasers and gamma rays, with more opportunities to explore in joint research projects, as well as joint master and doctoral programs.

Romania and Japan have built a strong relationship over the last century and are ready to enter a new phase of enhanced cooperation with special focus on security, defense, research and innovation, preparing for the social, economic and political realities of the 21st century, in a show of solidarity in our approach to global challenges.

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



Left: A rock formation resembling the Sphinx looms in the Bucegi Mountains. Right: Olympic gold medalists Ancuta Bodnar and Simona Radis celebrate after winning the women's double sculls event on July 28.

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Congratulations
to the People
of
Romania
on the Occasion
of
Their National Day

JT

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Congratulations
to the People of Romania!

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on the Occasion of
Romania's National Day!**

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