

Poland National Day

Poland and Japan join together to strengthen direct bonds

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AMBASSADOR OF POLAND

On the 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, the Imperial family, the government and the people of Japan. In Poland we celebrate our National Day on May 3 to commemorate the ratification of the basic legal act by the parliament of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1791 that created Europe's first and



the world's second constitution.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wish to express my deepest condolences to those who lost their loved ones in the recent earthquake in Kyushu. Polish authorities and citizens have conveyed their heartfelt sympathies to the families of those who have been affected by this enormous tragedy. Poland will always treasure memories of solidarity and support extended by the Japanese government and the Japanese Red Cross between 1919 and 1922 to hundreds of orphans of Polish deportees to Siberia during the partition of Poland at the beginning of the 19th century. Our nations came together and stood together in difficult moments, providing

a base for creating special ties between Poland and Japan.

Today, the mutual relations between our countries have reached the level of strategic partnership in various spheres. Poland and Japan together demonstrate their willingness and determination to support shared values and interests in global forums such as the U.N., as well as in inter-regional cooperation formats such as the Visegrad group of four Central European countries cooperation with Japan.

One of the most important dimensions of our strategic partnership with Japan is economic cooperation. Poland, with its 38 million inhabitants, is the largest economy in Central Europe and our high and stable economic growth is one of the reasons Poland is attracting many foreign investors. Japan already has more than 300 companies established in Poland, mainly in the fields of automotive, electronics and infrastructure, and the number of Polish-Japanese investments is increasing every year.

New opportunities for boosting bilateral cooperation have also appeared in the energy sector. I wish that a fruitful collaboration with Japan in clean coal technologies would spill over to other related fields. One of them is the so-called hydrogen society in which Japan is the world leader. Poland would like to follow in its footsteps, and, by forging partnership with Japan in this area, create new business opportunities for energy companies in



LOT Polish Airlines new route inauguration in Tokyo EMBASSY OF POLAND

Poland.

It is also worth mentioning that the number of cultural events in Japan with the participation of Polish artists has been increasing every year. The Polish Information and Culture Center in Tokyo plays an important role in promoting the culture and history of Poland in Japan.

Among the many Polish cultural events to be held in the coming months, I would like to recommend the more and more popular "Poland Film Festival" organized annually in Tokyo and other major cities in Japan.

As Japan prepares for the G-7 summit in Ise-Shima, Poland will also be a center of important political, social and cultural events. Warsaw will host the Global Summit of Women in June and the NATO

Summit in July. Over 2 million young people will visit Krakow to participate in the World Youth Day in July. Wroclaw has been named the European Capital of Culture 2016. The historic Polish city will also host a number of unique events introducing Japanese music, theater, visual arts and

literature.

The opening of a direct flight by LOT Polish Airlines between Warsaw and Tokyo in January brought Poland closer to Japan than ever before. I am convinced that this connection will greatly contribute to the enhancement of our bilateral relations.

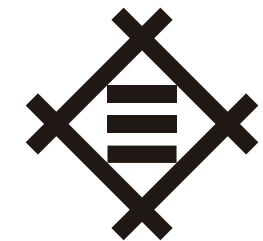


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Wroclaw, the European Capital of Culture 2016 MARIUSZ CIESZEWSKI, MFA OF POLAND

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