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# Slovenia National Day Special

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## Continuing to grow close, friendly relations

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AMBASSADOR OF SLOVENIA



This year Slovenia celebrates 34 years of independence. During this period, we have proven to be a country responsible to its international obligations and consequently

fully dedicated to the rules-based order founded on the U.N. Charter and the principles of international law.

Slovenia's second term on the United Nations Security Council affirmed this principled position on the rules and norms that should govern interactions among nations. Therefore, Slovenia strictly rejects any kind of power-based policies whose aim is to undermine the territorial integrity and political independence of sover-

eign nations. Slovenia also calls for the full respect of international humanitarian law to alleviate the suffering of civilian populations in armed conflicts.

Over the past 34 years, Slovenia has developed a robust economy, which is highly integrated into international trade. We are proud of the fact that among the member countries of the OECD, Slovenia has the second-lowest Gini coefficient (a measure of inequality, with zero representing absolute equality and one representing absolute inequality). Slovenia also has the lowest risk of poverty or social exclusion among youth under the age of 18.

Since independence, Slovenia and Japan have established very close and productive ties. The like-mindedness and high quality of economic cooperation contribute to our friendly relations. The regular political dialogue on a high-level reinforces not only bilateral cooperation, but also the joint efforts of Slovenia and Japan in support of international peace and stability.

Economic cooperation between Slovenia and Japan has shown a positive trend. Japanese investors in Slovenia have discovered that Slovenia provides a lot of engineering knowledge that matches the business goals of Japanese companies. We also believe the Osaka Expo will further boost bilateral economic cooperation.

Collaboration in the fields of science, culture, sport and people-to-people contacts notably contributes to the productive interaction between Slovenia and Japan.

Slovenia is also one of the safest, environmentally friendly and culturally rich countries, making it ideal for Japanese visitors.

As the people of Slovenia and Japan share many common cultural features, I am firmly convinced that our relations will further expand and deepen in the years to come.

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