

# Romania national day

## Activities in Japan show Romanians' solidarity

Petre Stoian  
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF ROMANIA

On behalf of the Embassy of Romania to Japan, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all Romanian citizens living in Japan on the occasion of the National Day of Romania.



Every Dec. 1, Romania celebrates a momentous day in its history: the Great Union of 1918, when all the three major territories inhabited by Romanians joined together to form a sovereign, unitary state.

From the outset, bearing in mind the Great East Japan Earthquake, the tsunami and the ensuing nuclear accident that hit Japan on March 11, I would like to express our heartfelt compassion for the victims and the bereaved families. This year has been an extremely challenging one for Japan, but I am confident that it will overcome the hardships in due time.

The Great East Japan Earthquake had a major impact on the country. As part of the international relief effort, in solidarity with the Japanese people, Romania provided material and moral support to the victims of the March 11 disaster. Moreover, this September, 15 students from the University of Fukushima were invited to spend two weeks in Romania, in order to help them

discover Romanian culture and make new friends. During their stay in Romania, the Japanese students visited several cities, and mountain and seaside resorts. The program included different social and cultural activities such as visits to museums and other tourist sites, meetings with Romanian officials, with representatives of nongovernmental organizations and with Romanian students of the Japanese language and culture.

As always, this year has provided new opportunities for an extended bilateral dialogue and a direct exchange of experience on political, economic and cultural matters.

After last year's visit to Japan by the President of Romania H.E. Traian Basescu, high-level meetings continued through 2011 as well, the Black Sea cooperation process being a field of interest actively pursued by our two countries. Cooperation in this region has great potential for the development of relations between Romania and Japan, and the ministerial meetings in Bucharest and Tokyo this year underlined the importance that both governments place on this matter. Romania has organized a series of seminars on the topic, the most recent being the fourth edition of the The Black Sea NGO Forum in Bucharest from Oct. 6 to 8.

Romania and Japan have a long tradition of cooperation in the economic field to the satisfaction of both sides. In recent

years, Romanian and Japanese economic delegations have met numerous times to discuss potential business and investment opportunities. Japanese exports to Romania consist mainly of car components, electrical equipment, motor vehicles, etc., while Romanian exports to Japan are timber, food products such as wine and honey, cosmetics, clothes, etc. I am proud to announce that Romanian wine has been gaining a lot of attention recently both from consumers and wine specialists in Japan, and rightfully so.

On a multilateral level, Romania, as a fully fledged member of the European Union since

2007, is strongly in favor of an economic partnership agreement (EPA) between the EU and Japan, and hopes that official negotiations in this respect will begin as soon as possible.

Cultural cooperation is constantly developing thanks to the efforts of the Japan-Romania friendship associations whose activities embrace music, visual arts, handicrafts and sculpture.

The seventh edition of the Romania International Music Competition in Tokyo from Aug. 24 to 27 drew large crowds, who came to watch the 96 contestants vie for first place. The grand winner, violinist Mayuko Ishigami, 19, received a prize of ¥500,000

and the opportunity to record a CD with the Romanian Radio Chamber Orchestra in 2012. Next year, she will also go to Romania on a concert tour.

The embassy organized several other Romanian cultural workshops, handicraft exhibitions, classical music concerts and talked to elementary, middle and high school and university students about the country it represents.

Academic collaboration continued to develop in 2011 as well. The President of the Romanian Cultural Institute, Horia-Roman Patapievici, visited Japan in February and met with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, university professors and publishers. Ways of improving the visibility of Romania in Japan and of Japan in Romania were the main topics of these meetings. The chancellor of the University of Bucharest, Ioan Panzaru, met with the management of Meiji University in Tokyo and talked about exchange programs currently in progress and future prospects. Both scholars visited Japan at the invitation of the Japan Foundation.

The number of activities organized by our country in Japan during this challenging year sends a clear message that Romania is fully committed to developing the friendly relations



Landmark: Opened in 1888, the Romanian Athenaeum is a concert hall in the center of the capital Bucharest. EMBASSY OF ROMANIA

existing between our two countries and to supporting the future of Japan.

I would like to extend an invitation to the Japanese people to

come and visit Romania in order to discover on their own the rich and unique beauty of our nature and of our culture, as well as the friendly people of our country.

## Bilateral exchanges developing in many fields

Akihisa Nagashima  
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-ROMANIA  
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

On behalf of the Japan-Romania Parliamentary Friendship League, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of Romania. Taking this opportunity, I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the assistance extended by the government and the people of Romania after



the March 11 Great East Japan Earthquake.

Today, the relationship between Japan and Romania has developed in a wide range of areas. Based on common and fundamental values such as democracy and the rule of law, Japan and Romania are tackling global issues together.

This cordial relationship came in focus again in 2009 when Japan and Romania celebrated the 50th anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relations. During the anniversary year, Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino visited Romania, while H.E. Traian Basescu,

president of Romania, visited Japan in March 2010. Furthermore, after the Great East Japan Earthquake, as a sign of solidarity, the government of Romania invited 15 students from the Fukushima region to Romania.

As for the economic field, a number of Japanese companies have been operating in Romania and it is expected that the economic relationship between the two countries will deepen even further.

The cultural exchange is also developing actively. Throughout the year, the Embassy of Romania in Tokyo organizes various Romanian cultural events, such

as a lace exhibition, classical music concerts, etc., which are popular with the Japanese people. In November, the Japan Month was held in Bucharest. It is my great pleasure to be able to say that both countries' culture have mutually been well received.

As the president of the Japan-Romania Parliamentary Friendship League, I should like to work actively to promote friendship and cooperation between our two countries. I send my best wishes to the people of Romania for the further prosperity and development of our cordial relationship.



Legendary: The Hunyadi Castle is the most important monument in Hunedoara in the Transylvania region. EMBASSY OF ROMANIA

Congratulations  
to the People  
of  
Romania  
on the Occasion  
of  
Their National Day

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to the people of  
Romania  
on their National Day*

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