
Croatia National Day Special

Strong solidarity through difficult times

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Croatian Statehood Day is celebrated on May 30, which is the date of establishment of the first post-communist multiparty parliament in 1990.

After gaining its independence in 1991, Croatia had to fight for its freedom. Our victorious Homeland War enabled a new chapter in our history. Even though it is the youngest EU member state, last year Croatia celebrated the 10th anniversary of its EU membership, joined the Schengen free travel zone and adopted euro as its currency. This year, we celebrate our 15th anniversary of NATO membership.

Croatia is now one of best performing EU economies in terms of gross domes-

tic product growth. Transforming from assistance recipient to assistance provider, Croatia has made aiding Ukraine our top priority.

Croatia is known worldwide for its beauty and its rich natural and cultural heritage, including 10 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and a number of national parks. It is also at the crossroads of various cultures, which has helped us develop a very rich and diverse gastronomy. Two of the four major Croatian cuisines are based on Mediterranean cuisine, which, together with washoku, is considered the healthiest in the world.

There is also more than 2,400 years of wine-making history present, with equally impressive traditions for spirits and beer. Last year, Croatia attracted nearly 20 million tourists and many more are expected this year. We hope our Japanese friends visiting Croatia will soon return to pre-pandemic levels, when we hosted around 160,000 tourists from Japan per year.

The Japanese and Croatian people have been sharing deep friendship, sympathy and solidarity, especially in difficult times, such as the Croatian Homeland War, the Great East Japan Earthquake and other quakes that hit Zagreb and its surrounding areas in 2020, striking for the first time in 140 years.

Croatia highly values Japan's role in international relations and welcomes its dedication to pursuing an even stronger global role. Despite friendly ties, our bilateral cooperation is still far below its true potential, particularly in trade, investment and the fields of science and technology.

The Embassy of Croatia in Japan remains committed to contributing to further strengthening and deepening relations between our friendly countries.

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