

# Romania National Day Special

## Shared security views accelerate partnership

**OVIDIU DRANGA**  
AMBASSADOR OF ROMANIA



This year, the National Day of Romania is celebrated in Japan at a very special moment in the bilateral relationship. We are, expectedly, only months ahead of signing the strategic partnership between our countries,

after a period of intense strategic conversations, economic interactions and cultural exchanges that have grown in substance and complexity at a much higher rate than we even hoped for.

The most notable achievement is the high quality of the political and security dialogue, which has approached a larger

than ever set of topics, against the background of the unprovoked and illegal Russian invasion of Ukraine. In the margins of the funeral of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the Romanian prime minister, together with the speaker of the chamber of deputies, met with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and thoroughly reviewed the forward-looking elements of our common political agenda. They concluded that our main common priority is to save the rules-based international order, through a broader effort with leadership-sharing, bringing together all responsible stakeholders in a sustainable system that can guarantee global peace, stability and growth.

My government expressed gratitude for the support Japan offered to Ukrainian refugees on Romanian territory, including several shipments of humanitarian aid organized by the Self-Defense Forces. It also

welcomed Kishida's historic attendance at the NATO summit in Madrid, confirming that Europe and the Indo-Pacific belong to the same strategic realm. Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Ciuca conveyed appreciation for the outstanding reaction of the Japanese government and society in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, together with other advanced democratic allies and partners all over the world.

At times of high geopolitical turbulence, Bucharest and Tokyo have reached a common understanding of transnational security challenges, like climate change and nuclear arms proliferation. On that basis, several rounds of bilateral consultations at the level of the foreign affairs and defense ministries acknowledged the urgency of abandoning complacency and acting now to build a safer future for our citizens. In multiple international fora, including the United Nations, Romania and Japan have successfully supported each other in promoting peace and cooperation and this trend will continue.

At the same time, Romania and Japan have found common ground in their renewed and legitimate concerns about economic security. As front-line states, they fully understand the need to work together and find common solutions to secure sustainable and reliable sources of energy, develop resilient supply chains and promote innovation alongside other EU members and the United States, in a logic of meaningful cooperation among equals. Capitalizing on relevant conclusions and ideas generated at the first bilateral webinar on strategic resilience organized in May

this year in Tokyo, we are planning other future-oriented projects and events like, for example, the first edition of the Romanian-Japanese innovation forum in June 2023 in Romania. Romania and Japan have also started discussing ambitious projects dedicated to nuclear energy, high-power optics and the production of hydrogen.

Romania supports, by all means, stronger relations between Japan and the Euro-Atlantic community based upon the newfound unity of the West, which has revived the strategic initiative. This process is expected to continue and deliver tangible outcomes during Japan's G7 presidency. These efforts should not be limited to reaching enhanced policy coordination in the foreign relations sphere, but extended to also address fundamental economic, energy or financial challenges.

Romania and Japan cherish solidarity and trust as invaluable commodities of the free and democratic world, probably the most effective weapons against aggression, barbarity and brutal force. Russia and its leaders did not expect such a swift, coordinated and sophisticated reaction to its war in Ukraine. United by common values and similar geopolitical sensitivities, our two countries have joined efforts and pooled resources on very short notice to cope with the huge humanitarian crisis, providing Ukraine with much-needed assistance and helping to defend against the aggressor. For example, the municipality of Yokohama sent water-purification equipment via Constanta, its Romanian sister city, to Odessa. So far, it has worked. But setting a framework for resolving the war, then



Prime Minister Fumio Kishida speaks with Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Ciuca (right) and Marcel Ciolacu (center) on Sept. 27 at the Akasaka Guesthouse in Tokyo. EMBASSY OF ROMANIA

proceeding to reconstruction and recovery, would require even more time, more efforts and more sacrifices, as well as an unprecedented display of fresh ideas, political energy and innovative means.

Last but not least, Bucharest and Tokyo fully acknowledge the indispensability of strong international institutions, as well as the benefits of increased cooperation and coordination among Japan, NATO and the European Union, which has been validated once again in the fight against violent and assertive regimes. New forms of cooperation that include G7 countries have also emerged, indicating the principle of institutionalized interaction among like-minded states in limiting the ability of potential aggressors to use force with impunity against weaker neighbors is valid. But new arrangements are required to enable the fight against war fatigue, which may soon become reality and could influence the

approach in dealing with future status quo contenders, whoever and wherever they might be.

Humanity is more tired now than one year ago. Today, there is fear of uncharted territory — namely a war with global consequences that lays in front of us individually and as a community of peace-loving countries. What has inspired us over the last 250 days is the prevailing will of freedom-loving people to overcome enormous difficulties and their resolve in coping with harsh living conditions under extreme violence. It demonstrates the force of high morale and the power of hope when one's reason to fight is rooted in values and beliefs.

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



Left: Prime Minister Nicolae Ciuca (left) and Marcel Ciolacu (right) pose with Speaker of the House Hiro Yukki Hosoda at his Tokyo residence on Sept. 28. Right: Voronet Monastery in South Bukovina is known as the "Sistine Chapel of the East" for its many frescoes. EMBASSY OF ROMANIA



**Happy National Day, Romania!**

Recycling information in Japanese: リサイクルしてね 110%の力で、また地球を救う。

Congratulations to the People of Romania on the Occasion of Their National Day

**JT**

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