
Croatia National Day Special

Friends and partners in challenging times

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Croatian Statehood Day is celebrated on May 30 on the inauguration date of the first multi-party parliament in 1990. After regaining its independence in 1991 and winning the

Homeland War after a four-year struggle for freedom, a new chapter of our history began. Today, Croatia, as a member of NATO and the European Union, is providing assistance to the maximum of its resources to those in need, particularly to our Ukrainian friends.

Croatia is known globally for the beauty of its rich natural and cultural heritage and has a number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Various cultures and

influences helped us in creating a fantastically tasty and diverse gastronomy that includes the production of beer, wine and spirits.

All of these factors have contributed to the popularity of Croatia as a tourist destination. In 2021 Croatia hosted almost 14 million foreign visitors, unfortunately without our Japanese friends among them. In the years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were hosting up to 160,000 Japanese tourists annually. We hope to see them back soon in even higher numbers.

In Croatia as well as many other countries, the Japanese have become a subject of admiration and a source of inspiration for their resilience in difficult times. For many years, the Japanese and Croatian peoples have shared friendship, sympathy and solidarity both in good and bad times, from the Croatian Homeland War and the 3/11 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami to the earthquakes that

rocked Zagreb and areas around our capital in 2020 for the first time in 140 years.

Even though the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics were held almost a year ago, I have to praise the extraordinary organization of the Games despite the extremely challenging circumstances. Croatian athletes won eight medals, with the most exciting for us being the final of the men's tennis doubles, which involved Croatia versus Croatia.

Croatia is committed to strengthening and deepening economic ties with Japan. There is huge potential for increasing our bilateral trade, investments and joint projects in third countries. The Croatian Embassy in Japan will continue to work diligently toward the full use of that potential.

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