

Italy National Day Special

Mutual respect marks long relationship

GIORGIO STARACE
AMBASSADOR OF ITALY



On this very day, Italy celebrates its 72nd Anniversary as a republic. Allow me to take this opportunity to thank the Italian community for its precious contribution to the

political, economic and cultural life of Japan, where our professionalism, creativity, culture and language are deeply respected and appreciated.

One hundred and fifty-two years ago, Italy and Japan both faced the challenges of modernization and industrialization under very similar social circumstances. After 1945, Italy and Japan shared the common experience of postwar reconstruction founded on solid democratic principles and common values, further reinforcing their bilateral relations.

Today, Italy and Japan — two important members of the Group of Seven and

among the world's top economies — are strategic and like-minded partners on a wide array of global issues. Italy and Japan make significant efforts to defend

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international peace and security, and share responsibilities in consolidating Europe and Asia relations and supporting Africa's development. Furthermore, the succession of the G7 presidency from the Japanese (2016) to the Italian (2017) has represented the occasion to further strengthen our commitments to one another.

Regarding economic terms, prospects on even stronger bonds between Italy and Japan are more than encouraging. In 2019, we are going to witness the entry into force of the economic partnership

agreement between the EU and Japan, “the greatest trade agreement in history,” as defined in Brussels. Japanese consumers and Italian enterprises will both largely benefit from it.

Likewise, the “spontaneous empathy” between the Italian and Japanese people is constantly fed by the dynamism of our cultural exchanges. Art, music and lifestyle have not only played a crucial role in the Japanese interest for Italy, but they have also represented the emblematic cornerstones of the Japanese culture. Not by chance, people from both countries are extremely fascinated by one another.

As the ambassador of Italy in Tokyo, I must confess, also on behalf of my fellow Italians, that I am truly honored to represent Italy, the country we love, in Japan — a country that we also deeply love and respect.

Viva l'Italia! Viva il Giappone!

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Ambasciata d'Italia in Giappone
在日イタリア大使館

Festa della Repubblica
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on the Anniversary
of the Proclamation
of the Republic of Italy!**

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