

Turkey National Day

A nation stronger, more united than ever before

Bulent Meric
AMBASSADOR OF TURKEY

It is a great pleasure for me to address the readers of The Japan Times on the occasion of the 93rd Anniversary of the Turkish Republic. Taking this opportunity, I present my warmest regards to our Japanese friends, while sharing pride and joy with the Turkish community in Japan.



On this special day, we pay tribute to Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, whose principles and achievements are a source of inspiration for Turkey. After more than nine decades of steady progress, Turkey stands as an embodiment of Ataturk's ideals and vision of being a secular democracy, a social state of law, an active member of the European and Euro-At-

lantic community and a dynamic free market economy supported by a vibrant private sector and a young population.

Turkey's economy proved to be resilient even after the coup attempt on July 15 by a clandestine faction in the Turkish Armed Forces led by the Fethullah Gulen movement. On this night of extreme violence, the Turkish nation, regardless of different political views, united and heroically stood against the plotters. The new consensus that emerged after the coup attempt has brought diverse political groups closer to one another. From politics to the economy, the country is stronger and more united than ever before.

Turkey, in a region where the impact of global changes are the greatest, aims to help secure a peaceful, prosperous, stable and cooperative international environment that is conducive to human development at home and

abroad. The role that has been undertaken by Turkey is especially vital in the face of the surge of international terrorism.

In this context, our relations with Japan are at a pivotal place. Although diplomatic relations were established in 1924, the roots of our friendship go back to the 19th century. Ironically, a tragic disaster gave birth to eternal friendship. The Imperial Ottoman frigate Ertugrul was caught in a typhoon and sank off the coast of Kushimoto in Wakayama Prefecture in September 1890. "Kainan 1890," a film co-produced by Turkey and Japan, immaculately depicts this tragedy, as well as the evacuation of Japanese nationals by Turkish Airlines from Tehran almost a century later.

Turkey and Japan enjoy strong and friendly relations in all fields. The strategic partnership provides solid

guidance for cooperation. Turkey is willing to engage Japan in her "2023 Vision." Japanese companies play a major role in infrastructure projects in the areas of energy, transportation, urban development, education and health. The Sinop Nuclear Power Plant and Turkey-Japan Science and Technology University stand as flagship projects in our strategic partnership. We look forward to seeing Japanese firms in our megaprojects such as the Canakkale Bridge, which will be longest suspension bridge in the world. On the other hand, we hope, the prospective economic partnership and social security agreements will open a new chapter in our economic and commercial relations.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate my commitment to contribute to further strengthening the friendly re-



Sunset over Istanbul, the "City of Seven Hills" EMBASSY OF TURKEY

lations between Turkey and Japan, and passing them on to the next generation.

With these thoughts, I once again greet the readers of The

Japan Times with my most heartfelt sentiments and wish for the happiness and continued prosperity of the people of Japan.

Legal frameworks to boost economic ties

Kazuaki Kama and Kenichiro Yamanishi
CHAIRS OF JAPAN-TURKEY
ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, KEIDANREN



On behalf of the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren), where we are entrusted with the chairmanship of the Japan-Turkey Economic Committee, we wish to present our warmest congratulations on the 93rd Anniversary of the Republic of Turkey.

This year also marks 92nd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Turkey, which have been in a close relationship in many fields ranging from political and economic to cultural.

Following the coup attempt in July, we, the Japanese business community, are watching closely how things will evolve toward the lifting of the state of emergency.

Acknowledging the huge un-

tapped potential in developing trade and investment between Japan and Turkey, we will continue to call on both the Japanese and Turkish governments to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive economic partnership agreement, as well as a social security agreement. We firmly believe these legal frameworks will broaden and deepen economic ties between our two countries.

We sincerely hope that the situation will be normalized at the earliest time and our cooperation enhanced in the future.

Building on amicable relationship

Toshihiro Nikai
CHAIRPERSON, JAPAN-TURKEY INTERPARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP
GROUP

I would like to express my respects for the Turkish people who heroically stood up against the coup attempt in July this year and protected the democratic system. I also congratulate the Republic of Turkey on its 93rd Anniversary as Turkey has achieved remarkable progress in over the years.



The tragic accident of the Ertugrul frigate in Kushimoto, Wakayama Prefecture, 126 years ago, where many Turkish crew were killed and 69 sailors were rescued thanks to great efforts of the local people, marks the origin of friendship between our two countries. This episode was remarkably reflected in the movie "Kainan 1890" last year.

Since 1987 when I first paid a visit, accompanying Shin Kanemaru, the then chairperson of the Japan-Turkey Interparliamentary Friendship Group, I have been in contact with Turkey. As the present chairperson of the Japan-Turkey Interparliamentary Friendship Group, I am determined to devote my efforts for developing cooperation between not only parliamentarians, but also young people such as high school students.

Finally, wishing further enhancement of the friendly relations between two countries, I once again offer my congratulations on the 93rd anniversary of the Republic of Turkey.

Congratulations
on the Occasion
of
the 93rd Anniversary
of
the Proclamation
of
the Republic of Turkey



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the 93rd Anniversary of
the Proclamation of
the Republic of Turkey

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Mitsubishi Corporation