

# Armenia National Day Special

## Friendly ties ongoing in various areas

**AREG HOVHANNISIAN**  
AMBASSADOR OF ARMENIA



Today, the people of Armenia as well as Armenians all around the world celebrate the 31st anniversary of independence of the Republic of Armenia.

On Sept. 21, 1991, the people of Armenia held a nationwide referendum and firmly declared their will to establish a new independent state thus resuming the millennia-long history of Armenian statehood. Our independence became a choice toward creation of a democratic state, toward freedom and rule of law, sharing those common values with Japan as well.

On this commemorative day I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our compatriots and friends in Japan and elsewhere in the world. In fact, Japan was among the first countries

to officially recognize the new Armenian state.

Diplomatic relations between our countries were established on Sept. 7, 1992, and I am delighted to note that this year, despite the obstacles presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been able to mark the 30th anniversary of the above remarkable date with various events as well as bilateral high-level visits. In particular, in May the Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan H.E. Taro Honda visited Armenia, and some visits from Armenia to Japan are scheduled as well.

In early October, the Armenian Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport H.E. Vahram Dumanyan will be visiting Kyoto to participate in the 19th annual meeting of the Science and Technology in Society Forum.

Additionally, this month the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Armenia H.E. Hakob Arshakyan is planning to visit Tokyo to participate in the state funeral for former Prime Minister of Japan H.E. Shinzo Abe, whose assassina-

tion truly shocked the world and deeply saddened all of us. We once again extend our heartfelt condolences to Abe's family and to the friendly people of Japan.

Let me also once again extend our invitation to visit Armenia, which has a rich history, unique culture, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, exquisite cuisine, beautiful nature, warm hospitality and competitive prices, making our country a fascinating holiday destination.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, we are currently accepting tourists from all over the world without any complications with documents or other pandemic-related restrictions, and our embassy in Japan is ready to support Japanese travel agencies in raising awareness about our country.

On this celebratory occasion let me wish peace and prosperity to the people of Japan and all the readers of The Japan Times.

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



Visitors climb the stairs to the 13th-century Noravank Monastery in the Amaghu Valley. EMBASSY OF ARMENIA

*Congratulations  
to the People of the Republic of Armenia  
on the Anniversary of Their Independence*



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Congratulations  
to the People  
of  
the Republic of Armenia  
on the Occasion  
of  
Their Independence Day



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