
Norway National Day Special

Reliable partners in trade and sustainability

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May 17 is Norway's National Day, celebrating the adoption of our constitution in 1814, and the beginning of our independence and democracy.

The constitution became a symbol of our sovereignty after the Napoleonic Wars, which led Denmark to cede Norway to Sweden. A union was formed in which Norway retained its constitution and gained internal self-governance. This lasted until 1905, when Norway achieved full independence. Today, the 17th of May is celebrated nationwide with children's parades and festivities.

This year also marks the 120th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Japan, a key milestone in our close and long-standing

friendship. In 1905, Japan was one of the first nations to establish formal ties with an independent Norway. Since then, our partnership has been defined by shared values such as freedom, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Over the past century, trade and business collaboration have been a cornerstone of our relationship. Norway and Japan work closely in maritime industries, trade and technology. We share a strong commitment to climate action, sustainable ocean management and green technology. The Arctic is also an area of joint interest, particularly among our researchers. Our broad cooperation reflects a shared ambition to build a more sustainable and prosperous future.

The relationship deepened in December 2023, when Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre and then-Prime Minister Fumio Kishida issued a joint statement on the strategic partnership.

The world needs more energy, and clean energy. A key area for our cooperation is the

“green transition,” supported by the green industrial partnership signed by our industry ministries in 2023, with offshore wind as a top priority.

Norway is proud to join the Nordic Circle Pavilion at the 2025 World Expo in Osaka alongside the other Nordic nations. The pavilion showcases our shared vision for green transition, a circular economy and global solutions.

In today's world of rising geopolitical tensions and uncertainty in international trade, cooperation between like-minded countries is more important than ever to ensure business stability and secure resilient supply chains in critical sectors such as food, energy and raw materials. Our partnership with Japan is a vital part of this effort.

Happy May 17th!

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