

# Serbia National Day Special

## United in mutual friendship in many areas of interest

ALEKSANDRA KOVAC  
AMBASSADOR OF SERBIA



Today we celebrate the Serbian Statehood Day, Sretenje, at a momentous time, as Serbia and Japan are commemorating a significant jubilee — 140 years of friendship.

In response to the letter of Serbian King Milan I Obrenovic in 1882, Japanese Emperor Meiji addressed him as a “dear friend.” The friendship between the two countries began with this

heartfelt message, which has since reverberated and marked our relations. The great distance of over 9,000 kilometers, which led our countries on very different historical paths, did not hinder bilateral contacts, including many visits of the imperial family members to our capital. Many times our peoples have shown solidarity in difficult times of suffering caused by war and natural disasters. Lately, the intensified political dialogue has been followed by an increase in direct Japanese investment in Serbia, such as by Toyo Tire Co. and Nidec Corp. I am confident that this spirit of friendship and solidarity will continue to define our future cooperation.

## Relationship continues to endure

TADASHI NAGAI  
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-SERBIA SOCIETY



On behalf of the Japan-Serbia Society and of myself, I would like to extend our best wishes for the Statehood Day of Serbia — the national day of the Republic of Serbia.

This year marks the 140th anniversary of the official relations since the exchange of the letters between Japan's Emperor Meiji and King Milan I Obrenovic of Serbia in 1882. This should be another opportunity to deepen our mutual understanding. The Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics last year provided the opportunity for four cities to serve as host towns for Serbian athletes, who, thanks to

the hospitality they received, attained great achievements. We, the society, hope that exchanges between these cities and Serbia will be maintained even after the Games. The Japan-Serbia Society will further strive to contribute to the development of mutual understanding and existing good relations as well as to the promotion of people-to-people exchanges between Japan and Serbia.



President Aleksandar Vucic (second from right) takes part in the groundbreaking ceremony for a new Nidec Corp. factory on Dec. 10. TANJUG

## Strong economic bonds thriving

ICHIRO AISAWA  
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-SERBIA  
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE




Let me express my sincerest congratulations on the occasion of Serbia's Statehood Day. Going through the difficult times during the Yugoslav civil war, Serbia today is a leading country in the Balkans, having rapidly progressed and developed, and holding the key to stability and prosperity in southeastern Europe.

I saw a TV program about the scientist


Nikola Tesla on NHK recently, and once again I felt the great abilities and powers of the Serbian people. Japan and Serbia have a long history of friendship. After the visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Serbia in January 2018, economic relations between the two countries have been significantly growing and I hope further exchanges in sports, arts, technology and between their citizens will continue to progress. I will do my utmost to further develop bilateral ties as president of the Japan-Serbia Parliamentary Friendship League.


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



***Congratulations to the Republic of Serbia on the occasion of the National Day***

2022 marks the 140th anniversary of friendship between Japan and Serbia.


 **KINCHO**



**Congratulations**

to the People of  
the Republic of Serbia

on the Occasion of  
Their National Day

 **Mitsubishi Corporation**



**Congratulations**

to the People of the Republic of Serbia  
on the Occasion of Their National Day

**TOYO TIRES**