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# Slovenia National Day Special

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## 30 years on, business, science ties in bloom

**ANA POLAK PETRIC**  
AMBASSADOR OF SLOVENIA



2022 is a very important year for the friendship between Slovenia and Japan, as we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of our diplomatic relations.

Today, politicians and diplomats officially describe the ties between Slovenia and Japan as “friendly and without any open issues.” But this rather cliched phrase in its essence reveals extensive, effective and forward-looking cooperation.

Slovenia and Japan have a number of points of common interest, including with regard to the future organization of the world. Our relations are at a very high level, as demonstrated by visits and political interactions in recent years. We are becoming

important partners in green transformation, the fight against climate change, the defense of human rights and multilateralism and joint activities in the Western Balkans and Indo-Pacific, to name a few. In economics and science, bilateral projects and cooperation are blooming. We are exploring further collaboration in digitalization, cybersecurity, high tech and artificial intelligence. I am proud to say that Slovenia is one of the countries with the greatest number of projects and activities for achieving “Society 5.0.” Japanese investments in Slovenia are only growing, as they are mutually seen as potentially successful opportunities.

Although they defy documentation, everyday contacts between our peoples are perhaps the most important part of our friendship. Here I speak about various cultural projects, sports events, student exchanges, restaurants, planting Slovenian linden and Japanese cherry trees, or just playing the accordion or *shamisen*, among others.

In view of all the achievements to date and



**A church is reflected in Lake Bled.**

JANEZ TOLAR

plans for the future, we celebrate this anniversary with great optimism our friendship and cooperation will continue to develop. We offer gratitude to all those who have in the past 30 years contributed to the mutual understanding, friendship and solidarity between our two beautiful countries.

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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.*