

North Macedonia National Day Special

Honoring 25 years of friendship

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CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA



It is a great honor to write this year's message and to congratulate all Macedonians residing in Japan on the Independence Day of the Republic of North Macedonia. North Macedo-

nia celebrates 28 years of independence and this year many important things have happened. The one that is most significant is our country's name change. In February, the Republic of Macedonia officially changed its name to the Republic of North Macedonia. With that change, the biggest external challenge that the country faced, a bilateral dispute with Greece, was overcome. A clear pathway to NATO has since opened, which will lead to our full-fledged membership in December.

This is also a significant year for Macedo-

nian-Japanese relations because we mark 25 years of the establishment of diplomatic ties. However, the friendship between Macedonians and the Japanese people dates even further back to during the times of the former Yugoslavia. Japan has helped whenever the need was greatest and is still helping our country in meaningful ways through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, providing technical assistance, expert knowledge and the vital exchange of people. This creates an extremely positive image of Japan and the Japanese people in North Macedonia.

Since the opening of the Macedonian Embassy in Tokyo in 2013 and the Japanese Embassy in Skopje in 2017, bilateral relations between our two countries have improved significantly. This June, Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Yoshihiro Seki visited North Macedonia accompanied by representatives of various Japanese companies. We hope and believe this visit is the first of many to come.

With the 2020 Olympic Games drawing near, another important milestone

has been that the city of Chigasaki this year became our official host town for the event and the Paralympics. The embassy and Chigasaki have worked hard on promoting North Macedonia in Japan through organizing various events. An exhibition on the life of Mother Theresa, who was born in Skopje, our capital, was held. Macedonian music was played for the people of Chigasaki, too. We have also tried to bring Macedonian tastes, particularly food and wine, closer to the people of Japan by organizing a Macedonian food festival and cooking classes with the help of our friends and members of the Japanese-Macedonian Friendship Association and our Honorary Consul-General Masatake Matsuda.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Japanese people and the government of Japan for their support and efforts in improving bilateral relations between North Macedonia and Japan. I also sincerely hope that the years to come will be even more fruitful and will further strengthen the friendship between our people.



Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Yoshihiro Seki and Vice Prime Minister Koco Angjushev attend a meeting in Skopje in June. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Celebrating friendly ties

MASATAKE MATSUDA

HONORARY CONSUL-GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA IN JAPAN

On the 28th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of North Macedonia, I am sending congratulations to the government and people of the nation. This year, the name of the country has changed and I believe the country, renamed as the Republic of North Macedonia, will make a great leap forward in its endeavors.

I also hope the excellent friendship between North Macedonia and Japan will further deepen through exchanges of culture and other fields between our two nations.

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 North Macedonia
on the Occasion of
the 28th Anniversary of
Their Independence*



Japan-Macedonia Friendship Association