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# Sweden National Day Special

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## Like-minded partners in freedom, prosperity

**VIKTORIA LI**

AMBASSADOR OF SWEDEN



On June 6, Sweden celebrates its National Day — a time to reflect on our history, values and the partnerships that shape our future. The day marks important milestones in Swe-

den's development as a democratic nation and reminds us of the principles we continue to uphold: freedom, peace, openness and respect for international cooperation.

For many Swedes, nature is closely linked to our identity and well-being. In early summer, when Sweden is filled with long bright days, people gather outdoors to appreciate the peace and freedom we have enjoyed for generations. Yet we are acutely aware war has returned to our region.

Not far from our borders, Ukraine is fighting for its survival against Russian aggression that has continued for over four years. By standing up for a rules-based order and the principles of the U.N. Charter, Ukraine is defending every nation that believes in freedom and nonaggression. Our support is unwavering and will continue until Ukraine prevails. On our National Day, as we celebrate our freedom, we cannot forget those who are fighting for theirs — and ultimately, ours.

This day reminds us of the many close relationships around the world that have helped shape Sweden into the diverse, inventive, prosperous and increasingly green and sustainable nation it is today. It is also an opportunity to express gratitude to our partners, including Japan, with whom Sweden shares a long-standing friendship built on trust, mutual respect and shared values. In today's rapidly changing world, cooperation between like-minded countries has become more important

than ever. Through our strategic partnership, Sweden and Japan continue to work closely on innovation, sustainability, technology, culture and societal development.

At the heart of this relationship are the many academic, tourism, culture, research and business exchanges that strengthen the ties between Swedish and Japanese society. To further deepen these connections, 2026 has been designated by the embassy as the Year of Culture and Scientific Cooperation.

This year is also special as his majesty the king celebrates his 80th birthday, alongside the royal couple's golden jubilee.

As we celebrate this day, we do so with deep appreciation for our friends and partners in Japan — with gratitude for your friendship and with hope for peace and freedom for all.

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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.*