

Azerbaijan National Day Special

Country is continuing to increase its role in global processes

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AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF
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It is my great pleasure to address the readers of The Japan Times on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan. I would like to extend my warmest greetings and sincere

wishes to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, the imperial family, the government and the friendly people of Japan, as well as the Azerbaijani community residing in Japan.

This year we are celebrating the 29th anniversary of the restoration of our independence and 102nd anniversary of the establishment of the first Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. It was the first democratic and secular republic in the Muslim world, which was built in accordance with the model of a parliamentary republic and multiparty system. Since regaining independence in 1991, Azerbaijan has developed into a thriving country with rapid growth and become an important player in the



A view of Baku, the largest city in the world located below sea level. EMBASSY OF AZERBAIJAN

global energy market. However, this year's celebration is overshadowed by the spread of coronavirus throughout the world.

Providing information about the timely and necessary preventive measures taken to prevent the spread of coronavirus in Azerbaijan, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev stressed that the priority for us during the pandemic has been to protect human health and life while ensuring social protection. "As a result of all the measures taken in the country, it has been possible to prevent mass

infections. During the last weeks, there has been a positive trend between the number of people infected and those recovering in Azerbaijan."

Protecting the public health in the Republic of Azerbaijan by providing the population with medical care in accordance with international standards is one major point in Azerbaijan's socioeconomic policy. Great work has been done to ensure economic stability in Azerbaijan during the pandemic. Actions include solving employment problems and maintaining

macroeconomic and financial stability by adopting a socioeconomic support package worth \$2 billion for this purpose. Azerbaijan is not only taking effective measures to combat coronavirus at the national level, but is also making significant contributions to strengthening solidarity and cooperation at the regional and global levels. Azerbaijan's government has donated \$5 million to the World Health Organization to help fight the coronavirus outbreak.

"As the coronavirus pandemic is a global threat, it requires a global response. Since the first days of the pandemic, we have witnessed some countries and international organizations being confused by the coronavirus and choosing the path of self-closure. In the current circumstances of the global pandemic, the world needs solidarity and cooperation," said the president, who also serves as chairman of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, while addressing the Summit of the Turkic Council via videoconference. Additionally, as chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, the president led the Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement Contact Group in May in response to COVID-19. Under the motto "United against COVID-19," the summit focused on the fight against the novel coronavirus.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Japan are successfully developing in various fields. The two countries enjoyed high-level political ties through last year's mutual visits and meetings aiming to deepen the broad range of areas of mutual interest, including partnership in the field of energy and economic cooperation in nonoil industries. Azerbaijan's cargo carrier Silk Way West is successfully continuing its scheduled flights to Osaka and is planning to expand the business in Japan. On Oct. 31, 2019, in Mie Prefecture, H.I.S. Co. signed a strategic cooperation agreement for the export of Japanese food products to world markets through Azerbaijan using the Trans-Caspian International Transport

Route. On Nov. 21, 2019, the 10th meeting of the State Commission on Economic Cooperation between Azerbaijan and Japan took place in Tokyo. Cooperation and possible projects between Azerbaijan and Japan in a number of areas, including the establishment of new industrial enterprises, agriculture, transportation, transit, tourism, environment, information and communication technologies, water industry and irrigation, alternative and renewable energy sources were the main themes of discussion. We are committed to a strong and long-term relationship with Japan.

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



The Heydar Aliyev Center, a building complex in Baku, was inaugurated in May 2012, and is famous for its distinctive architecture and flowing, curved style that eschews sharp angles.

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