

# North Macedonia National Day Special

## Relationship enjoys long, fruitful history

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CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF NORTH  
MACEDONIA



It is a great pleasure to write this year the message on the occasion of the 29th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of North Macedonia and spread my sincere wishes to all Macedonian citizens residing in Japan.

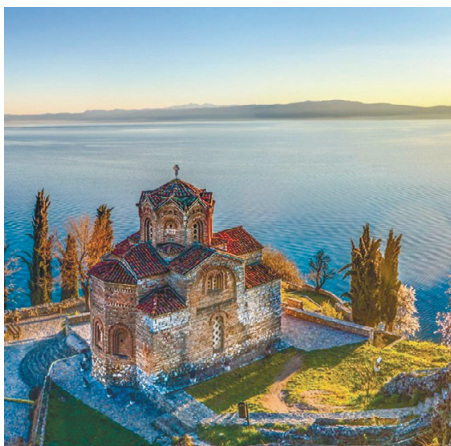
In this extremely difficult year for all mankind, we proudly announce that our country managed to achieve two big steps toward our main strategic goals.

On March 27, the Republic of North Macedonia joined the NATO alliance as its 30th member. This year for the first time in our history we celebrate Independence Day as a member of NATO. As a long-term partner of the alliance, our country will continue actively contributing to NATO, European Union and U.N. security missions in the region and the world aimed at supporting a secure, stable and economically prosperous region.

On March 24, the EU finally adopted a decision to open accession talks with the Republic of North Macedonia. Full-fledged EU membership remains a strategic goal for our country. Consequently, the key pri-

ority is to start accession negotiations with the European Union as soon as possible, and to transform into a stronger European democracy and market economy, to build good-neighborly relations and to contribute to regional cooperation.

On this path, we appreciate the friendship and support of Japan. Japan is our long-standing friend and partner. The friendship between the Macedonian and the Japanese people has a long and fruitful history. Japan's government and people are among the greatest supporters and helpers of our country whenever it is needed, providing technical assistance, expert knowledge and vital exchanges of people.



**St. Jovan, an Orthodox church located on a cliff over Kaneo Beach** EMBASSY OF NORTH  
MACEDONIA

This creates an extremely positive image of Japan and the Japanese people in our country.

This year we mark the 26th anniversary of the establishment of Macedonian-Japanese diplomatic relations. As the Olympic Games are postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic, we are still looking forward toward friendly and fruitful cooperation with our host city of Chigasaki. The embassy and Chigasaki have worked hard on promoting Macedonian-Japanese friendship through the organization of various events. We have also tried to bring Macedonian tastes, particularly food and wine, closer to the people of Japan by organizing a Macedonian food festival and cooking classes with the help of our friends and members of the Japanese-Macedonian Friendship Association.

All of the above serves as additional confirmation to the good bilateral relations between our two countries. On this occasion I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Japanese people and the government of Japan for their support and efforts in improving the bilateral relations between our two countries. I also sincerely hope that the years to come will be even more successful and will further strengthen the friendship between our people.

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