

Turkey national day

Bond of friendship gives character to relations

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CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF TURKEY

It is a great pleasure to address the readers of The Japan Times on the occasion of the Turkish national day. I extend my warmest greetings to our Japanese friends as well as the Turkish community living in Japan.



At the outset, remembering victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, I would like to reiterate, on behalf of the Turkish people and my own, our sincerest sympathy and solidarity with the Japanese people who have been affected by the disaster. The high-minded spirit demonstrated by the Japanese people in the midst of despair and hardships after the disaster deserves every word of praise.

It is safe to say that the historic friendship between the Turkish and the Japanese nations actually began with the tragedy of the Ertugrul frigate of the Ottoman Navy, which dashed into rocks near Kushimoto, Wakayama Prefecture, in 1890 on its return from a voyage of friendship to Japan. Since then, the two nations have always managed to derive even more consolidated feelings of friendship and solidarity even out of disasters. Recently, we witnessed solidarity and sup-

port from the Japanese government and people for the earthquake disaster that took place in eastern Turkey on Oct. 23. This bond of friendship between our peoples gives character to our relationship.

Today, Turkish people are celebrating the 88th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey on Oct. 29, 1923. After almost nine decades of a steady walk, Turkey now stands as an embodiment of its founding father Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's ideals and vision: a secular democracy, an active member of the European and Euro-Atlantic community pursuing full membership in the European Union and a dynamic market economy supported by a vibrant private sector and a young population.

Turkey and Japan, located on the eastern and western edges of the Asian continent, share similar ideals and common values, such as peace, democracy, rule of law, stability and prosperity for all human kind. Both countries also have similar approaches toward various international issues. Enhanced cooperation between Turkey and Japan on the basis of those ideals and values will be instrumental in terms of promoting and sustaining international peace.

In order to deepen bilateral relations, we give utmost importance to cultural exchanges.

In this respect, tourism contributes significantly to the mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples. We have happily witnessed that around 200,000 Japanese tourists visited Turkey in 2010. This achievement was recently crowned with The Best Tourism Office Award given by the Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA) to the Turkish Tourism Office in Tokyo. We invite all of our Japanese friends to visit and discover Turkey in the years ahead.

Moreover, we are glad to see an increasing interest from Japanese companies to invest more in Turkey. In the last few years, important projects have been undertaken by several Japanese companies. In parallel with Turkey's growing economy, we are improving our infrastructures. Energy, among other fields, seems to be one of the most promising sectors in Turkey in which to invest.

In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to announce the forthcoming Turkey-Japan Economic Forum, which will be held on Dec. 5 in Tokyo, with the participation of H.E. Ali Babacan, deputy prime minister for economic and financial affairs of the Republic of Turkey. I hereby invite Japanese businessmen to this forum, which will help to increase economic exchanges between the business communities of the two countries.



Cosmopolitan: Located in Istanbul, the sixth-century Hagia Sophia is a key surviving example of Byzantine architecture. Once a cathedral, later a mosque, the UNESCO World Heritage site is now a museum. TURKISH EMBASSY OFFICE OF THE CULTURAL AND INFORMATION COUNSELOR

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 international challenges that the

international community faces today. I have no doubt that such an intensified cooperation between our nations will not only benefit Turkey and Japan, but also contribute to the international peace, harmony and prosperity at large. With this conviction,

we would like to reiterate our commitment to contribute to the further strengthening and development of the existing ties of friendship and cooperation between Turkey and Japan, and wish happiness and continued prosperity to the people of Japan.



Ruins: Ephesus (Efes in Turkish), near Izmir, Turkey, was one of the major ancient Greek cities and draws many tourists. TURKISH EMBASSY OFFICE OF THE CULTURAL AND INFORMATION COUNSELOR



Natural wonders: The rock sites of Cappadocia are a popular tourist destination due to the unique geological, historic and cultural features, such as the "fairy chimneys" formation near Goreme. TURKISH EMBASSY OFFICE OF THE CULTURAL AND INFORMATION COUNSELOR

**On this National Day,
We Wish to Express Our Deepest Sympathy
to the People of the Republic of Turkey**

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