

Poland National Day Special

Celebrating 100 years of regaining national independence

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AMBASSADOR OF POLAND



It is my privilege and pleasure to address the readers of The Japan Times on the Constitution Day of the Republic of Poland. I would like to respectfully extend greetings to Their Majesties

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family, the government and people of Japan. In Poland we celebrate National Day on May 3, the same as Japan's Constitution Day, to commemorate the adoption of the basic legal act by the parliament of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1791, Europe's first and the world's second constitution.

This year, Poland celebrates the 100th anniversary of regaining independence. In 1918, World War I ended and Poland was free after 123 years of geopolitical oblivion. In Japan, this year marks the 150th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration that led to significant economic reforms and growth of Japan. I extend my congratulations on this occasion to the government of Japan and the Japanese nation.

Japan is a country that Polish people have a strong affinity for. Japan was one of the first countries to recognize the Republic

of Poland on March 22, 1919. Accordingly, 2019 will be significant for Poland and Japan, as it will mark the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between us.

Since the beginning, cooperation between our countries has been developing across many fields. Today, Poland and Japan are demonstrating their willingness and determination to promote shared values and interests on the global stage together.

As a nonpermanent member of the U.N. Security Council since Jan. 1 for the 2018–2019 term, Poland takes responsibility for maintaining global peace and security. Poland's main objectives for the council include strengthening the role of international law and promoting the effective resolution of conflicts. Our priority on the council also concerns new threats to international peace and security, as well as issues related to climate change. Poland takes particular interest in the last issue, as the host and chair of the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Katowice in December.

Regarding other economic highlights, over the last three decades, Poland has achieved impressive success. As the largest economy in Central Europe, Poland is predicted to join the G-20 list of the most economically influential countries as soon as

2022. Economic cooperation is one of the most important dimensions of our partnership with Japan. Japan has already more than 300 companies established in Poland, mainly in the automotive, electronic and infrastructure sectors. I am proud to announce that renowned Polish company Comarch — a global producer and provider of internet technology services and solutions — has decided to reinforce its presence in Asia and opened a branch in Tokyo at the end of last year. A particularly encouraging trend in our bilateral relations is the development of scientific and technological cooperation that resulted in numerous projects in clean coal technologies, medicine, advanced materials and nuclear energy.

As the ambassador of Poland to Japan, I am pleased that cultural and people-to-people cooperation and exchanges continue to be the top priority in our relations. In our centenary of independence, numerous cultural events are being held in Japan.

Increasing numbers of Polish citizens living in Japan and Polish tourists call for widening cooperation with Japan in consular assistance and commercial and cultural promotion. To underline this importance, I wish to thank Poland's Honorary Consul in Kobe Masahiko Suruga and Honorary Consul General in Hiroshima Takashi Yamashita for their kind, everyday efforts and making further steps toward tightening Polish-Japanese relations.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to warmly invite readers to visit Poland. From this April, LOT Polish Airlines increased the number of direct flight connections between Warsaw and Tokyo to five per week.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt wishes for the further enrichment of friendship and cooperation between Poland and Japan, and the happiness of the Polish and Japanese people.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.



Part of Jan Matejko's "The Constitution of May 3, 1791." This work memorializes the Polish Constitution that is also Europe's first. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, POLAND



The "Monument to the Heroes of Warsaw," or the "Warsaw Nike," commemorates those who fought for freedom of Warsaw in World War II.

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to the People of the Republic of Poland
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