

Macedonia National Day Special

Friendly bilateral relations Strong bonds among leaders

ANDRIJANA CVETKOVIKJ
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF
MACEDONIA



It gives me great pleasure on the occasion of the 27th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Macedonia to extend warm wishes to all Macedonian citizens residing in Japan.

This year's National Day coincides with the completion of my mission here, and I am particularly proud that as the first residential ambassador in Japan during these four years, I managed to strengthen bilateral relations in many fields of mutual interest.

Among the most crucial milestones are the 2017 opening of the Embassy of Japan in Skopje and the formation of the Japan-Macedonia Parliamentary League in the Diet in 2016. This year, I had the pleasure to chair the annual convention with the members of the league and we are happy to welcome their visit to Skopje in 2019.

Another milestone in our public diplomacy is the revival of the Japan-Macedonia Friendship Association. Our Honorary Consul-General Masatake Matsuda was selected as a president of the association, while I was honored with the title of honorary chairman. Organized in collaboration with the Macedonian Embassy, we held Days of Macedonian Cuisine and the Evening of Macedonia-Japan Friendship. Recognizing the idea of regional cooperation during

my ambassadorship, I visited over 10 prefectures, met with governors, mayors and chambers of commerce and gave lectures at many universities. This year, I visited Nagasaki, Okinawa, Kyoto and Kanagawa.

Academic cooperation is one of my pillars for strengthening the ties between our countries, which was my motivation to visit and give lectures at over 20 universities, resulting with the signing of memorandums of understanding with many of them such as Nagasaki, Hokkaido, Sophia, Meiji, Soka and others.

This year, we took part in cultural exchanges by organizing an exhibition on Mother Teresa, which was set up at Sophia University, as well as a concert of traditional Macedonian music in collaboration with the Min-On Concert Association.

Keeping in mind the favorable business climate for foreign investors, we organized many business forums and held presentations for numerous Japanese companies and chambers of commerce.

As a member of the Japan Association of Travel Agent's Outbound Tourism Council, I gave many presentations and supported many events to promote tourism in Macedonia. This year, a delegation of tour operators visited Macedonia and I hope such visits will further boost the number of Japanese tourists, which has been steadily increasing every year.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Japanese government, the Imperial family and the people of Japan for their continuous support of my work over the past four years. I sincerely wish our next 25 years of friendship would be even more significant.

TAIMEI YAMAGUCHI
CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-MACEDONIA
PARLIAMENTARY LEAGUE

On the National Day of the Republic of Macedonia, I am sending my heartfelt congratulations to Ambassador Andrijana Cvetkovikj and citizens of Macedonia.

Last year, the Embassy of Japan opened in Skopje, and we will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our countries next year. The Japan-Macedonia Parliamentary League is strongly committed to promoting exchanges while contributing to the further development of our countries.

Ties deepen via cultural transfers

MASATAKE MATSUDA
HONORARY CONSUL-GENERAL OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA IN JAPAN

On the 27th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Macedonia, I am sending my congratulations to the government and people of the nation. The bonds between our two countries have become stronger, thanks to the efforts of Ambassador Andrijana Cvetkovikj.

In September, the Japan-Macedonia Friendship Association is planning a visit to Macedonia. I hope the friendship between Macedonia and Japan will deepen through such cultural exchange between our nations.



Ambassador Andrijana Cvetkovikj, Chairman of the Japan-Macedonia Parliamentary League Taimei Yamaguchi (second from right) and other members of the league. EMBASSY OF MACEDONIA



Ambassador Andrijana Cvetkovikj, Honorary Consul-General of the Republic of Macedonia in Japan Masatake Matsuda (front, center) and members of the Japan-Macedonia Friendship Association. EMBASSY OF MACEDONIA

Nations support each other in times of need

YASUhide NAKAYAMA
CHAIRMAN, FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

I would like to send my warmest greetings on the 27th Anniversary of Macedonia's Independence.

Macedonia has a rich history. Ohrid, the UNESCO World Heritage site in Macedonia, is one of the oldest human settlements in Europe. Kokino, the fourth-oldest astronomical site on earth, was built 4,000 years ago.

The country has been promoting democracy and a market economy rapidly since its independence in 1991. Citizens and leaders alike are working hard. Macedonia's diplomatic goals to join the European Union and North Atlantic Treaty Organiza-

tion are approaching the green light, as the country is in talks with Greece, which has a region named Macedonia, to solve the issues surrounding the name.

Japan and Macedonia are celebrating 25 years in March since the establishment of diplomatic relations. The ties between our nations are old due to our common enemy: harsh natural disasters. In the aftermath of the Great Earthquake of Skopje in 1963, Japanese architects supported the city's recovery. The survivors of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami in eastern Japan sincerely appreciate the strong support received from the citizens of Macedonia in return.

The Embassy of the Macedonian Republic was set up in 2014 in Tokyo, whereas the Japanese Embassy opened in Skopje in 2017 —

signs that the ties between the two countries shall become even deeper and stronger.

Ambassador Andrijana Cvetkovikj has put much effort in bringing Japan and Macedonia closer. We can see today that the number of Japanese tourists to Macedonia has doubled. As one of her friends, I am more than happy to see her success of joining the two cultures and citizens, including her beautiful family.

With the ambassador's success in Japan, I cannot help but feel hope for the future. I am strongly committed to the further development of the relations of Japan and Macedonia. Congratulations!

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



Congratulations to the people of the Republic of Macedonia on the Occasion of the 27th Anniversary of Their Independence

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 学習院女子大学
Gakushuin Women's College

The Eighth of September is the Independence Day of the Republic of Macedonia.

On this special occasion, the Tajima family and TSC Corp. from Ueda, Nagano, would like to take this opportunity to extend their warmest congratulations to the country and its people.

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