

Belarus National Day Special

A calling to honor and cultivate global ties

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Today the Republic of Belarus celebrates its 29th Independence Day, the Day of the Republic. This day is always a good occasion to reflect on the achievements Belarus has made, including in the area

of international cooperation.

In this respect, I welcome the ongoing, steady development of the multifaceted Belarus-Japan relationship. The two countries enjoy a high level of political dialogue and I look forward to its further elevation. As nations with shared values and similar approaches to a range of most pressing global issues, including peace, international security, health and social protection, Japan and Belarus regularly mutually support each other in the United Nations. Belarus and Japan are successfully engaged in various bilateral activities in recreation, cultural

exchanges, emergency relief, tourism and sports.

For years, Belarus-Japan trade turnover has been rising and, given the current turmoil of global markets, continues performing well. Belarusian goods — such as dairy products, confectionery, linen and woodwork — that have been in popular demand worldwide for their natural quality are being introduced to Japanese customers. For me, finding Belarus-made cheese at a supermarket in central Tokyo was indeed a pleasant experience.

The potential of Belarus-Japan cooperation is vast and, I would say, greater than one could imagine. I am confident that Belarus, as a dedicated member or participant of various regional organizations and economic initiatives, including the Eurasian Economic Union, the European Union Eastern Partnership and the Belt and Road initiative, provides its current and potential partners in Japan with unique opportunities in trade, logistics and expertise on regional developments, to name just a few. In turn, being the world's third-largest economy and one of the major players in the Asia-Pacific region and

globally, Japan is a country Belarus is interested in having stable, friendly and results-oriented relations with.

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The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a new level of uncertainty into our lives, but it also stimulates the rethinking of our assessment of what, for a long time, seemed to be permanent.

The global disease has shown how united

Belarusian and Japanese business counterparts are continuously engaged in capitalizing on established trade channels and identifying new possibilities for cooperation. Additionally, I find current trends, such as the recent establishment of a business club, which assembles entrepreneurs from the two countries seeking closer bilateral trade ties, promising and timely.

and compassionate the international community can be in the face of a common threat. However, it also demonstrated how fragile the globalized world is. It made us learn the hard way that not a single achievement in bilateral and multilateral relations can be taken for granted or regarded as conventional. This is actually a good thing, as the pandemic has vividly underscored that every partnership is to be appreciated and cultivated while searching for and discovering new opportunities for cooperation should become a priority.

Belarus considers the Asia-Pacific region a dynamically evolving and economically robust region; the country looks forward to further diversifying its ties with Japan in various areas, including politics, commerce, collaboration in international organizations, science and people-to-people contacts.

Belarus and Japan have been good partners for many years, and as we find ourselves in an all new post-COVID-19 world I am sure our extended bilateral record will serve our nations well in further expanding our bilateral agenda and development of mutually beneficial cooperation.



President Alexander Lukashenko and Japan-Belarus Interparliamentary Friendship League Head Hiromichi Watanabe shake hands in Minsk on June 30, 2019. BELTA

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 Belarus
on the Occasion of Their Independence Day

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