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# Norway National Day Special

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## Building strong ties on bilateral, global issues

**KRISTIN IGLUM**

AMBASSADOR OF NORWAY



On May 17, Norwegians worldwide commemorate the Norwegian Constitution of 1814. Our constitution embodies principles such as the separation of powers, the protection

of civil rights and the sovereignty of the people.

As we celebrate this day, we reflect on our history and the significance of independence, freedom and peace.

The day itself is one of festivity, with children's parades, flag-waving, music, national costumes and indulging in treats like ice cream, waffles and hot dogs. However, the importance of the history of the day is always present.

Norway strongly upholds human rights, equality and democracy as fundamental values in our society. Regardless of gender or sexual orientation, everyone deserves to be treated equally and with respect. It was a pleasure for the Norwegian Embassy, alongside our Nordic colleagues, to express our strong support for these rights by participating in the 30th anniversary of Tokyo Rainbow Pride this year.

As the world grapples with war and conflicts, it's vital for nations to unite and uphold the international rule of law. Norway has consistently, alongside Japan, advocated for these principles. Norway remains committed to supporting stability and striving for peace in conflict areas.

The bilateral relationship between Norway and Japan is strong and continues to strengthen over time. The elevation of our relationship in December last year to a strategic partnership, and the conclusion of a joint communique on a green stra-

tegic partnership, have further solidified our ties.

Additionally, Norway acknowledges Japan's Nordic Diplomacy Initiative, encompassing maritime order, Arctic issues, green transition, technology cooperation, gender equality, women, peace and security, as well as defense and security cooperation. This initiative sets a promising foundation for enhanced collaboration.

Today, we face challenges that demand unified action and multilateral cooperation. Through collaboration, we can make a more significant impact.

Norway looks forward to continuing working with our Japanese partners to achieve positive results, both for our countries and the world.

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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.*