

Poland national day

Reaching new levels of bilateral cooperation

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AMBASSADOR OF POLAND

On this occasion of the Constitution Day of the Republic of Poland I would like to extend my greetings and pay respect to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan, the Imperial family, the gov-



ernment and the people of Japan. In Poland we celebrate National Day on May 3, the same day as Japan, to commemorate the adoption — through the basic legal act by the parliament of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1791 — of Europe's first and the world's second constitution.

In 2014, Poland and Japan marked the 95th anniversary of their diplomatic relations. Additionally, last year, Poland celebrated the 25th anniversary

of its peaceful democratization based on the respect for fundamental freedoms, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The solidarity and support extended by Japan to Poland still resonates in my country. Today, Poland and Japan together demonstrate a willingness and determination for supporting shared values and interests on the global scene.

This year turned out to be a milestone for the relations be-

tween both countries. During the visit to Japan by the President of the Republic of Poland Bronisław Komorowski on Feb. 26 and 27 this year, our leaders noted in a Joint Statement that mutual relations between the two countries reached the level of a strategic partnership. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe and Komorowski highlighted the special nature of the partnership uniting both countries in their support for freedom, growth

and solidarity. This visit confirmed the advanced level of cooperation between Poland and Japan in a variety of areas such as political and security, economic, science and technology, promotion of cultural and people-to-people exchanges, cooperation between Japan and the EU and cooperation with international organizations.

One of the most important dimensions of our strategic partnership with Japan is economic cooperation. Among others accompanying Komorowski to Japan were the deputy ministers of agriculture and economy and a group of more than 100 Polish businessmen, representing the railway, automobile, food and energy sectors.

Poland, with its 38 million inhabitants, is one of the biggest economies in Europe. Our economy has grown quickly and incessantly for the last two decades, which is one of the reasons why Poland has attracted so much foreign investment, especially from countries outside Europe. Japan has more than 300 companies established in Poland, mainly in the automotive, electronics and infrastructure areas. In 2014 Poland-Japan trade exchange reached a record \$2.8 billion.

A new and particularly encouraging trend in our bilateral relations is the recent development of scientific and technology cooperation between the two countries, which resulted in numerous projects of great importance in the areas of clean coal technologies, medicine, nuclear physics and advanced materials.

Poland and Japan realize the



Above: Polish President Bronisław Komorowski and his wife meet with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace on Feb. 26 during his visit to Japan. Right: President Komorowski and Prime Minister Shinzō Abe shake hands at a summit meeting in Tokyo on Feb. 27.

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growing importance of direct people-to-people contacts. The agreement between the government of Poland and Japan on a Working Holiday Scheme, signed during the president's visit, creates an excellent opportunity for young people from both countries to work, travel and deepen the mutual understanding between the two nations.

As the ambassador of Poland to Japan I am also pleased that the number of cultural events in Japan with the participation of Polish artists are increasing each year. Last year Polish actor Robert Więckiewicz, who played the main role in the movie "Mighty Angel" by Wojciech Smarzowski, was

named the best actor at 27th Tokyo International Film Festival. Currently there are two Polish movies being screened in Japan: "Papusza" by K. Krauze and J. Kos-Krauze and "Imagine" by Andrzej Jakimowski. During the EU Film Days in Tokyo and Kyoto, the Japanese film fans are invited to watch Paweł Pawlikowski's movie "Ida," the first Polish motion picture to receive the prestigious award in the Best Foreign Language Film category at the 87th Academy Awards.

Without a doubt, the attention of the musical world in 2015 will be focused on the 17th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition under the honorary patronage

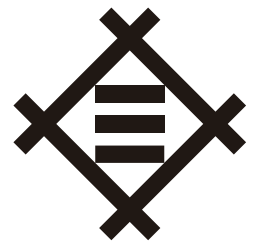
of Komorowski. For the first time in the history of the competition, which is held every five years in Warsaw, the biggest number of pianists that have applied for the competition was from Japan. This shows that the music of Fryderyk Chopin plays a very important role in Polish-Japanese cultural relations.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to warmly invite you to visit Poland, the motherland of Chopin, Maria Skłodowska-Curie, Andrzej Wajda and a very friendly population that is fascinated by the Japanese culture and spirit.

You may be sure, that while in Poland, you will feel at home!

Congratulations

to the People of
the Republic of Poland
on Their National Day



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Held every five years since 1955, the 17th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition is taking place in Warsaw this year. The main competition and concerts will be held from Oct. 21 to 23. THE FRYDERYK CHOPIN INSTITUTE

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