

# Queen Margrethe II's birthday

## Strategic partners and close friends to broaden cooperation

Anders Carsten Damsgaard  
AMBASSADOR OF DENMARK

Last month Japan and the Kingdom of Denmark agreed to enter into a Strategic Partnership for Growth and Innovation. The partnership was concluded on March 4 by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt during her visit to Japan.



### Strategic partners

What does the agreement mean? It means that Japan and Denmark have agreed on a solid political framework for cooperation in the years to come, focused on a number of key sectors and areas. This framework now has to be filled with concrete agreements and projects for cooperation, which hopefully will contribute to new economic growth in both Japan and Denmark.

Increased cooperation on Arctic issues is one part of the Strategic Partnership. Last year Japan was admitted to the Arctic Council as a permanent observer. Denmark has long been a strong supporter of Japan's permanent observer status, and we were happy to welcome Japan to the work of the Arctic Council. The Kingdom of Denmark consists of not only Denmark, but also of Greenland and the Faroe Islands, which



(Above) Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt meets with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo on March 4 during her working visit to Japan. (Right) Located between the Arctic and Atlantic oceans, Greenland is the world's largest island, over 80 percent of which is covered in ice. Greenland is part of the Kingdom of Denmark, with extensive self-governance since 2009. EMBASSY OF DENMARK

makes the Kingdom a key Arctic player.

### Arctic

The Arctic has in recent years gained interest in many parts of the world - including from countries outside the Arctic - with global warming being the main reason for this. With rising temperatures, the Arctic seas are increasingly open for commercial traffic, and previously inaccessible natural resources on land and under the seabed are now

gradually becoming accessible. These changes offer interesting and new opportunities for both Arctic and non-Arctic nations, but alongside them comes an even greater responsibility to protect the fragile Arctic environment and the people living there. As opposed to the uninhabited Antarctica, the Arctic is inhabited by indigenous people. Also, we must not forget that these opportunities have a downside. Global warming has a much

larger negative impact on the Arctic region than anywhere else in the world. The indigenous peoples in the region are at risk of losing their livelihood as traditional hunting grounds disappear and fish move further north to colder waters.

### Greenland

Today, on April 16th, Denmark celebrates the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II. The royal family has a very close and warm rela-

tionship with Greenland and the Greenlandic people. The Queen, who visits Greenland on a regular basis, has stated that Greenland has a very special place in her heart. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Frederik has spent 6 months in Northern Greenland, and his two youngest children (twins) were given Greenlandic names.

Most Japanese people know of Greenland, but few know very much about Greenland. Fortunately, there will be sev-

eral chances to learn more about this vast and immensely beautiful island later this year. From September 4th to November 18th an exhibition about Greenland will be held at the National Museum for Ethnology in Osaka, and from December 4th to 27th at Hillside Terrace in Daikanyama, Tokyo. It is my hope that many Japanese people will take the opportunity to learn more about Greenland, and perhaps will find it as intriguing as Her Majesty.



Queen Margrethe II of Denmark TINE HARDEN

# Happy Birthday to H.M. Queen Margrethe II

CHR HANSEN

*Improving food & health*

With the compliments of

Chr. Hansen Japan Co., Ltd.

KDX Mita Bldg. 10F,  
3-43-16, Shiba, Minato-ku,  
Tokyo 105-0014, Japan

Tel: 03-3457-8720  
Fax: 03-3457-8721  
www.chr-hansen.com

With the compliments of



DC Trading Co., Ltd.



9F Toranomon 40MT Building,  
13-1, Toranomon 5-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001, Japan  
Tel: 03-5404-4221 Fax: 03-5404-4222

With the Compliments of

EAC

The East Asiatic Company  
(Japan) Ltd.

Toranomon #2 Waiko Bldg.  
5-2-6 Toranomon  
Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001  
Tel.: (03) 6695 7133  
E-mail: info@eacjapan.co.jp  
www.eacjapan.co.jp

With the compliments of  
Excellent Marine Products from Denmark



NOVENCO Nippon Ltd.  
5, Kaigandori, Chuo-ku, Kobe 650-0024  
http://www.novenco.jp

Safety and Comfortable  
at the sea