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# Italy National Day Special

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## Relations continue to grow in various areas

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AMBASSADOR OF ITALY



This year's National Day, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Italian Republic, carries special significance here in Japan as 2026 also marks the 160th anniversary of diplomatic relations

between our nations, an impressive milestone that testifies to the depth, persistence and vitality of a friendship that has continued to grow stronger across generations.

Over the past century and a half, Italy and Japan have built a relationship founded on mutual respect, economic complementarity, and a shared commitment to peace, global stability and international cooperation.

Today, our bilateral ties are broader and more strategic than ever. Prime Minister

Giorgia Meloni's most recent visit to Japan, in January, was another important step forward in our common journey. On that occasion, Italy and Japan redefined the relations between Italy and Japan as a special strategic partnership, reflecting the growing convergence of our interests and our shared vision for peace, prosperity and stability in both the Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic regions.

Our cooperation is expanding across the board, with a view to facing our common challenges and opportunities. The launch of a bilateral economic security dialogue in Tokyo last week embodies our determination to ensure the resilience and integration of our respective supply chains, enhance technological cooperation and better connect our top-of-the-line innovation ecosystems. These connections are aided by important private-sector initiatives such as the Italy-Japan Business Group, which has already held its 35th General Assembly, and by intense collaboration in the fields of defense and security, including in the con-

text of the Global Combat Air Programme.

We are also working in cutting-edge sectors such as space and artificial intelligence, acknowledging the importance of like-minded, highly technological nations working in domains that will shape the future.

People-to-people ties remain at the heart of our partnership. Since April, these exchanges are growing even further thanks to the entry into force of the working holiday agreement, which will allow hundreds of young Italian and Japanese people to spend a year exploring their host countries and finding suitable jobs, if they wish.

Every year, students, researchers, artists, entrepreneurs and tourists contribute to an increasingly vital exchange between our countries, as the dialogue between Italy and Japan continues to enrich both nations.

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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.*