

Turkey national day/world

Turkey, Japan: natural allies, reliable partners

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AMBASSADOR OF TURKEY TO JAPAN

We are celebrating today the 86th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey on Oct. 29, 1923, under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder and first president of the republic. On this special day, we pay tribute to Ataturk whose philosophy and achievements remain a source of inspiration for Turkey, and the world at large.



Today Turkey stands as an embodiment of his ideals and vision: a secular democracy, an active member of the European and Euro-Atlantic com-

munity pursuing full membership in the European Union, and a dynamic market economy supported by a vibrant private sector and a young population.

Since its establishment, the Republic of Turkey has been following a peaceful and consistent foreign policy guided by the principle "Peace at Home and Peace Abroad" set out by Ataturk. The primary objective of Turkish foreign policy is to help secure a peaceful, prosperous, stable and cooperative international environment that is conducive to human development at home and abroad.

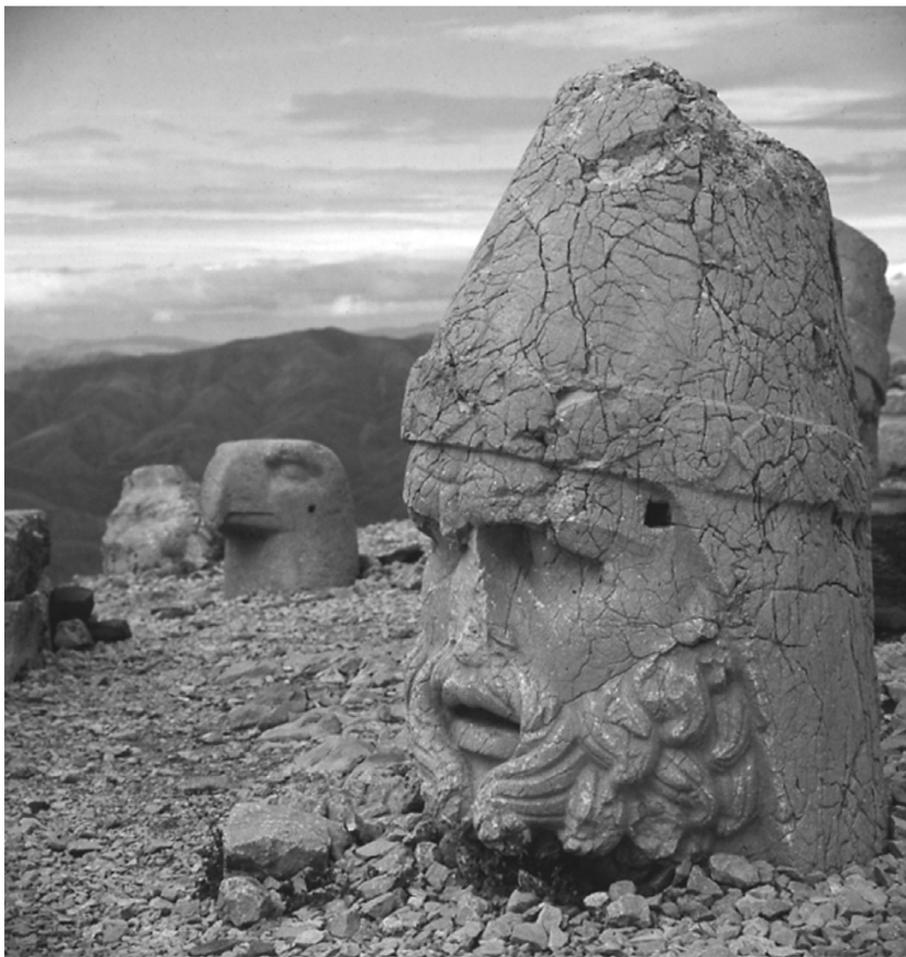
Turkey perceives Japan as a natural ally and a reliable partner in achieving these objectives. Turkey and Japan,

located on the eastern and western edges of the Asian continent, share the same ideals and common values such as peace, democracy, human rights, stability and prosperity for all humankind. Both countries also have similar approaches toward various international issues.

Since the late 19th century, beginning with the early contacts between the Ottoman and Meiji empires, Turkey and Japan have enjoyed traditionally friendly relations. Despite the vast geographical distance between the two countries, the Turkish people have always harbored a strong sympathy, and a deep respect for Japan and the Japanese people. For Turkey, Japan represents a successful combination of a great civilization and tradition with remarkable economic and technological achievements. Many people in Turkey feel that they can learn much from the experience of Japan, which has successfully modernized while maintaining its unique culture.

As a symbol of the existing friendship between the Turkish and the Japanese peoples, and to deepen the relations between the two countries, 2010 has been officially declared the "Year of Japan" in Turkey. During the course of that year, various cultural activities will be organized to introduce the different aspects of Japanese culture to the Turkish people. Moreover, high-level Japanese dignitaries are expected to visit Turkey during this period. I am certain that these activities will not only lead the Turkish people to understand and appreciate the richness of Japanese culture better but also help strengthen the existing cordial bonds between our countries.

Recognizing the importance of tourism in mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples, the governments of Turkey and Japan have designated 2010 as "Japan-Turkey Tourism Exchange Year." At the crossroads of many cultures and



Set in stone: The slopes of 2,134-meter-high Mount Nemrut in South Anatolia, Adiyaman, in southeast Turkey, are littered with vast statues from the first century B.C.

TURKISH EMBASSY OFFICE OF THE CULTURAL AND INFORMATION COUNSELOR

civilizations that brings the East and West together, Turkey attracts millions of tourists every year from all over the world. In recent years, we have happily witnessed a steady increase in the number of Japanese tourists visiting Turkey. Among all others, especially Cappadocia, Pamukkale and Istanbul have become the favorite destinations of our Japanese guests. Yet Turkey has a lot more to offer. Taking this opportunity, I would like to invite all of our Japanese friends to visit and discover Turkey during the 2010 celebrations.

Intensifying our economic, financial and commercial cooperation with Japan will be another priority for us in coming years. Indeed, Turkey and Japan have managed to establish strong relationships in these fields in the last few decades. During this period, Ja-

pan has contributed to a number of landmark development projects in Turkey through ODA loans and JICA has undertaken important technical assistance projects in Turkey. Moreover, many leading Japanese companies have invested in Turkey, and those investments have proven to be greatly successful and mutually beneficial.

Yet Turkey, a "booming" economy, with a cumulative GDP increase of 143 percent between 2003 and 2008, and a very young population and a fast-growing domestic market, centrally located between Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East, an important energy terminal and corridor connecting East and West, and having a liberal and reformist investment climate, with a dynamic and mature private sector, is calling for more direct investments from

Japan.

I sincerely believe that Turkey and Japan, sharing the same values and ideals, and having common political and economic interests, should develop a firmer and more dynamic relationship in order to address various challenges that the international community faces today. I have no doubt that such intensified cooperation between our nations will not only benefit Turkey and Japan, but also contribute to international peace, harmony and prosperity.

With this conviction, in my capacity as ambassador of Turkey, I would like to reiterate my commitment to contribute to the further strengthening and development of the ties of friendship and cooperation between Turkey and Japan, and wish happiness and continued prosperity to the people of Japan.



Maiden's Tower: Sitting on a small island in the Bosphorus off Istanbul, "Kiz Kulesi" dates back to 408 B.C. Used for centuries as a lighthouse, the tower is home to a cafe and restaurant with spectacular views of the former Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman capital.

Congratulations

on the Occasion of the 86th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey

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Religious masterpieces: The walls and vaults of Istanbul's St. Sophia are decorated with Byzantine mosaics.

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Congratulations

to the People of the Republic of Turkey on the Occasion of their National Day

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