

# German Chancellor's visit

## Scholz, Kishida to plan for G7 summit

THE JAPAN TIMES AGENCY

Olaf Scholz, chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, will pay an official visit to Japan on Thursday and Friday, and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is expected to hold a meeting with the chancellor, as well as host a dinner for him.

Announcing the visit, the Foreign Ministry said: "The Federal Republic of Germany, which holds the G7 presidency this year, is an important partner that shares fundamental values with Japan. The government of Japan sincerely welcomes the visit of the chancellor and hopes the visit will contribute to further strengthen the relations between Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany."

Scholz, who was formerly mayor of Hamburg and the finance minister in former Chancellor Angela Merkel's final term, was elected Germany's new chancellor in December. He is a member of the center-left Social Democrats and is governing in a three-party coalition with the environmentalist Greens and the liberal Free Democrats – the first power-sharing

agreement of its kind in German history and the first three-way coalition since 1957.

This will be Scholz's first visit to Japan as chancellor. He visited as mayor in 2011 and as finance minister in 2019. Scholz and Kishida met in March at the Group of Seven's emergency summit meeting in Brussels, which took place alongside an emergency meeting called by NATO and the European Union in the face of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

As the G7 chair, Germany is preparing to host this year's annual meeting of G7 heads of state and government at Schloss Elmau in the Bavarian Alps, about 100 kilometers south of Munich, from June 26 to 28. Scholz's visit to Japan is aimed at laying the groundwork for the summit.

Last year, Berlin sent the frigate Bayern to the Indo-Pacific region to conduct joint exercises with Japan's Self-Defense Forces. The frigate also participated in monitoring activities for illegal North Korean ship-to-ship cargo transfers.

Germany is Japan's largest trading partner in the European Union, while Japan is

Germany's second-largest trading partner in Asia. In February 2019, the economic partnership agreement between Japan and the EU took force.

2021 marked the 160th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Germany and Japan, and many memorial events and celebrations were held to honor the event in both countries.



Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (left) and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz speak at the G7 summit in Brussels on March 24, as U.S. President Joe Biden looks on. KYODO



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz gives a statement on Feb. 10 before meeting with leaders of the Baltic States in Berlin. POOL / VIA REUTERS

Our heartiest  
welcome to  
Chancellor Olaf Scholz of  
the Federal Republic of  
Germany  
on his visit to Japan



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