

Azerbaijan National Day Special

Eurasian leader in energy and transportation

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AMBASSADOR OF AZERBAIJAN



With great pleasure, I am addressing the readers of The Japan Times on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Since regaining independence in 1991, Azerbaijan has become a prospering country and reached high levels of economic development, living standards and human development.

As an investor country and having a leadership role in huge regional projects, Azerbaijan plays an important role in global energy security and is a reliable transit country in Eurasia.

The country's international prestige has increased significantly, and today, Azerbaijan is one of the world's most competitive states, implementing huge energy and transportation projects with its international partners.

As President Ilham Aliyev stated, Azerbaijan is a country where east, west, north and south meet, and this is not only about geography. We can build political, cultural, energy, trade and transportation bridges between international actors. The

megaprojects initiated by Azerbaijan have already changed the energy and transportation maps of Eurasia and led to the establishment of fruitful multinational cooperation formats.

Azerbaijan is deeply committed to environmental sustainability, investing significantly in renewable energy sources. Today, Azerbaijan is a regional leader in green energy transition. In recent years, we have been prioritizing green projects all over the country. By 2030, the government aims to increase renewable energy's share to 30% of the national energy balance.

In December 2023, Azerbaijan was chosen to host the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference in November 2024 with unanimous support from all countries. It is a sign of respect for our country and our active role in the international arena, and shows the recognition of Azerbaijan's leadership and efforts in addressing climate change at the national, regional and global levels. Despite the short period of time, Azerbaijan conducted an efficient and successful COP29 climate conference with 80 heads of state and government in attendance and more than 76,000 registered participants.

This year, Azerbaijan is participating in the Osaka Expo. Indeed, Azerbaijan was the first country to sign an agreement to participate in the expo in October 2022 and is represented by a type-a self-built pavilion.

The subtheme of the Azerbaijan Pavilion is "Connecting Lives." This subtheme aims to bring people together and create communities so visitors understand how important mutual understanding and respect are for achieving a better life. It calls for uniting to share knowledge, which will help address global issues in the future.

Through innovative design, we celebrate Azerbaijan's rich cultural heritage, exemplified by the story of Prince Bahram Gur, who is looking for guidance in "The Seven Beauties" poem of Azerbaijani poet and philosopher Nizami Ganjavi, written in 1197.

Azerbaijan's pavilion at the expo presents the country's rich cultural heritage, technological advancements and commitment to sustainability. The seven arches for "The Seven Beauties" represent a particular chapter. They represent natural resources, cultural diversity, cultural heritage, traditional art, architectural pearls, sustainable development, and adventure and spirituality.

Upon entering the pavilion, guests are invited into an exceptional experience, where various cultural threads intertwine to form a rich tapestry, revealed through engaging videos and exhibits.

The Republic of Azerbaijan attaches great importance to its relations with Japan. Over the past years, we have achieved significant bilateral relations,

building strong political ties and exchanging mutual visits. Along with the giant Japanese companies involved in the leading energy projects in Azerbaijan, nowadays we have small and midsize enterprises, as well as joint ventures creating beneficial businesses both in Azerbaijan and Japan.

The government of Azerbaijan is aspiring to see Japanese business circles more proactive in the Azerbaijani market. We believe that this will bring our two friendly nations closer, and that our friendship and cooperation will develop more to cover many new fields and spheres.

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



An artist's rendering shows attendees entering the Azerbaijan Pavilion at the Osaka Expo.
EMBASSY OF AZERBAIJAN

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to the People of the Republic of Azerbaijan
on the Occasion of Their National Day



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