Hungary National Day Special

Strong partnership rooted in mutual respect

ANNA AULNER-BALINT
AMBASSADOR OF HUNGARY



The 1956 revolution was a pivotal event in our history, symbolizing the struggle for freedom and independence. Seven decades ago, the Hungarian nation rose up as one against Soviet military occupation and brutal communist tyranny in an uncompromising demand for sovereignty, dignity and freedom. Looking at our world today, we are starkly reminded that freedom, peace and national security can never be taken for granted.

70 years ago, major Japanese newspapers reported extensively on the developments in Budapest, drawing attention to the courage and sacrifices of the Hungarian people. Japanese humanitarian organizations contributed to international relief efforts. This helped lay the foundations for the warm and trusting bond that continues to characterize relations between Hungary and Japan today.

Hungary and Japan enjoy an exceptional strategic partnership rooted in mutual respect, shared values and forward-looking vision. Following the formation of Hungary's government, our newly appointed foreign minister, as her first official consultation with an Asian partner, had a phone call with Japan's foreign minister. This was further consolidated this past September by a highly successful bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the V4 plus Japan foreign ministers' meeting.

Today around 200 Japanese companies operate in Hungary, creating tens of thousands of jobs and demonstrating steadfast trust in our economy. Our educational ties exemplify this, with hundreds of Japanese students forming lasting ties at prestigious Hungarian medical universities.

In high tech and innovation, our embassy successfully hosted a Japanese-Hungarian biotechnology business seminar this month at the Tokyo Innovation Base, connecting innovative Hungarian biotech firms with nearly 60 Japanese industry partners on the sidelines of the BioJapan international exhibition. Furthermore, Hungary's premium food exports enjoy a good reputation and strong demand in Japan.

All this multifaceted engagement demonstrates that our partnership rests on a firm moral foundation. The legacy of 1956 — respect for freedom, sovereignty and human dignity — remains a strong bridge between Hungary and Japan as we shape our cooperation through mutual respect.

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