

# Hungary national day

## New dynamics between Japan and Hungary further relationship

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AMBASSADOR OF HUNGARY

Today we commemorate Oct. 23, 1956, the starting date of the democratic revolution against the oppressive Stalinist regime installed by the Soviet Union. On this day in 1956 Hungarians of all walks of life rose up against insurmountable odds to fight for democracy. Thousands of Hungarians died, hundreds of thousands were forced to flee and many were persecuted. Although the revolution was oppressed, it meant the first crack in the Iron Curtain that had divided the European continent for decades.

The 1956 Hungarian revolution drew the sympathy of the free and democratic countries, including Japan, for which we will always remain grateful. A similar wave of sympathy and help surged toward Japan from all around the world after the Great East Japan Earthquake last year. As an ambassador to Japan I was closely following the reconstruction efforts with not only sympathy but also with great respect. The amazing pace of recovery and the braveness and resilience of the Japanese people won the admiration of everyone.

I would also like to take this opportunity to review some of the main developments of the previous year. It is not an exaggeration to say that this past year

has brought new dynamics to the friendly relations between Japan and Hungary in many fields.

Most recently, in early October, Hungary successfully hosted the Budapest Conference on Cyberspace Security with high-level presentations and participants from Japan, including Tadashi Onodera, president of KDDI.

In culture, which is one of the strongest ties between our nations, there have been a number of concerts with world-famous artists, such as Zoltan Kocsis, Dezso Ranki, Miklos Perenyi, Gabor Takacs-Nagy, to name only a few of them. Besides the maestros, young talents also performed on stages in Japan, like violinists Kristof Barati and Barnabas Kelemen and cellist Tamas Varga. We are especially proud of Miyuji Attila Kaneko, the Hungarian-Japanese pianist, who recently won the Idemitsu Music Award for his outstanding achievements in the field of classical music. Another event of great significance was the performance "Shockheaded Peter" by the Orkeny Theatre, which was chosen for the renewal opening of the Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre. A symbolic act of the flourishing and colorful cultural relations will take place on Oct. 28 with the inauguration of the statue by Hungarian sculptor Sandor Kligl on the "Aoyama International Street," which will be the very first piece of art decorating this lovely venue in Minato Ward.

One of the most important and strongest pillars of Japa-



**Cultural exchange: A statue by Hungarian sculptor Sandor Kligl in Minato Ward, Tokyo, will be inaugurated on Oct. 28.** EMBASSY OF HUNGARY

nese-Hungarian relations is the continuously growing number of exchange students studying in Japan and Hungary. I must emphasize the role of the Josai University Corp. and its chancellor, Noriko Mizuta, who has contributed the most to the recent boom in the number of Hungarian students who were given the opportunity to follow studies in Japan. Besides the scholarships offered by the Japanese government, the Mizuta Hungary scholarship program is the most essential and wide-ranging opportunity for young Hungarians aiming to study in this beautiful country. Speaking

of Josai, in the coming days the campus will host a commemorative event where distinguished guests from Hungary, Sweden and Israel will plant a birch tree remembering the 100th anniversary of Raoul Wallenberg's birth, who was a young, courageous Swedish diplomat working in Hungary in 1944 and saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews.

In the field of economics, I need to stress that Japan is the biggest and most vital investor in Hungary from the Asian continent. Today there are more than 130 Japanese companies having invested and operating

in Hungary, out of which 39 are manufacturing companies. Soon after the transition to a market

economy in the early-1990s, large-scale investments such as the Suzuki Motors plant in Esztergom contributed significantly to the quick, successful and smooth passage from socialism to the market economy. Japanese investors are particularly important to us: They are not only bringing capital and creating jobs, but also sharing with us their state-of-the-art technology and exceptional corporate and business culture.

Although the surge of Japanese investments seems to have settled down, I am happy to say that we continue to welcome new investors from Japan, such as those behind the new manufacturing plant by Ibiden and Asahi Glass.

In order to attract more business from Japan, we are holding an extensive investment seminar in Tokyo with the help of the International Economic Exchange Association, in which two vice ministers from Hungary will be the featured guests.

With my closing words I would like to greet all Hungarians living, studying and working here in Japan, who make a tremendous contribution to Hungarian-Japanese ties, even during the hardships after the terrible disaster last year, when many of our compatriots did their best and volunteered to help the Japanese people in need. It must remind us that the

strongest foundation of our relations is the ties between individuals and civic groups.

In conclusion, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to The Japan Times for providing me with this opportunity to celebrate our national day and to address the distinguished readers.

Long live the Hungarian-Japanese friendship!

## Congratulations on the Occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Hungary

**Congratulations**  
*on the Occasion of the National Day*



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