

Azerbaijan National Day Special

Partners in energy, business and connectivity

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AMBASSADOR OF AZERBAIJAN



It is my great pleasure to address the readers of The Japan Times on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On this meaningful day, I would like to extend my warm-

est greetings and sincere wishes to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, the imperial family, the government and the friendly people of Japan, as well as to the Azerbaijani community residing in Japan.

As Azerbaijan celebrates May 28 — the day of the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in 1918 — we proudly remember the first secular parliamentary democracy in the Muslim East and its lasting contribution to the political consciousness of our nation. Today, the Republic of Azerbaijan continues the statehood traditions of that historic republic, standing as a modern, independent and dynamic country at the crossroads of Europe and Asia.

As of 2026, Azerbaijan has achieved significant milestones in regional energy, transportation infrastructure and diplomatic leadership.

Key accomplishments include hosting the COP29 U.N. climate change conference, World Urban Forum 13, and the Formula 1 Grand Prix; restoring territorial integrity in Karabakh; expanding the “Middle Corridor” (aka the Trans-Caspian International

Transport Route); and emerging as a vital energy supplier for Europe through the Trans Adriatic and Trans-Anatolian natural gas pipelines.

Azerbaijan has also solidified its role as a regional energy hub by operating the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline.

Azerbaijan and Japan established diplomatic relations on Sept. 7, 1992, and over more than three decades our countries have developed a relationship based on mutual respect, friendship and practical cooperation. Today, this relationship is entering a new and more business-oriented stage. Economic cooperation, energy partnership, transport connectivity, green transition and investment are becoming the main drivers of Azerbaijan-Japan relations.

Energy remains one of the strongest pillars of our cooperation. Japanese companies have long participated in major Azerbaijani energy projects.

Azerbaijan’s role in energy security is particularly relevant for Japan, a country that attaches great importance to stable,

diversified and reliable energy supplies. The Caspian region, with Azerbaijan at its center, offers not only traditional energy resources, but also a growing platform for decarbonization and energy transition.

Another important direction is the large-scale reconstruction and development of Azerbaijan’s liberated territories. As a result of the 44-day Patriotic War in 2020, Azerbaijan has restored its territorial integrity and sovereignty over its entire territory as of September 2023.

This historic transformation has also opened a new chapter for peace and regional cooperation. On Aug. 8, 2025, under the personal mediation of U.S. President Donald Trump, the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia met in Washington to initial the draft “Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and Interstate Relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia.”

The green agenda is another area where Azerbaijan and Japan have already built an important foundation. In 2022, the two governments signed a memorandum of

cooperation establishing the Joint Credit-ing Mechanism in Azerbaijan.

The future of Azerbaijan-Japan relations lies in practical, mutually beneficial cooperation. Azerbaijan offers Japan a trusted partner in the South Caucasus, a reliable energy contributor, a gateway to Eurasian transport routes and a country committed to modernization and green development. Japan meanwhile offers Azerbaijan advanced technology, investment capacity, management experience and a long tradition of quality infrastructure.

As we celebrate Azerbaijan’s National Day, we look to the future with confidence. The friendship between Azerbaijan and Japan has deep historical roots, but its greatest potential lies ahead — in business, energy, transport, innovation and shared responsibility for a stable and prosperous Eurasia.

Through joint efforts, Azerbaijan and Japan can transform geographic distance into strategic connection and open a new chapter of partnership for the benefit of both countries and the wider region.



Left: Baku’s Old City is the capital’s historic core and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Right: Modern buildings populate the skyline along Baku Bay.

EMBASSY OF AZERBAIJAN

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on the Occasion of
Their National Day*

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