

Russia National Day Special

Alliance strengthening in many areas

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AMBASSADOR OF RUSSIA



First of all, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to sincerely congratulate all my fellow compatriots and citizens of Russia currently staying in Japan on Russia Day. June

12 marks 28 years since the adoption of the Declaration of State Sovereignty by the Russian Federation — an event that commemorates the independent, historic choice made by our country in favor of fundamental reforms aimed at the democratization of political and social life, respect for human rights and basic freedoms, emergence of a market economy and involvement of government and society in broad international cooperation.

As a result, modern-day Russia is a

country with developed democratic institutions, a multiparty political system, independent media, an active civil society and a market economy. The highest degree of openness of our country, regarding comprehensive and productive international dialogue, is best represented by its constructive and inclusive policies within the framework of the United Nations as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and Group of 20, as well as by its efficient participation in the contemporary system of global trade based on the World Trade Organization's rules. Russia has been efficiently contributing to the processes of international economic integration — including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum — with the goal of creating a free trade area in the Asia-Pacific region. Guided by these principles, Russia, together with its neighbors and friends — Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan — launched the Eurasian Economic Union.

The Russian Federation fully embraces

the objective global trend toward a multipolar world and thus provides significant input on the activities of influential international institutions such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization, Commonwealth of Independent States, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, BRICS (comprised of Brazil, China, India, Russia and South Africa) and East Asia Summit. In accordance with this strategy, Russia has proposed an initiative to create a Greater Eurasian Partnership, encompassing the Eurasian Economic Union, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, open to be joined by other international bodies.

On the path toward large-scale renovation of its domestic and foreign policies, our country has overcome a number of difficulties. Nevertheless, it has succeeded in preserving its roots, original traditions and unique ethnic diversity. Today, Russia has achieved strong political stability. The necessity of further consolidation and common vision for national development goals are being increasingly understood by our society. Clear evidence of this has been demonstrated by the landslide victory of Vladimir Putin in the presidential election held in March that were in strict compliance with the highest global standards.

Russian people have thus shown their unequivocal support and appreciation for the fact that, despite a challenging international environment, the government has successfully secured the adaptation of our economy to the new conditions and has put it on the path of growth throughout the last two years. In 2017, the gross domestic product of Russia increased by 1.5 percent, while capital investment rose by 4.4 percent, ensuring further positive economic dynamics from a mid-term perspective. The inflation rate at the record-low level of 2.5

percent and attaining a four-year-high volume of foreign direct investment (\$23 billion) should also be mentioned. In the latest edition of the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business report, Russia's economy ranking was upgraded to 35th, just below Japan at 34th.

Among important economic and scientific achievements, including the opening of the new Vostochny Cosmodrome, the development of new space, and aircraft models, including the MS-21 passenger jetliner, Russia's leading role on the stage of peaceful application of nuclear energy. Many international events held in Russia received the highest rating according to global standards, including the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi and the World Festival of Youth and Students last year.

Russia's growth strategy is focused on economic modernization, primarily through a comprehensive program of digital development, as well as expansion of a free environment, particularly through establishing a strong civil society. The achievement of our socioeconomic and international goals presumes broad, equal and mutually beneficial cooperation with foreign partners.

In this context, I would like to express my deep satisfaction on significant steps that have been taken in recent years toward sustained development of friendly and neighborly relations between the Russian Federation and Japan. The crucial driving force behind this trend is the regular, trusting dialogue between our President and Prime



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Vladimir Putin shake hands at the plenary session of the 22nd St. Petersburg International Economic Forum on May 25. PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE

Minister Shinzo Abe. This was once again clearly demonstrated by the official visit of Abe to Russia in late May. For the first time in the history of bilateral relations, the head of the Japanese government participated together with the president of Russia in the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, which is rapidly becoming a leading platform for discussions of global economic issues. On May 26, in the historical building of the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, Putin and Abe attended the opening ceremony of the Cross Years of Russia and Japan — a unique project aimed at strengthening mutual understanding and deepening friendship between our two peoples. The summit talks have concluded with new, significant agreements regarding further expansion of our cooperation in political and security agendas (including countering emerging threats and challenges, such as terrorism and narcotics), economy, trade, investment, as well as friendly exchanges between regions in Russia and Japan.

We intend to keep actively promoting Russia's ties with Japan, our promising partner in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world. We strongly believe that this type of consistent multifaceted development of mutually beneficial and amicable neighborly relations will allow us to resolve the problem of the conclusion of the peace treaty inherited from our shared dramatic past. Such resolution should accommodate the strategic interests of Russia and Japan, and be positively perceived by the peoples of our countries.

We are committed to engagement in constructive dialogue with our Japanese partners on this issue, based on the existing legal framework and recognition of the outcome of World War II, as well as to go ahead with bilateral cooperation on the Southern Kuril Islands.

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



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Vladimir Putin talk, while Japan's first lady Akie Abe looks on during the opening ceremony of the Cross Years of Russia and Japan at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow on May 26. PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE

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of
Their National Day

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