

Norway national day

Together we can do even better



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AMBASSADOR
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Today we celebrate Norway's National Day. On May 17, 1814, the Norwegian Constitution was signed, laying down the

framework on which modern-day Norway has been built. According to tradition, the day is celebrated in every corner of the country, with cheerful children parading in the streets, serving as a reminder that our youth are at the very core of the democracy we today sometimes might take for granted.

Energy Science Week

Norway and Japan share fundamental values of democracy, freedom and stress the

importance of international law. We also share a strong belief in progress through innovation and collaboration and we are both home to internationally leading research communities within the sphere of environmentally friendly energy. At the end of May, in an undertaking with Norwegian partners and the Japan Science and Technology Agency, we will organize the 2015 Japan-Norway Energy Science Week. There is great potential for business and industry based on sustainable energy and we are pleased to devote this year's Science Week to this important topic.

The "new normal"

Norway and Japan are both coastal nations with strong traditions in shipbuilding, fishing and farming. We are also modern, developed economies with great interest in a stable, predictable and rule-based international economic order. The aging of our societies and growing challenges in sustaining the population of remote areas in our countries adds to the burden of sustainably financing the welfare state proudly built over the past seven decades. To face the "new normal" of slowing international economic growth, we need to look for novel and innovative ways to boost trade and modernize to make our economies resilient for the future.

Toward a sustainable future

Norway and Japan are much on the same page in the important global effort to ensure education for all, to combat poverty and ensure long-term economic development. A new global climate agreement is to be concluded at the U.N. Cli-



The Hywind floating wind turbine being deployed in the North Sea.

OYVIND HAGEN / STATOIL ASA

mate Conference in Paris in December. Norway is fully dedicated to this process, and is committed to a reduction of at least 40 percent of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. We also strongly believe in engaging the next generation in debating how to get there from here. I am therefore happy to announce that the Norwegian Embassy is in the process of organizing an essay competition for young Japanese who would like to voice their concerns and solutions to the topic of climate change — the challenge of our times. To learn more about this project, please visit us at www.norway.or.jp.

On May 17, we celebrate our constitution and the values on which our society is built. On this day, we should also spare a thought and extend a helping hand to those less fortunate than ourselves. Daily, societies are struck by diseases, acts of terror and natural disasters, to which Japan is no stranger. As we have just seen when the massive earthquake hit Nepal, the poor are those who have the least and who lose the most. Norway and Japan are both important contributors and investors in the international and multilateral system, and I believe that together, we can do even better.

Congratulations

on

the Norwegian Constitution Day

Energy and Materials



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