

# Lithuania National Day Special

## Marking a century of friendship with Japan

**ALGIMANTAS MISEVICIUS**  
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE  
LITHUANIAN EMBASSY IN JAPAN



On the occasion of the 104th anniversary of the Restoration of the State of Lithuania and on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of friendship and the establishment of diplomatic relations

between Lithuania and Japan, I am honored to extend, on behalf of the Lithuanian people and government, the warmest regards to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, the imperial family, as well as the government and people of Japan, and our compatriots.

On Feb.16, 1918, the Council of Lithuania proclaimed restoration of the free and independent state of Lithuania. In 1922, Japan recognized Lithuania's independence, and diplomatic relations between our two countries were established.

One of the highlights of these relations was the brave deed of Japanese Vice Consul Chiune Sugihara, who in 1940 issued the famous "visas for life" to Jewish war refugees. Sugihara, acting against instructions, fol-

lowed his conscience and saved more than 6,000 human lives from the Holocaust by allowing refugees to escape Europe as the war was advancing.

After a 50-year-long span of Soviet rule, diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Japan were re-established in 1991, and presently our two countries are enjoying excellent friendly and dynamic bilateral relations in the political, economic and cultural spheres, based on common values and like-mindedness.

In 2007, Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visited Lithuania, as did then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2018 and then-Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi in 2021. Then-Lithuanian Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis visited Japan in 2018, and President Gitanas Nausėda came to Japan in 2019. These visits gave strong political impetus to bringing our two countries even closer together.

As we have entered the centenary, our main priority is to strengthen the economic ties between Lithuania and Japan and to raise our relations to a higher strategic level.

Lithuanian cheese, bread, honey, organic soups and many other food products have already found their way to shelves of Japanese supermarkets and online stores. We are working toward increasing the variety and volume of imported items. Other categories

of imports from Lithuania are lasers, chemical reagents, amber jewelry, linen clothing and furniture. Imports from Lithuania in the life sciences field are contributing to Japan's battle with the coronavirus pandemic in labs and hospitals. Internet of Things devices made in Lithuania help to develop smart mobility and smart city projects.

Lithuania is inviting Japanese investors to work together on big infrastructure and energy projects, including green energy solutions, as well as to establish partnerships in the fields of information and financial technologies. We are ready to expand scientific cooperation with Japan, especially in the areas of medicine, lasers and space research.

The close relations between Lithuania and Japan would not be possible without

the great support of our friends and partners from many regions of Japan. Gifu Prefecture, where Sugihara was born, is a long-standing partner of Lithuania in cultural cooperation and people-to-people contacts. We are grateful to Hiratsuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, which hosted our Olympic team, for their hospitality and indispensable assistance in preparation for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. We also enjoy excellent cooperation with Toyohashi, Aichi Prefecture; Kuji, Iwate Prefecture; Nishiazumi, Fukushima Prefecture; Hachioji, Tokyo; Mukawa, Hokkaido; and many other municipalities.

The Lithuanian town of Kaunas is the European Capital of Culture 2022. We are proud that many partners from Japan are joining the international cultural program of "Kaunas



**Built on an island in the middle of Lake Galvė, Trakai Castle is a place where visitors can experience history and nature at the same time.**

REAL IS BEAUTIFUL

2022." It includes the "Japan Days in Kaunas WA," a festival of Japanese culture that takes place from April 25 to May 1. The program also comprises an installation by Yoko Ono and her retrospective exhibition.

I would like to use this opportunity to invite readers of The Japan Times to come to Lithuania when international travel resumes and enjoy the rich culture and pristine nature of our country.

On this solemn occasion, let me express my sincere gratitude to all friends of Lithuania in Japan and wish that the close friendship between our countries flourishes and deepens.

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



100TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF FRIENDSHIP  
LITHUANIA-JAPAN

*Congratulations  
to the People of the Republic of Lithuania  
on the Anniversary of Their National Day*



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**Congratulations  
on the Independence Day of  
the Republic of Lithuania**



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### Congratulations

**on the Independence Day of  
the Republic of Lithuania**



Honorary consul of the Republic of Lithuania in Sapporo

<https://fujiibuilding.com>



### Congratulations

**to the People of  
Lithuania  
on the Occasion of  
Their National Day**



Port of Humanity Tsuruga Museum  
The museum preserves documents of Jewish refugees that came to Tsuruga.

<https://tsuruga-museum.jp/>

City of Tsuruga

*Congratulations to the People of the  
Republic of Lithuania on the Restoration  
of Independence Day*

おめでとうございます。

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