

Bulgaria national day

Historic transformations improve centuries-old state

Lubomir Todorov
AMBASSADOR OF BULGARIA

With a population of nearly 8 million people, Bulgaria is situated in the center of the Balkan Peninsula. Though its area is small, it has diverse nature, including mountains with renowned ski resorts, Black Sea coast beaches, many rivers and plains with the most fertile types of soil, providing natural conditions for centuries of tradition in agriculture.



Being a nice place to live, our lands have been inhabited since long ago. Evidence of the Thracian civilization dates from about 5,000 B.C. Our archaeologists have excavated numerous gold and platinum treasures from that period and they have been proved to be the oldest processed precious metals in Europe.

The next historic layer is connected with the Roman Empire, which expanded through Bulgaria, leaving plenty of unique monuments. A few years ago, the remains of the second-biggest Roman amphitheater in the world, after the Colosseum in Rome, were discovered in the capital Sofia.

In the year 681, the local population mixed together with the Proto-Bulgarians, who came from Central Asia, and Slavs, who came from the north, forming the first Bul-

garian state. In the next few centuries Bulgaria was a well-functioning state. We were speaking our language and writing in the Cyrillic alphabet, which later spread to oth-

er countries. Economy and culture flourished. We stayed resilient enough to preserve our language, culture, religion, traditions, and national identity during 500 years of Ottoman invasion.

After the collapse of the communist regime, the country has undergone a historic transformation into a democratic nation with a functioning and competitive free-market economy. Restructuring major sectors of national economy during the process of negotiating EU membership increased efficiency and output standards in many areas.

Bulgaria achieved its strategic foreign policy goals during the transition period:

In 2004 we joined NATO. Our foreign policy has gone beyond the Euro-Atlantic area

and Bulgaria "opened up" for a number of partners from Asia and Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. Now Bulgaria is seen by our partners as a stable and predictable state, consistent in its actions, a generator of stability in the region, with its own contribution in the fight against terrorism.

The year 2007, when Bulgaria joined the European Union, marks the triumph of historic justice. The roots and preconditions for this event are embedded in the centuries-old development of the Bulgarian national spirit and statehood.

Many decades of traditional friendship, including highest-level state visits, mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation and rich cultural exchange have made the geo-

graphic distance between Bulgaria and Japan irrelevant. Undoubtedly, the deep structural changes in Bulgaria during the last decade have added new dimensions for the further expansion of our bilateral relations. Bulgaria and Japan are sharing the same values of civilization and similar positions on all major global issues, and exploring new fields of cooperation is a noble mixture of honor, challenge and duty.



Tradition: "Kukeri" is a ritual for driving away evil spirits to have a good harvest, health and happiness. EMBASSY OF BULGARIA

Bulgarian computer revolution

The world of today would look quite different without computers. In the relatively short span of time that has elapsed since the world's first electronic digital computer was invented in 1939, computers have become universal tools that are an integral part of our life. Yet, comparatively few people know that John Atanasoff, the genius who invented the first computer and initiated the computer revolution, was a Bulgarian born in the United States, who took pride in his Bulgarian heritage and maintained strong ties to his ancestral home of Bulgaria.

In December 1939, working with his graduate student Clifford Berry, John Atanasoff developed and built the prototype of the first electronic digital computer.

In their history of the ENIAC computer, Alice R. Burks and

Arthur W. Burks summarize the Atanasoff achievement as follows: "He invented a new type of a serial storage module, applicable to digital electronic computing. He formulated, developed and proved the major principles involved in electronic circuits for digital computing, principles that included arithmetical operations, control, transition from one to another number base systems, transfer and storage of data, and synchronized clocking of the operations. Having applied that data storage and those principles, he constructed a well-balanced electronic computer with centralized architecture, including storage, and arithmetically controlled input/output devices. He had invented the first-ever specialized electronic computer with such a degree of multi-aspect applicability."

Congratulations
on the National Day of
the Republic of Bulgaria



HOTEL IBIS ROPPONGI

<http://www.ibis-hotel.com>

phone:03-3403-4411 fax:03-3479-0609

14-4, Roppongi 7-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Congratulations
to the People of the Republic of Bulgaria
on the Occasion of Their National Day



ITOCHU Corporation

<http://www.itochu.co.jp/>

Tokyo Head Office 2-5-1 Kita Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo Tel. 03-3497-2121
Osaka Head Office 4-1-3 Kyutaromachi, Chuo-ku, Osaka Tel. 06-6241-2121