

Belarus National Day

Peaceful, diverse nation respects all people

Sergei Rakhmanov
AMBASSADOR OF BELARUS

On July 3, we celebrate the Republic of Belarus Independence Day, created following our country's liberation from Nazi invaders.



The development of balanced relations between Belarus and other countries of the world over the past year not only helped to strengthen the ties with our traditional partners, but also ensured a better mutual understanding where it lacked before. One of the main reasons for that is Belarus' constructive and peace-loving policy, which is oriented toward ensuring stability through the dialogue and is based on absolute respect for all countries, peoples and religions with all

their specificity and diversity. Such an approach can ensure stability of the human civilization and prevent the development of the uncontrolled processes that could lead to human extinction.

Japan is a unique country with its own labor culture, system of interpersonal relations, caring attitude for the environment and an extensive and effective practice of international cooperation. People of Belarus are becoming more and more aware of the important role of Japan in creating a world model, where practical, rather than theoretical, sustainable development will be dominant. This will be a world where individualism and egoism of certain people and even countries will finally be replaced by a constructive form of collectivism with the firm understanding that every one of us depends on the help and support of others.

The awareness of the Japa-



During his meeting with the President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko, in May, Pope Francis emphasized the importance of the peace-oriented policies of Belarus. EMBASSY OF BELARUS

nese about Belarus is also growing steadily, which helps us develop and strengthen bilateral ties in all areas. On behalf of the people and government of Belarus, I would like again to express my deep respect and sympathy to the people of

Japan, the Imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the government, the Diet, the heads of prefectures, cities and towns and the representatives of Japanese business and non-governmental organizations.

In 2016 we mark the 30th anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy and the fifth anniversary of the Tohoku region's triple disaster that led to the accident at the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant. But this is also a year when the effective cooperation between Belarus and Japan in political, economic and humanitarian spheres saw significant development. Our collaboration on advancing aftermath response to accidents at nuclear power plants remained the mover of our bilateral cooperation. Having broad experience in this field and pos-

sessing a wide range of unique technologies, the Republic of Belarus is fully open to Japan as we consider Japan a friendly country.

For its part, Japan is interested in such experience, demonstrated by the growth of cooperation on the political level, as well as on the level of the Japanese business-community. The real total volume of the bilateral economic cooperation exceeds the official data multiple times, taking into account the export of Belarusian goods produced on Japanese equipment to third countries, totaling more than \$1.5 billion. The real potential of such complex collaboration could reach more than \$10 billion.

One of the most promising areas of the bilateral trade and economic cooperation can be seen in the food sphere. The Republic of Belarus is among the world leaders in the volume of

high-quality dairy products it exports and is among countries that has managed to ensure food independence — thanks to the wide application of modern technologies and use of domestically produced high-productivity agricultural machinery. Naturally, this experience is of great interest to our Japanese partners, especially Hokkaido Prefecture. All this creates a base for our industrial and technological cooperation in the agricultural arena in the near future.

Our relations in other areas also developed significantly over the past year in such areas as education, ecology and sports.

On the international front, the Republic of Belarus and Japan collaborate within the U.N. and other organizations, including the International Electrotechnical Commission. After Japan organized the inter-



The "FOODEX JAPAN 2016" exhibition in March saw first-time exhibitor Belarus make a strong national showing of more than 40 participants from Belarusian ministries, companies and organizations. EMBASSY OF BELARUS

mission in 2014, Belarus successfully hosted the event in 2015, demonstrating our country's high level of achievement in the field of standardization.

Over the past five years, during which our embassy has

been operating at full capacity, I can say that our countries have made important steps toward each other for the benefit of our bilateral relations, as well as for ensuring stability in the world, with further favorable prospects to look forward to.



Following a similar practice of Japan after the Chernobyl disaster, since 2012 Belarus has been annually inviting Japanese children from the areas affected by the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant accident to visit Belarus. EMBASSY OF BELARUS

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