

Albania Flag Day Special

Gateway to Europe, partner to Japan

ERMAL MUCA
AMBASSADOR OF ALBANIA



This year, as Albania marks its 113th anniversary of independence, we also celebrate the long-standing friendship between Albania and Japan, a partnership built on mutual respect, shared dem-

ocratic values and a vision for lasting prosperity. Though geographically distant, our two nations have consistently found common ground in cooperation and trust.

Friendly relations between Albania and Japan were established in 1922, laying the foundation for a relationship that has grown steadily, particularly over recent decades. Our partnership entered a new and promising phase with Prime Minister Edi Rama's visit to Tokyo in 2023, where both governments reaffirmed their shared commitment to deeper collaboration.

Albania stands at a decisive stage in its European integration process. Following the opening of accession negotiations with the European Union in 2022, Albania continues aligning with the EU's legal and institutional framework. This progress not only brings the country closer to full EU membership, but also strengthens its position as a predictable and investment-friendly destination for global partners.

For Japanese companies, Albania offers a unique gateway to a growing market anchored in the EU regulatory system, ensuring transparency, legal certainty and access to the entire region. Opportunities are expanding in tourism, infrastructure, energy and technology; sectors where Japanese innovation and Albanian potential can create tangible results.

Since joining NATO in 2009, Albania has been an active contributor to Euro-Atlantic security and peacekeeping operations. This commitment exemplifies Albania's reliability as a partner and its accord with Japan's own dedication to global stability and democratic governance. These shared values pro-

vide a solid basis for advancing cooperation in strategic fields such as renewable energy, cybersecurity and advanced manufacturing.

Recent initiatives are giving fresh momentum to our economic partnership. The visit of a delegation from the Albania-Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry to Japan and the business mission to Albania of a delegation from the Japan External Trade Organization this year, have deepened ties between interested companies in both countries.

Additionally, regular diplomatic consultations, most recently held in Tokyo in March, continue to strengthen trust and open new avenues of collaboration.

Trade is steadily developing. Albania exports agricultural and fishery products, particularly seafood, while importing high-quality Japanese technology and machinery. Moreover, Japan's official development assistance has further supported Albania's modernization in infrastructure, health care, education and environmental protection, providing concrete expressions of friendship and partnership in action.



The Albanian Riviera boasts clear blue waters and white sand beaches. EMBASSY OF ALBANIA

As we look to the future, Albania remains committed to fostering a transparent, dynamic and welcoming business environment that encourages Japanese companies to invest and grow. Our young, educated workforce and strategic position make Albania a promising hub in South-east Europe where cooperation can flourish and innovation can thrive.

A century after our first diplomatic exchange, Albania and Japan continue to demonstrate how a shared vision and mutual respect can transform distance into partnership. I am confident that the next century of our relations will be defined by even greater collaboration, prosperity and friendship for the benefit of both our nations and the generations to come.



Participants of the sixth European Political Community Summit gather in Tirana in May.

EMBASSY OF ALBANIA

Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Albania on the Occasion of Their Flag Day

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