

Belarus national day

Belarus and Japan: new perspectives on the development of relations

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AMBASSADOR OF BELARUS

Today, July 3 — Independence Day of the Republic of Belarus — let me, on behalf of the people and the government of my country, express my deepest respect to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Japanese government and the people of Japan — to everyone who is constructing this modern and prosperous country.



It's been a year since the last message of the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus to the readers of The Japan Times. And this time has not been wasted in terms of Belarusian-Japanese relations.

Our cooperation in the sphere of rehabilitation of the regions that suffered from the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear disaster has been deeply developed, including direct contacts with the representatives of the Diet, several specialized governing bodies, business and public organizations. In December 2012 an intergovernmental agreement for cooperation in overcoming the consequences of nuclear power plant accidents was signed.

During the year there have been mutual visits of more than 30 groups of specialists from both countries, concerning the problems of child rehabilitation, agriculture in the regions exposed to radioactive contamination, medical and social care, radiation-level monitoring, and

the legislative support of central and local governments in the regions affected by the accident. There is no doubt that effective cooperation between our countries in this area will help to solve the problems of rehabilitation in Fukushima Prefecture, as well as the adjacent sea area, much quicker and at lower cost.

Belarus takes part in these activities with an open heart — for we will never forget the support Japan provided and still provides to our country after the horrible Chernobyl disaster.

Still our cooperation in the area of rehabilitation is just one side of our mutual work in the field of economic and humanitarian cooperation.

The interactions between large Japanese companies, such as Marubeni, Toshiba, Sojitz, Sharp, and Belarusian chemical and microelectronic enterprises, relating to Japanese high-tech equipment supplies to our country, have been developing steadily in recent months. On the other hand, there has also been growth in exports of Belarusian high-technology products, such as laser equipment, dosimetric and radiometric monitoring devices, physiological analysis equipment and modern chemical fibers. In 2012 the heads of several key Belarusian institutions — such as the Ministry of Economics, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Chamber of Commerce — paid a working visit to Japan. Thus a background for reconsidering the importance of the economic partnership between our two countries has been formed.

The more the contacts develop, the more obvious is the inter-



Energy source: Launched in 1975 in the south of Belarus, the Mozyr Oil Refinery is one of two deep oil refining facilities in the country. EMBASSY OF BELARUS

est of the business communities of both countries in organizing a joint production and marketing business in the chemical industry and optoelectronic equipment production.

The Republic of Belarus meets its Independence Day in a stable

economic situation, with growth in industrial and agricultural production, followed by growth in GDP and exports of our production to more than 100 countries all over the world. The preparations for the 2014 Ice Hockey World Championships, which

will take place in Minsk, are being completed.

Belarus plays an active role in the development of international relations, being one of the founding members of the United Nations, it takes the initiative in solving pressing global issues. Be-

ing a peaceful state, which unilaterally renounced the possession of nuclear weapons after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Belarus develops its relations with the world community based on the principles of neighborliness, mutual understanding, noninterference and nonuse of force in settling disputes. There are no interethnic or interfaith contradictions in Belarus, although more than 100 nationalities representing all the major religions reside in our country. Together with the social-oriented state policy this forms the conditions in which social inequality is excluded completely.

Our government pays its tribute to the impressive achievements of Japan in economic, humanitarian and social spheres. Japan is a world leader in various fields and in many ways it can be esteemed as a model of future development.

The people of Belarus wish your country every success in the spheres of economic development, territory rehabilitation and international relations, as well as health and well-being to all Japanese families.



Cultural heritage: Completed in the early 16th century, the Mirsky Castle complex in northwestern Belarus was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2000. EMBASSY OF BELARUS

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