

Armenia National Day Special

Ongoing government, economic relations

GRANT POGOSYAN
AMBASSADOR OF ARMENIA

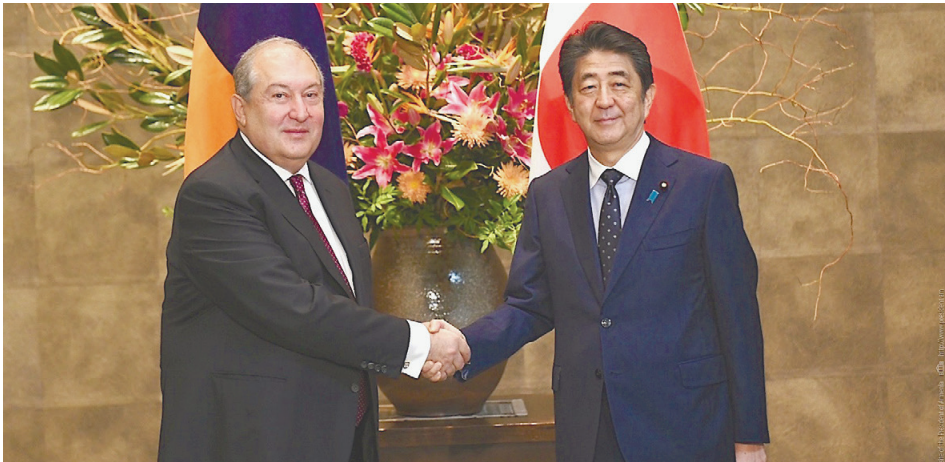


Every year on Sept. 21, Armenians celebrate the birth of the modern Armenian state. Armenia was declared an independent state on this day in 1991, following a national referendum. This

event marks another milestone in the millennia-long history of our “survivor nation,” one proud of its historical heritage, unique language, distinctive culture and rich traditions. On this occasion of the 29th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Armenia, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to my compatriots, as well as to all our friends in Japan and elsewhere in the world.

Japan was among the first countries to recognize the new Armenian state and on Sept. 7, 1992, the two nations formally established diplomatic relations. For the past 28 years, the friendly relations between Armenia and Japan have seen many positive developments, including the mutual establishment of embassies in our capital cities. In the summer of this year, we also marked the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Armenian Embassy in Akasaka, Tokyo. As the first ambassador of Armenia to Japan, I have had the privilege and honor to assist in boosting our countries’ ties and reinforcing partnerships in many areas.

Our bilateral relations have been highlighted by various reciprocal visits. Two recent high-level ones, the visit of the Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono’s delegation to Armenia in September 2018,



President Armen Sarkissian and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands at a meeting held in Tokyo on Oct. 24. EMBASSY OF ARMENIA

and last year’s visit of President Armen Sarkissian to attend the enthronement of the emperor, significantly contributed toward deeper bilateral relations between our two nations.

Collaboration with Japan and the assistance projects of the Japanese government that have been carried out in Armenia are significantly helping to improve our economy and social infrastructure. The Armenian people greatly appreciate the generous help of the Japanese government and the people of Japan. This year, Japan again extended a helping hand by delivering diagnostic materials, drugs and equipment that helped Armenia to lower the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Advancing business ties, as well as boosting trade and investments in both countries, still remains a collaborative sphere with great potential. Armenia’s economy is developing in diverse directions, such as high technology, mining, agriculture, tourism, pharmaceuticals and

engineering, among others. Information and communication technology has been particularly successful over the past decade, showing double-digit growth rates. Armenia, with its highly educated population, entrepreneurial spirit and competitive labor costs, has firmly established itself as a technological hub and a reputable outsourcing destination. Sometimes referred to as the Silicon Mountains, Armenia was chosen to host the World Congress on Information Technology last October. It was one of the largest and most prestigious IT events in the world, where IT specialists and companies showcased their latest achievements and held discussions about the evolution of the digital age.

In December, I accompanied Takeo Kanade — a prominent scientist in the field of artificial intelligence — to visit Armenia as the 2019 laureate of the Global IT Award. This is a state award of the Republic of Armenia that annually honors an individual who has made

extraordinary contributions to humanity through advancing the world of IT. Kanade is the second Japanese scientist to receive this prestigious award after Tsugio Makimoto — a visionary and leader in Japan’s semiconductor industry, who received the award in 2013.

Known for its abundance of historical and cultural assets, beautiful nature, ecologically clean and tasty food, as well as the generous hospitality of its people, Armenia is becoming a destination choice for a steadily increasing number of visitors, including our Japanese friends. The famous Armenian brandy, the revived winemaking traditions using the local grape varieties, a wide selection of exquisite wines that receive international awards and recognition every year, as well as musical and other events in and around wineries, also attract special “wine and gourmet” tour groups.

On this celebratory occasion, I wish peace and prosperity to the people of Japan and global readers of The Japan Times. In these uncommon times we all are going through I wish to add, please stay safe and healthy.



The Temple of Garni, built by King Tiridates I in the first century AD, is the best-known structure and symbol of pre-Christian Armenia. EMBASSY OF ARMENIA

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Congratulations
*to the People of the Republic of Armenia
on the 29th Anniversary of Their Independence*



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