

# Slovakia Constitution Day Special

## Eventful year marked by various high-level visits

MARIAN TOMASIK  
AMBASSADOR OF SLOVAKIA



I am very honored by the opportunity to address the distinguished readers of The Japan Times on this occasion of the Slovak National Day, and to introduce Slovakia. To put Constitution

Day, Sept. 1, 1992, in historical perspective, subsequently the Slovak Republic was established on Jan. 1, 1993. Jan. 1, 2019, therefore, also marks the 26th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between our countries. Speaking of pivotal historical moments, on Aug. 29, we also commemorated the 75th Slovak National Uprising anniversary.

The history between Slovakia and

Japan is much longer than 26 years. Last October, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Gen. Milan Rastislav Stefanik's visit in Japan, which paved the way for establishing diplomatic relations between Czechoslovakia and Japan in 1920. In 2020, Slovakia is commemorating this important 100th anniversary with Japan by planning various high-level bilateral visits and cultural events such as performances of State Opera Banska Bystrica in Japan.

For Japan, the year 2020 is special, since the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games are to be held in Tokyo. I strongly believe that they will be truly unforgettable events, which will also bring closer the peoples of our countries in the spirit of true friendship and sportsmanship. I wish the Japanese government and local hosting authorities a lot of success in this noble endeavor.

The year 2019 is very eventful for both Slovakia and Japan. Our bilateral relations

are, in this year, marked by numerous high-level visits. In this context, first, I would like to mention the visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Bratislava on April 25, 2019, which was the first visit in history of a prime minister of Japan to Slovakia, shortly before the beginning of the new Reiwa Era. In this connection, we are looking forward to the Enthronement Ceremony later this year of his majesty the emperor of Japan. For Slovakia, the new President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Caputova will attend. On the ministerial level, in February, our Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Miroslav Lajcak and Taro Kono, held talks. Additionally, as the esteemed readers of The Japan Times are reading these lines, Lajcak is attending the 2019 Asian OSCE Conference in Tokyo and he will hold talks again with Kono later today. In March, our Minister of Economy Peter Ziga visited Japan.

Speaking of multilateral cooperation with Japan, during the Slovak Visegrad Group (V4) presidency (July 2018 to June 2019) we held two V4 and Japan prime ministerial summits (Brussels last October, Bratislava in April). I am also very pleased since Slovakia is a European Union member state that the economic partnership agreement between the EU and Japan entered into force on Feb. 1. Businesses and consumers across Europe and in Japan can now take advantage of the largest open trade zone in the world.

Slovakia is a parliamentary democracy with a stable economy with a business-friendly environment. There are more than 60 Japanese companies actively doing business in Slovakia, employing approximately 13,000 people, and their number is growing. Recently, in July, they were joined by Nidec Corp. I strongly



believe the ESET and Canon cooperation, a joint venture since Sept. 1, 2018, will serve as an example for further Slovak-Japanese cooperation in Japan, Slovakia or in developing countries.

Our embassy, together with the honorary consuls of Slovakia in Osaka, Kirishima and Utsunomiya, are ready to work even closer with partners to promote further Slovak-Japan cooperation. I would like to convey my sincerest gratitude to numerous Japanese institutions, agencies and friends for their engagement with Slovakia and valuable contribution to bilateral cooperation and exchanges.

In conclusion, I would like to wish the readers of The Japan Times and the people of Japan happiness and prosperity in the new Reiwa Era.

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

**Trencin Castle's history stretches back to the Roman Empire; there is an inscription on the grounds about a legion's victory in 179 A.D.**

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to the People  
of the Slovak Republic  
on Their Constitution Day**

  
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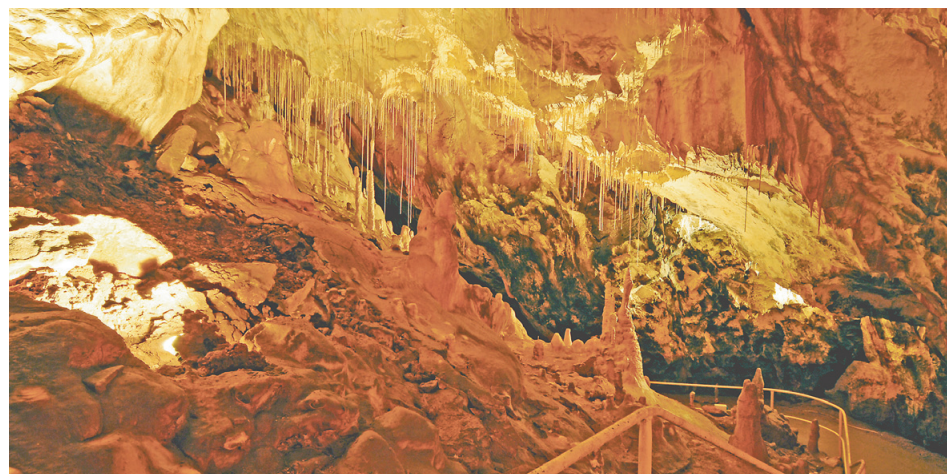
Honorary Consulate of  
the Slovak Republic  
**Eiichi ISHIKAWA**  
*Honorary Consul*

**Congratulations  
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of the Slovak Republic  
on Their  
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**The Gombasecka Jaskyna Cave in Slovak Karst National Park. Its distinct needle-like stalactite formations earned it a place on the UNESCO World Heritage list.** EMBASSY OF SLOVAKIA