

Turkiye National Day Special

Business opportunities eyed after 100 years of solidarity

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AMBASSADOR OF TURKIYE



I am honored to address the esteemed readers of The Japan Times on the 102nd anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye. On this meaningful day, we once again respectfully commemorate Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of the Republic of Türkiye, and pay our deepest gratitude to those who sacrificed their lives for our nation.

Guided by our enduring objective to achieve “Peace at Home, Peace in the World,” as set out by Atatürk, today we continue to follow a proactive foreign policy that reflects the genuine values of our nation.

Democracy, rule of law, human rights and global welfare are the cornerstones of our foreign policy approach.

Although our diplomatic relations with Japan officially started in 1924, our friendship goes back even further. After delivering the official gifts of the Ottoman Palace, the Ertugrul Frigate sank off the shores of Kushimoto in 1890. This tragic event, which fostered the time-tested friendship between the Turkish and Japanese people, symbolizes the beginning of our long history of solidarity. We always remember the bravery and assistance of the Japanese people who saved the Turkish sailors and sent them back home.

In the same manner, during the Iran-Iraq War in 1985, Türkiye evacuated 215 Japanese citizens from Tehran via Turkish Airlines. This evacuation was another milestone in the long history of the Turkish-Japanese friendship.

Following these memorable milestones, our friendship has consolidated even more with the solidarity mutually demonstrated after major earthquakes.

The centennial of our diplomatic relations last year has given momentum to our cooperation in every field. On this occasion, we had the honor to host Their Highnesses Crown Prince Akishino and Crown Princess Kiko. We organized numerous cultural events throughout the year, and military vessels from both countries made mutual port calls.



The old city of Mardin is known for its Artuqid architecture, dating from the 12th century. EMBASSY OF TURKIYE



Sumela Monastery clings to the side of a cliff 1,200 meters above the Altındere Valley in Trabzon. EMBASSY OF TURKIYE

Earlier this year, H.E. Numan Kurtulmus, speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, and H.E. Omer Bolat, minister of trade, visited Japan.

The visit of then-Defense Minister H.E. Gen Nakatani in August was particularly notable as the first ever to our country from Japan in this capacity.

Most recently, we had the pleasure of welcoming Her Highness Princess Akiko on her eighth visit to our country on the occasion of commemorating the 135th anniversary of the Ertugrul Frigate incident. The princess pledged to strengthen the enduring “humanitarian, cultural and scientific bridge” between Türkiye and Japan — a cherished bond spanning three generations.

Being the easternmost European and westernmost Asian country, Türkiye aims to strengthen its existing strategic ties and establish new ones. In this framework, the “Asia Anew” initiative has provided us the opportunity to lay the foundations of a comprehensive approach toward Asia and the Pacific, offering common ground with Japan’s “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy.”

In this vein, Türkiye places significant emphasis on strengthening and developing its cooperation with Japan in every field, but particularly in economic matters, energy, science, education, culture and technology.

As a clear reflection of the importance we attach to our cooperation with Japan,



Ortakoy Mosque is popular for its scenic views from the western shore of the Bosphorus Strait, with the Bosphorus Bridge as a backdrop. EMBASSY OF TURKIYE

we upgraded our relations to a strategic partnership in 2013.

Recently, we hosted the 28th meeting of the Türkiye-Japan Joint Business Council. Bringing together business leaders from both countries, the council continues to serve as a fruitful platform to explore cooperation opportunities in various sectors. We are confident that such gatherings will deepen our collaboration in trade and investment in both countries.

Tourism is another field that has potential to be explored. Last year, we welcomed 134,000 Japanese tourists to our country and 64,000 Turkish tourists visited Japan. These numbers, which have already surpassed pre-pandemic levels, are expected to increase in the near future.

Turkish Airlines operates 21 weekly flights from Tokyo and Osaka, while All Nippon Airways operates three weekly flights between Tokyo and Istanbul. We are looking forward to increasing the number of flights early next year.

Before concluding, I would like to under-



The Neolithic archaeological site of Gobekli Tepe is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. EMBASSY OF TURKIYE

line that the Osaka Expo provided an excellent opportunity to share our cultural heritage, strengthening our commitment to cultural exchange. I once again sincerely congratulate the Japanese authorities for the successful organization of the event.

In celebrating the 102nd anniversary of our republic, we are pleased to note that the Turkish and Japanese people always

stand by each other. I am confident this solidarity will pave the way for the next generations to carry our excellent social ties even further.

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

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to the People of
the Republic of Türkiye on
Their National Day



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