

Albania Flag Day Special

Economy, tourism exceed expectations

GJERGJ TENEQEXHIU
AMBASSADOR OF ALBANIA



It is a privilege and honor for me as ambassador of the Republic of Albania to Japan to extend my warmest greetings to their imperial majesties and the friendly people of Japan on the

110th anniversary of the Independence Day of Albania. Special greetings, to all Albanian citizens, living in Japan.

On Nov. 28 Albania marks the day on which, in 1912, the Albanian flag was raised in the city of Vlora. Not entirely by chance, this day was chosen by the wisest and bravest men of that time on the same day the National Hero Skanderbeg raised the same flag in the city of Kruja in 1443.

This year Albania will celebrate the 110th anniversary of Independence Day and the 78th anniversary of Liberation

Day. Independence Day is also an important event for Kosovo, the Albanians of North Macedonia, Montenegro and the diaspora.

2022 is a very important year for Japan and Albania because we mark the 100th anniversary of the friendship between our countries, a symbolic moment to celebrate and reconfirm our amity.

Albania has acquired a new historical status and role in the international arena, marked by opening the accession negotiations with the EU on July 18.

Since Jan. 1, Albania has been a nonpermanent member of the Security Council of the United Nations and is playing an active role as a member of this important organization. Albania's presence on the Security Council is a sign of the maturity and progress made by Albania on the road to European standards. Next year, together with Japan, we will serve as non-permanent members of the UNSC once again.

In recent years, relations between Albania and Japan have been growing

in accordance with the mutual willingness to strengthen fellowship and build as many bridges of communication and cooperation as possible. In May, we inaugurated the Albanian-Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and as of this month the chamber has more than 50 members.

The Albanian economy, despite the energy crises and the unprecedented and unprovoked war in Ukraine, marked growth this year as well. This year seems to be one of the best for Albanian tourism. According to official data, for the first six months, income from foreign tourists was calculated at €1.13 billion (¥163.6 billion), over €440 million more compared with the same period last year.

There are many good reasons for Japanese tourists to discover the numerous beauties of Albania and its own special and unique *omotenashi* (spirit of selfless hospitality).

In conclusion, I would like to thank The Japan Times for giving me the opportunity today to be present on the 110th

anniversary of the Independence Day of Albania.

God Bless Japan, God Bless Albania.
Gezuar 28 dhe 29 Nentorin (Happy Nov. 28 and 29).

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



Kruja Castle withstood three sieges during Skanderbeg's Rebellion in the 15th century. EMBASSY OF ALBANIA



Albania's Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs Olta Xhaka (right) meets with Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi.
EMBASSY OF ALBANIA

Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Albania on the Occasion of The Flag Day

Honorary Consul, Professor: **Hiroshi Maeda**

Dept. of Information and Communication Engineering
Faculty of Information Eng., Fukuoka Institute of Technology
3-30-1 Wajiro Higashi, Higashi-ku, Fukuoka 811-0295, Japan

FIT Fukuoka Institute of Technology
福岡工業大学 <http://www.fit.ac.jp/>