

Norway National Day Special

Shared values bind multifaceted ties

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AMBASSADOR OF NORWAY



May 17 is Norway's Constitution Day, celebrating the signing of our constitution in 1814, 208 years ago. Since its inception, our constitution has enshrined the principles of democracy,

rule of law and human rights — values that unite our nation and define what it means to be Norwegian.

These values are also a strong foundation for the bilateral relationship between Japan and Norway. Both our countries stand firm in the defense of rule of law and human rights, of a peaceful and stable global order, against forces who through aggression or coercion are trying to change the status quo to their own benefit. The unlawful and unjustified war in Ukraine is a glaring violation of everything we stand for. We deeply appreciate Japan's strong support for

Ukraine, and solidarity with its democratic partners in Europe.

Our shared values are also the basis for the political cooperation between Norway and Japan. We are both staunch multilateralists, cooperating in the United Nations and in other multilateral fora for improved global governance, human rights, human security and sustainable development. For Norway, as a current member of the U.N. Security Council, Japan's support and insights into many conflict situations have been invaluable, and we look forward to continuing this cooperation when Japan enters the council.

In business and science, our bilateral relationship is shaped by both countries being innovation-driven knowledge economies, and perhaps most of all by both being large ocean economies, with strong historical, social and cultural ties to the sea. Shipping, maritime technologies and marine industries are at the heart of our business partnerships, while ocean and Arctic research is the fulcrum of our long-standing scientific cooperation.

A wonderful occasion to celebrate our



Norway is well known for its many picturesque fjords. SVERRE HJORNEVIK

ocean partnership is coming up in September, when the Norwegian sailing ship Statsraad Lehmkuhl will be docked in Yokohama. A number of events are planned in celebration of the U.N. Decade of Ocean Science. So, jot down Sept. 12 to 14 in your calendars.

A common commitment to sustainability, fighting climate change and achieving zero carbon emissions is also an overarching objective for much of what Norway and Japan do together in business and research. Clean energy — offshore wind, hydrogen,



A crowd watches the annual May 17 parade in Oslo. VISIT NORWAY

ammonia and green shipping — is an exciting new frontier in our partnership, which will surely develop tremendously in the years ahead.

May 17 is in many ways Norway's biggest annual celebration, reminiscent of the great *matsuri* festivals of Japan. Families and friends wear national costumes, and children parade through the streets, singing and waving flags. It is a lively, inclusive celebration of national independence, freedom and peace — open to everyone. I hope that all Norwegians and Norway friends in Japan find an opportunity to celebrate the day — keeping in mind the fundamental values of freedom and democracy that it represents.

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

Congratulations on Norwegian Constitution Day

 Mitsubishi Corporation