

Armenia National Day Special

Firm commitment to democratic principles

GRANT POGOSYAN
AMBASSADOR OF ARMENIA



The declaration of independence on Sept. 21, 1991, marked the commencement of the Republic of Armenia. The modern Armenian statehood swiftly gained recognition by

many countries and has firmly established its membership in most of the major international organizations. Japan was among the first countries to recognize the new Armenian state, and this year also marks the 27th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our nations.

Last year was an extraordinary year for politics in the Republic of Armenia. Armenia's political system not only transitioned from a presidential system to a parliamentary republic, it also saw a sweeping change

in political power, which was started in 2018 by the Velvet Revolution. The peaceful transformation of Armenian politics demonstrated Armenia's commitment to the principles of democracy, which attracted attention and praise from around the globe. The respected periodical *The Economist* named Armenia as its "Country of the Year" for 2018. These changes also boosted tourism, which saw a 10 percent increase in 2018, with an even higher figure projected for this year.

While cherishing the nation's long history and rich traditions, Armenia is striving to build a modern democratic country with a prospering free-market economy. Last month, Moody's Investors Service upgraded Armenia's ratings from stable to positive. In light of this, we expect an increase in foreign investments in our economy. To foster mutual investments between Armenia and Japan, the two countries recently signed a bilateral agreement on the promotion and protection of investments.

Armenia is particularly noteworthy as

a regional hub on the world map of information and innovation technologies, with branches of many leading companies in information technology, semiconductor design, blockchain, artificial intelligence and engineering establishing a home in Armenia. We also have a number of home-grown IT companies, such as PicsArt (touting over 120 million active monthly users worldwide), which started playing a global role in the field. It is no wonder that the major international IT event, the World Congress on Information Technologies, will be held in Yerevan from Oct. 6 to 9, where over 2,500 participants from more than 60 countries are expected to attend.

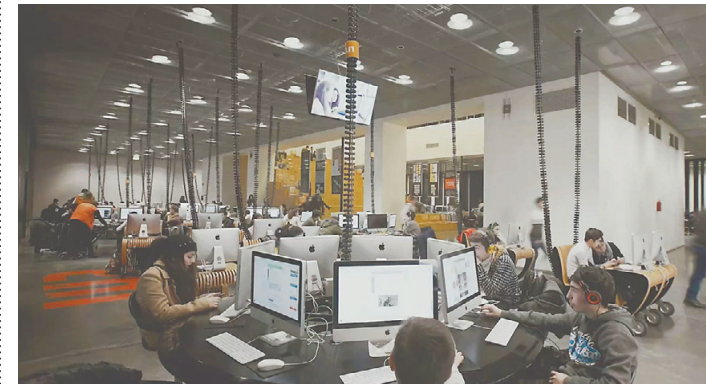
Besides famous brands of wine, brandy and other products, Armenia is currently exporting its innovative educational technologies. An excellent example of this is the Tumo Center for Creative Technologies that provides free after-school IT education for teenagers. Tumo Centers are now operating in Paris and Tirana and will be soon opened in Beirut, Moscow, Berlin, Nur-Sultan and Tokyo.

On this celebratory occasion I am privileged to greet the people of Japan, our friends from the international community, and all readers of *The Japan Times* around the world.

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



The capital city of Yerevan is over 2,800 years old and is known as the "pink city" as many of its buildings are made of pink volcanic rock. [HTTPS://WWW.ADVENTUROUS-TRAVELS.COM/ARMENIA](https://www.adventurous-travels.com/armenia)



Tumo Center for Creative Technologies in Yerevan provides free after-school information technology education to teenagers. [HTTPS://TUMO.ORG/](https://tumo.org/)

Congratulations
to the People of the Republic of Armenia
on the 28th Anniversary of Their Independence



Since 1954

SUN REALTY
& INSURANCE CORPORATION
PRESIDENT: SATOSHI IHARA

VISCOUNTESS SUITE 110, 1-11-36, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0052
Telephone: 81-3-3584-6171 Facsimile: 81-3-3505-0939
E-mail: sun@sunrealty.co.jp <http://sunrealty.jp/>