

Queen Margrethe II's Birthday Special

An aim to continue nurturing international cooperation, support

PETER TAKSOE-JENSEN

AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK



April 16 marks the 80th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of the Kingdom of Denmark. It is a special day to us Danes. Though the official birthday celebrations have been

canceled this year due to COVID-19, the queen will undoubtedly be celebrated in the homes and hearts of the Danish public.

Every year, the day is marked by raising the Danish flag all over the country in gardens, buildings and on buses.

This is a great occasion to pay tribute. With the devastating circumstances the world is facing right now, more than ever we feel fortunate to have our strong matriarch.

She is a figure who can guide all of us Danes to unite. Recently, she held a historic speech, urging the Danish people to

stand together by keeping their distance to prevent spreading COVID-19. It was the first time since WWII that a member of the royal family has spoken directly to the nation on television, outside of the yearly New Year's speech.

The Danes listened; 3.3 million Danes of our total population of 5.6 million tuned in to hear the queen's words in this difficult time. This shows that the queen has a voice able to bring out better versions of ourselves.

The strong and visionary diplomatic relationship between Denmark and Japan carries that same power. We can inspire each other with meaningful exchange of knowledge and experiences.

Thus, this is also a wonderful opportunity to commemorate the fruitful relationship between our two nations. A connection, which demonstrates its significance in trying times like these, where support is needed across borders.

Just as the queen's plea to the Danes, standing together in distance is exactly what Denmark and Japan have done for more than 150 years.

If a positive thing is to come out of the current health crisis, it is the reminder to



Queen Margrethe II of Denmark PER MORTEN ABRAHAMSEN AND WONDERFUL COPENHAGEN

keep evolving our international cooperation, standing together by sharing knowledge and solutions for a better and smarter tomorrow.

During our 153 years of diplomatic ties, Denmark and Japan have already

developed strong cooperation. We began with a treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation.

Now we have a strategic partnership and can benefit from the free trade agreement between the European Union and Japan.

There is also room for us to work together even more closely in the future.

The world is calling for climate action and green solutions, now. I want to work together with Japan in making a green impact. Denmark is in the lead when it comes to meeting the U.N.'s sustainable development goals.

We are a global frontrunner in renewable energy and I hope we will work even closer together with Japan and inspire Japanese green, sustainable solutions moving forward.

We share many similarities and values, such as our respect for democracy, human rights and rule of law. We have a mutual understanding of the importance of democracy in securing political legitimacy and stability.

Geographically, we share a connection to the sea through our stunning coastlines. Both of our populations have a

large group of elderly, and we cooperate closely to develop innovative solutions that center on quality of life.

High-tech research, innovation and expansion of thriving academic networks are among the things we look forward to further collaboration in.

The royal family and the imperial family have a close relationship, which strengthens the Danish-Japanese bond. Just last year, the Danish crown prince and princess visited Japan to participate in and celebrate the enthronement of

Emperor Naruhito, and they highly treasure their Japan visits.

A partner, who plays a great part in this, is the Japan-Denmark Parliamentary League with Defense Minister Taro Kono as president.

Their strong support enables the Danish-Japanese partnership to grow, and for that, I would like to thank them. The cultural exchanges and personal connections that we have sown and grown in the past 153 years, I hope will flourish into the next century and beyond.

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

With the compliments of
Excellent Marine Products from Denmark



NOVENCO Nippon Ltd.

5, Kaigandori, Chuo-ku, Kobe 650-0024
<http://www.novenco.jp>