
Finland Independence Day Special

Strategic partners sharing similar values

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As we celebrate Finland's 107th Independence Day anniversary, we are also appreciative for the long-standing ties between our countries.

Japan was among the first countries to

recognize Finland's independence and for more than 100 years our relationship has flourished and connections have widened to all possible sectors. In 2016, Finland and Japan also became strategic partners sharing similar values and facing similar global challenges. Like-minded bilateral collaboration is deeper and more important than ever.

As testament to our close relations, Prime Minister Petteri Orpo will arrive in Japan on Monday. The highlight of the visit will be a

meeting with Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba to address both global and geopolitical challenges and close bilateral political relations. Moreover, intensifying business and economic cooperation will be in focus. Japan is one of Finland's key trading partners in Asia. To emphasize this, a significant group of representatives from Finnish flagship companies will accompany Orpo. These companies offer sustainable solutions for the green transition and securing connectivity with their cutting-edge technological innovations.

Sustainability is indeed vital to Finland as we have set the ambitious target of achieving carbon neutrality by 2035 to become the world's first fossil-free welfare society. Since 1990, Finland has succeeded in reducing carbon dioxide emissions by an impressive 36%, while still experiencing economic growth. And our clean energy transition is progressing quickly — already over 90% of our electricity comes from fossil-free sources.

The clean and digital transitions go hand

in hand and provide excellent opportunities for business cooperation between Japan and Finland. Furthermore, the global geopolitical situation requires joint preparedness and resilience-building with the help of emerging technologies, including quantum and space technologies. The Finnish ministers of defense and science have both visited Japan recently to demonstrate the importance of collaboration in these areas. Importantly, negotiations on an equipment and technology transfer agreement will begin between our countries.

Today we celebrate the warm friendship between our nations from the early days of diplomatic recognition to today's vibrant economic relationship. We have built a strong bond of mutual respect and benefit. Together we can work for a better future.

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