

# Georgia Independence Day Special

## Sustainable, safe and open for business

**TEIMURAZ LEZHAVA**  
AMBASSADOR OF GEORGIA



On May 26, we Georgians proudly celebrate the 107th anniversary of the restoration of our statehood. In 1918, the people of Georgia declared independence and established the First

Democratic Republic of Georgia.

Our nation chose the path of peace, democracy and development — building a free country grounded in respect for the rule of law, human rights and democratic values. Sadly, the first republic was short-lived, falling to Soviet occupation in 1921.

However, in 1991, we reclaimed our independence. It is worth emphasizing that Japan was among the first countries to recognize Georgia's independence — both during the first republic and again in 1992. Japan has remained a steadfast friend and

a valuable partner throughout our journey, supporting Georgia through difficult times as we have worked to build democratic institutions and a sustainable economy.

Today, Georgia stands as one of the safest countries in the world, according to prominent international rankings. We offer a liberal and transparent tax system, a positive investment climate and a government committed to supporting businesses. These factors have contributed to an impressive average annual economic growth of around 10% over the past four years.

Strategically located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Georgia plays a key role in regional trade, serving as a hub for transport corridors, pipelines and transnational infrastructure. We maintain free trade agreements with major partners, including the European Union, Turkey and China.

Beyond our economic appeal, we take immense pride in our ancient culture, rich traditions, distinctive cuisine and the world's oldest winemaking heritage. Georgia is the cradle of wine — archaeological evidence confirms that wine was first pro-

duced in our region over 8,000 years ago.

Georgian wine pairs wonderfully with Japanese cuisine, and this cultural harmony was recognized in 2013 when traditional Georgian winemaking was inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List. From June 14 to 15, I warmly invite Tokyo residents to experience the best of Georgian cuisine and wine at the Georgian Festival in Yoyogi Park.

Georgia is also blessed with stunning landscapes and diverse nature, making it one of the world's fastest-growing tourism destinations. Each year, millions of visitors discover the charm of our mountains, coasts and vibrant cities.

In recent years, Japan and Georgia have deepened their economic partnership through important agreements, including a bilateral investment treaty, an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation, and a memorandum of cooperation establishing a joint crediting mechanism. As a result, Japanese companies are showing growing interest in Georgia, particularly in sectors such as finance, renewable energy, hospitality and manufacturing.

Thanks to our abundant water resources, 85% of Georgia's electricity comes from renewable sources. Expanding this ratio is a strategic national goal. We are also embarking on an ambitious new project — a submarine cable across the Black Sea that will connect Georgia to Romania and the broader European power grid. This project will significantly boost our export capacity and further integrate Georgia into the European energy market as a key supplier of clean, renewable energy.

Despite the global challenges of recent years, Georgia has demonstrated remarkable economic resilience and growth. Our performance has attracted the attention of Japanese investors, and we are confident that our bilateral economic ties will con-

tinue to strengthen in the coming years.

In conclusion, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our Japanese friends for their steadfast support of Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity and democratic development. I am confident that our already excellent political, economic and cultural relationship will grow even stronger and more vibrant in the years ahead.

*Gaumarjos* (cheers!)

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



Gergeti Trinity Church, one of Georgia's most famous sites, overlooks Khevi province as Mount Kazbek looms in the background.

EMBASSY OF GEORGIA



The venerable Kura River flows east through Tbilisi Old Town. EMBASSY OF GEORGIA

### Congratulations to the people of Georgia on their Independence Day



**8000 Vintages Co. Ltd.**  
Georgian specialty restaurant Ajika is preparing to open in Tokyo  
<https://www.8000vintages.jp/>  
Email: [info@8000vintages.jp](mailto:info@8000vintages.jp)

### Congratulations to the people of Georgia on their Independence Day



**NS Semicon Co., Ltd.**  
<http://www.nssemicon.com/>  
[info@nssemicon.com](mailto:info@nssemicon.com)

Congratulations  
to the People  
of  
Georgia  
on the Occasion  
of  
Their Independence Day



**JAPAN TOBACCO INC.**  
Kamiyacho Trust Tower, 1-1, Toranomon 4-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-6927 JAPAN  
Phone: (03) 6636-2914 FAX: (03) 6772-0495 URL: <http://www.jti.com>