

Turkey national day

Time-tested friendship stronger than ever

H.E. Serdar Kılıç
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF
TURKEY

It is a great pleasure for me to address the readers of The Japan Times on the occasion of the Turkish National Day. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest greetings to our Japanese friends as well as the Turkish community living in Japan.



Today, the Turkish people are celebrating the 90th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey on Oct. 29, 1923. After almost nine decades of a steady walk, Turkey stands as an embodiment of the ideals and vision of its founding father Mustafa Kemal Atatürk: 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. Today, Turkey is the world's 17th and Europe's sixth-largest economy.

The Republic of Turkey, since its establishment, has been pursuing a peaceful foreign policy guided by the principle "Peace at Home and Peace Abroad." The primary objective of our foreign policy is to help secure a peaceful, prosperous, stable and cooperative international environment that is conducive to human development at home and abroad. In order to attain its national and international objectives, Turkey has adhered to the principles of good relations and cooperation with all countries, and has consistently contributed to international peace, stability, security and prosperity.

Turkey and Japan, located on the eastern and western edges of the Asian continent, share

similar ideals and objectives in their foreign policies based on peace, democracy, rule of law, stability and prosperity for all humankind. 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.

Japan is the oldest friend of Turkey in East Asia. 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 off the coast of Kushimoto/Wakayama in 1890 on its return from a voyage of friendship to Japan. Since then, the two nations have always managed to derive still more consolidated feelings of friendship and solidarity even out of disasters. This bond of friendship between our peoples gives character to our relationship.

This year, the Turkish Embassy will be organizing a special exhibition in memory of the Ertugrul frigate disaster, through which we intend to increase awareness about the special place and importance of the Ertugrul in the common history of Turkey and Japan. The exhibition at the embassy residence will be open from Oct. 30 to Nov. 19, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. I am inviting all the readers to this exhibition. They can get additional information on the exhibition as well as the story of the Ertugrul through the "Embassy Announcements" section of the Turkish Embassy website.

It gives us the utmost pleasure to see that time-tested ties, spirit of solidarity and cooperation between Turkey and Japan are getting stronger and deeper each and every day.

It is indisputable that economic, commercial and business relations do have a key importance in elevating the cur-



Cityscape: A view of Istanbul from near the Golden Horn, the Bosphorus inlet that divides the city and forms the natural harbor. TURKISH EMBASSY



Meeting point: The Bosphorus forms part of the boundary between Europe and Asia. TURKISH EMBASSY

rent cooperation and interaction to the highest level, which is the "Strategic Partnership" as declared during Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Turkey last May.

At this point, I would like to emphasize the common political will of the Turkish and the Japanese governments to further strengthen and enhance our relations, particularly in the economic sphere.

The Economic Partnership

Agreement (EPA) process between our two countries is an important manifestation of this common political will. Definitely, a comprehensive EPA between Turkey and Japan will constitute a sound and fertile basis for our business and commercial relations to flourish in terms of volume, depth and diversity, thus bringing the whole big potential into play. It goes without saying that courageous and farsighted steps to be taken

by Japanese and Turkish companies will be the key factor in order to cover ground on such a basis to be provided by the EPA. We are fully supporting the vision that Japanese companies expand their investments and business presence in a full range of strategic sectors in Turkey and beyond.

Japan is a long-standing partner of Turkey in key infrastructure and development projects in Turkey. In this regard, the latest outstanding example is the "Marmaray" rail transportation project, which has been funded and constructed in large part by JICA and Japanese companies. "Marmaray" is opening to service today (Oct. 29) on the 90th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey. This large-scale transport infrastructure project, together with its



Relaxation: The hot spring in Pamukkale, which means cotton castle in Turkish. TURKISH EMBASSY

undersea crossing across the Bosphorus, which connects the Asian and the European sides of Istanbul, will serve not only this historic city but also the whole world by enabling seamless transport from Western Europe to East Asia, namely the historic Silk Road.

As another infrastructure project, Izmit Bay Bridge, which is also being engineered and constructed by Japanese companies, will be the fourth-longest suspension bridge in the world. These examples were crowned by the Sinop Nuclear Power Plant Project in which Japan was given the exclusive right of negotiations for the construction. Such projects bring about far-reaching and long-lasting interaction among a wide range of sectors in the fields of services and industry,

as well as science, technology and training. We strongly believe that these landmark projects are set to bring multiplier effects on Turkey-Japan economic, commercial, scientific and technological relations, which are already driven by the time-tested friendship and solidarity between the two nations and governments.

Education is one of the top priorities of the Turkish government. As a country with a target of \$25,000 per capita income, we are taking substantial steps in the area of education in a way that will enable and sustain improved innovation and R&D activities in Turkey. These are among the key areas that we must achieve significant progress in in the years to come. That is why Turkey is also eager to enhance its cooperation with

Japan in the field of education, innovation and R&D.

In order to deepen our bilateral relations, we also give utmost importance to cultural exchanges. In this respect, we regard 2014 as a great opportunity to further enhance our cultural exchanges, which will mark the 90th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Japan. Tourism, as another important tool for cultural exchange, also contributes significantly to the mutual understanding and friendship between our peoples. With the imminent beginning of the second daily Turkish Airlines flight (from Nov. 4) between Istanbul and Tokyo, we are confident that the number of Japanese tourists visiting Turkey will exceed the current level of 200,000.

Last, I would like to reiterate my conviction that Turkey and Japan, sharing the same values and ideals, and having common political and economic interests, should develop an even firmer and still more dynamic relationship in order to address various international challenges that the global 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 international peace, harmony and prosperity.

With these thoughts and sentiments, I salute the mutual determination of Turkey and Japan for the further strengthening of the existing excellent ties of friendship, cooperation and solidarity between our two countries, as well as our brotherly peoples.

Congratulations
on the Occasion of
the 90th Anniversary of
the Proclamation of
the Republic of Turkey



**HAZAMA ANDO
CORPORATION**

General Contractors, Architects & Engineers

6-1-20, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8658, Japan
Phone: 03-6234-3600 Fax: 03-6234-3703

Congratulations
on the Occasion
of
the 90th Anniversary
of
the Proclamation
of
the Republic of Turkey



JAPAN TOBACCO INC.

JT Bldg., 2-1, Toranomon 2-Chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8422, JAPAN
Phone: (03) 5582-3111 Fax: (03) 5572-1463 URL: http://www.jt.com

Congratulations
on the Occasion of the 90th Anniversary of
the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey

IHI

Realize your dreams

IHI Infrastructure Systems Co., Ltd.

3-banchi, Ohama-nishimachi, Sakai-ku, Sakai-shi, Osaka 590-0977
TEL: +81-72-223-0981 FAX: +81-72-223-0967

Congratulations
on the Occasion of
the 90th Anniversary of
the Proclamation of
the Republic of Turkey



ITOCHE Corporation

<http://www.itochu.co.jp/>

TOKYO Headquarters 5-1, Kita-Aoyama 2-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo Tel. 03-3497-2121
OSAKA Headquarters 1-3, Umeda 3-chome, Kita-ku, Osaka Tel. 06-7638-2121

Congratulations
on the Occasion of
the 90th Anniversary of
the Proclamation of
the Republic of Turkey

The Japan-Turkey Society

President: Hiroshi Sawada

c/o ITOCHU Building

5-1, Kita-Aoyama 2-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0061

Congratulations
on the Occasion of
the 90th Anniversary of
the Proclamation of
the Republic of Turkey

Mitsubishi Corporation

Congratulations
on the Occasion of
the 90th Anniversary of
the Proclamation of
the Republic of Turkey



MITSUI & CO., LTD.

Turkey national day

Robust economy continues to grow

Today, the Turkish people are celebrating the 90th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey.

As we are also entering today the last 10 years to the 100th anniversary of our republic, Turkey has already set to realize its 2023 Vision, which is based on the main goal of making Turkey one of the top 10 economies in the world, with \$2 trillion of GDP, 25,000 of per capita income and \$500 billion of exports.

As for the ground that Turkey has covered in the past 10 years to 2013, the Turkish economy has grown with an average annual real GDP growth rate of 5 percent, which has made it one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. With a GDP of around \$800 billion, Turkey is the world's 17th-largest economy.

Robust economic performance and strong economic fundamentals have also boosted Turkey's exports over the past decade, registering a more than fourfold increase between the years 2002 and 2012. Moreover, Turkey has diversified its exports in terms of both markets and products.

Export opportunities are further enhanced by bilateral and multilateral free-trade agreements. Turkey has a Customs Union agreement with the European Union and FTAs with 21 countries. The process for an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between Turkey and Japan is also well under way.

Manufacturers in Turkey are also taking advantage of the country's strategic location. Turkey is situated at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa, in close proximity of a market of 1.5 billion people; a combined GDP of \$25 trillion and \$8 billion of foreign trade. All this is reachable within a three-hour flight.

Exporters and investors in Turkey are also well connected with the rest of the world through Turkish Airlines' growing international flights. Today it flies to over 230 destinations in more than 100 countries.

That is why multinational

companies have been relocating their regional headquarters to Turkey, taking advantage of Turkey's key geostrategic position. Strategic location, strong economic performance and many other incentives have also made Turkey a manufacturing hub in the region.

Favorable demographic structure also makes Turkey a very attractive place to invest. Today, half of the Turkish population of about 75 million people is under the age of 30, transforming the country into a large pool of young and dynamic labor in the region. This young and dynamic population, together with a robust economic performance and decent education policies, enabled Turkey to have a very skilled labor force. Today, Turkey trains world-class engineers and managers.

As for the investment climate in Turkey, the government has undertaken a comprehensive reform program over the past decade in order to attract more foreign direct investment. As a result of these reforms, Turkey has rapidly climbed up the ladder of global competitiveness league in recent years. Accordingly, Turkey has been receiving "investment grade" credit ratings by prominent credit rating agencies, including the Japan Credit Rating Agency, which upgraded Turkey in May 2013.

Turkey attracted over \$120 billion of foreign direct investment over the past decade. This amount is set to increase as Turkey intends to invest \$110 billion in the transportation sector and \$130 billion in the energy sector over the next 10 years.

Last but not least, despite the unfavorable global economic and financial conditions over the past five years, the Turkish economy has remained healthy, robust and growing while preserving its financial balances in a good and exemplary shape.

This economic achievement in Turkey has primarily been based on stability, confidence and predictability. These three main elements will remain unchanged and unshakable in Turkey.



Up, up and away: Hot air ballooning is popular in Cappadocia over the region's Fairy Chimney rocks. TURKISH EMBASSY

Congratulations

*on the Occasion of
the 90th Anniversary of
the Proclamation of
the Republic of Turkey*