

# Romania National Day Special

## Shared interests continue to propel bilateral relations

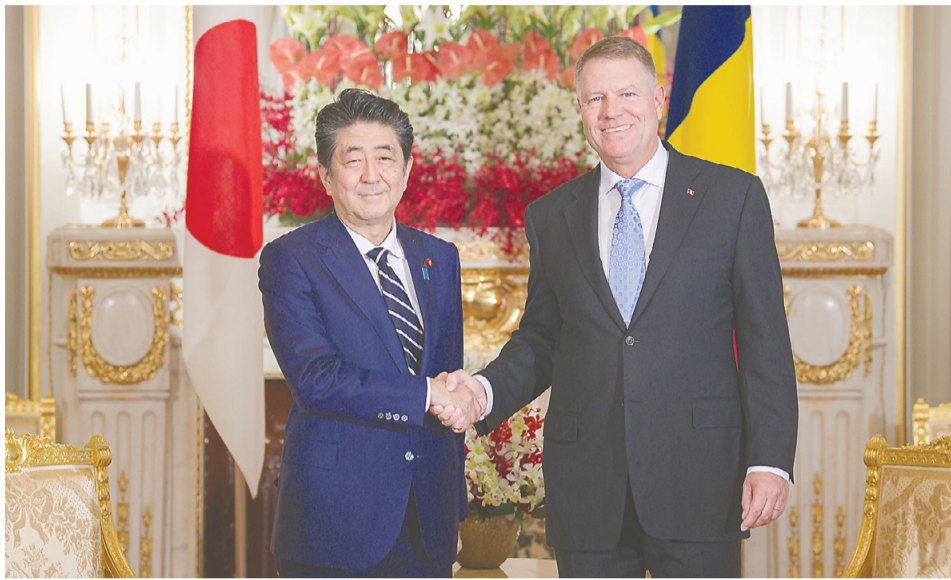
**TATIANA IOSIPER**  
AMBASSADOR OF ROMANIA



On the occasion of the National Day of Romania, it is my honor to express my deepest respect and convey heartfelt wishes of health and happiness to Their Imperial Majesties, Emperor

Naruhito and Empress Masako, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the government of Japan, as well as peace and prosperity to the Japanese people.

On Dec. 1, we marked the 101st anniversary of the unification of all our historic provinces into the modern Romanian unitary state, the fulfillment of our national aspiration for freedom, unity and dignity. In 2019, we also mark 60 years since the re-establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations after World War II. At the same time, we are looking forward to commemorating, at the end of this year, 30 years since the Romanian Revolution, the popular uprising that brought down the communist regime and allowed us to return to democracy and to the family of nations where we belong, in a united and strong Europe. Particularly, we take great pride in the achievements of these last three decades, which made Romania a free country, confident in its future, with a strong national and European identity, a growing economy and a vibrant social and cultural life.



**Romanian President Klaus Iohannis and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo on Oct. 21**  
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The cooperation between Japan and Romania is continuously growing, and this year, we were happy to join our Japanese friends in welcoming the new Reiwa Era, hoping for a time of beautiful harmony for Japan and the entire world. As a sign of our close ties, President Klaus Iohannis attended the enthronement ceremony of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito. On this occasion, the president also had a separate meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, continuing the dialogue that started when the prime minister visited Romania for the first time, at the beginning of last year.

It was a very productive meeting, in which both parties expressed the common

wish to strengthen our relations in various fields of common interest, offering a good perspective for increased political and economic cooperation, toward achieving the goal of a strategic partnership.

Trade and investment cooperation remains a key priority for us. The economic partnership agreement (EPA) between the EU and Japan came into force in February, during Romania's presidency of the Council of the European Union; we hope this will lead to a more robust presence of Romanian products on the Japanese market.

We also hope to see a continuation of significant Japanese investments in Romania and a diversification of the areas of interest. Romania is already an established regional and European information and communication technology hub and we believe that companies focused on innovation would appreciate the human talent and the high degree of specialization they will encounter.

Together with the EPA, the strategic part-



**The Council Square in the historic center of Brasov, Romania, is surrounded by 18th and 19th-century townhouses. The former Council House (center) was initially built in 1420.** EMBASSY OF ROMANIA

nership agreement between the EU and Japan will create new and important opportunities to expand our ties.

We are happy to see every year more and more Romanian tourists coming to Japan to discover this fascinating land, its culture and its people. We strongly believe this amplification of people to people contacts and cultural exchanges is the best way to improve our mutual understanding. We are looking forward to also seeing an increase of Japanese traveling to Romania, to discover its natural beauty, diversity and rich cultural heritage.

As we are getting closer to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, together with the Romanian Olympic Committee, we are preparing to welcome our athletes and the Japanese public interested in sports and in learning more about our country.

Once again, we express our gratitude to our generous host cities, Musashino, Matsudo, Oita, Fukutsu and Koga, which did an outstanding job in creating the best possible conditions for the training camps of our Olympic team and in promoting the cultural ties between our countries. We will be delighted to celebrate together the medals

won by our athletes in the Olympic and Paralympic competitions. The games will also be an opportunity to see even more Romanian tourists coming over to support our delegation, to make new friends and to be part of this unique event.

To conclude, I would like to express my satisfaction for the strong and dynamic ties between our countries and our commitment to build, together with our Japanese partners, toward a new level of cooperation and partnership, based on the fundamental values of democracy and rule of law that we share.



**The medieval Bran Castle is a famous tourist attraction that is also known as Dracula's Castle.** EMBASSY OF ROMANIA



**The Retezat Mountains are one of the highest massifs in Romania.** EMBASSY OF ROMANIA

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

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Craft lemon sour LEMON-DOU  
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**A toast to Romania's National Day.**  
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Congratulations  
to the People of Romania  
on the Occasion  
of  
Their National Day

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CONGRATULATIONS  
to the People of Romania on the  
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