

# Luxembourg national day

## A small nation shows its cosmopolitan nature

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LUXEMBOURG TO JAPAN

Our National Day celebrates the birthday of the Grand Duke. On this occasion, I warmly greet Japan Times readers.

No other developed country possesses as many foreign residents (40 percent) or an economy that trades proportionately as much with the outside (80 percent of what we produce). This openness comes with many challenging questions in the social, cultural and educational fields but is definitely an advantage when confronting our future.

The Embassy of Luxembourg in Tokyo is pleased to present three examples of the country's cosmopolitanism.

Kevin Marchetti, who works at La Résidence, a luxury hotel in Vietnam, prepares dishes at our National Day celebration this year. His stay is financed by the Luxembourg government, which devotes the equiv-



**Art: Luxembourg paintings of Japan are on view at the embassy from June 23.**

alent of 0.9 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) to development cooperation, including with Vietnam. Marchetti trained with Lea Linster, winner of the Paul Bocuse Award, and was the best student of his class.

Alan Johnston, a Scotsman with Luxembourg ancestry, is

an artist settled in Luxembourg. His work celebrates nature, which is why the Luxembourg Embassy coordinated his stay in Kijimadaira, an alpine village in Nagano Prefecture, with which our country has long-lasting people-to-people exchanges. Johnston will be showing 27 of his paintings at the embassy, starting June 23.

Patrick Hein will be at the embassy to discuss his recent book "How the Japanese Became Foreign to Themselves: The Impact of Globalization on the Private and Public Spheres in Japan," published by LIT Verlag in Germany in 2009. Hein came to Japan in 1989 and now works at a Japanese company. It argues that repressed needs for equality, plurality and independence have made their way back through increased civil political participation and that this process is driven by the renaissance of the pre-Meiji samurai principle of ethical individualism.

The trilingual system of edu-

cation in my country fascinates foreigners and especially Japanese people. Counting Lëtzebuergesch, all Luxembourgers in effect speak four languages! For those readers who would like to learn more on this feat and on the making of modern Luxembourg generally, I warmly recommend a book that was recently written in Japanese by former Ambassador of Japan Kazuhito Tatebe called "Luxembourg, a Small but Great Country" ("Chiisana Taikoku"), published by Kamakura Shunju Publishing. Tatebe provides answers to pressing questions like the secret behind the country's high GDP per capita, the reasons for its important presence in the EU despite its size and also the history of its mysterious language Lëtzebuergesch.

May I conclude by wishing all Luxembourgers in Japan a happy National Day and thanking all Japanese who have visited Luxembourg and perhaps intend to do so.