

Serbia National Day Special

New tax agreement reaches fruition

IVANA GOLUBOVIC-DUBOKA
CHARGE D'AFFAIRS A.I.



On the occasion of the Serbian Statehood Day, Sretenje, I would like to extend my greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, the entire imperial family and the government and people of Japan.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who will be remembered as the first Japanese prime minister to visit Serbia after the dissolution of Yugoslavia.

In addition, allow me to express my best wishes to current Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, who has taken over the arduous task of leading the country in these challenging times.

Sadly, 2020 was marked by one of the biggest calamities the world has faced: COVID-19. People and economies were endangered globally, with consequences

that dramatically degraded and complicated our way of life.

Serbia, like Japan and the rest of the world, has been hit by the devastating effects of COVID-19. The pandemic has forced our government to implement extraordinary measures to preserve the economic system.

However, it is my great pleasure to note that those measures have produced results — the development of bilateral cooperation, especially regarding Japanese investments in Serbia, has been consistently discussed. The long-awaited double taxation agreement has been signed, which clears the way for the more relaxed entry of Japanese companies into the Serbian market.

A major breakthrough was that Toyo Tire Corp. started construction on a factory in Serbia in December. Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic personally attended the groundbreaking along with Japanese dignitaries.

It is important to note that our bilateral cooperation continues to show an upward trend in all fields, clearly highlighting Serbia as the leading country for foreign investment in the region. Thanks

to our cooperation with the government of Japan, we became one of the recipient countries for clinical trials of Avigan, helping in the search for a remedy against COVID-19.

Concerning the global fight against the pandemic, Serbia is consistently at the top of lists showing countries with the highest percentage of vaccinated citizens. We offer our citizens a number of vaccines to choose from and shall continue to relentlessly fight the pandemic until we win.

The postponement of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games was another bitter blow inflicted by the pandemic. We are looking forward to the games this summer as they will be a sort of victory over the virus. Let me thank the officials of Hofu, Kashiwazaki, Fujimi, Karatsu and Kitakami for serving as host towns for Serbian athletes.

As we approach the important milestone of 140 years of friendship with Japan in 2022, we plan to celebrate the occasion with activities that will further increase our bilateral relations in all fields. I am really looking forward to cooperating with my Japanese collocutors on making it happen.

Long history of friendship bolsters growing relations

ICHIRO AISAWA
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-SERBIA
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

I am pleased to express my congratulations to the Republic of Serbia on its National Day. Serbia has grown and developed tremendously into a leading nation in the Balkans and I look forward to even greater progress.

Serbia is the key to the stability and prosperity of both southeastern Europe



and the Balkans. Under the banner of freedom and democracy, Serbia has achieved great progress in all areas. Japan and Serbia have a long history of friendship. Relations between our nations have particularly advanced after then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a

visit to Serbia in January 2018. Once we beat the coronavirus, bilateral trade and investment are poised to continue to expand significantly. I also look forward to new developments in sports, culture, science and citizens' exchanges.

As president of the Japan-Serbia Parliamentary Friendship League, I will do my utmost to further develop relations between our countries. Again, I offer my warm congratulations on the occasion of the Serbian National Day.



President Aleksandar Vucic participates in the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a Toyo Tire Corp. factory in Indija on Dec. 15, 2020. DIMITRIJE GOLL

Developing stronger mutual ties

TADASHI NAGAI
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-SERBIA SOCIETY

It is my great honor and pleasure to express my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Serbia, the Day of Statehood known as Sretenje, on behalf of the Japan-Serbia Society.

In reviewing recent developments in our relations, I am glad to mention that more and more new investments from Japan to Serbia are being reported. Despite the coronavirus pandemic, it was very encour-



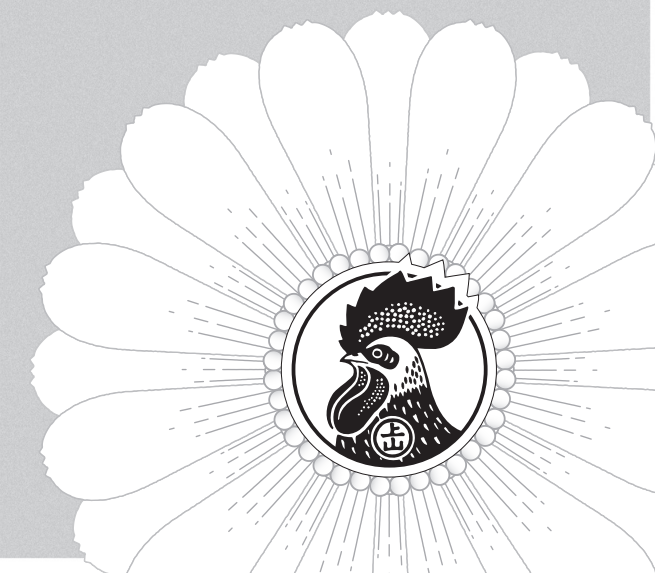
aging news to hear that the agreement for avoiding double taxation was signed, which should further promote our economic relations. The Japan-Serbia Society will further work to promote better mutual understanding and development of bilateral relations, as well as economic and cultural ties.

Congratulations to the Republic of Serbia

on the occasion of the National Day



Mr. Naohide Ueyama, KINCHO president, was awarded the Order of the Serbian Flag - Third Rank in 2020.



Congratulations

to the People of
the Republic of Serbia

on the Occasion of
Their National Day

 Mitsubishi Corporation