

# Russia National Day Special

## Playing a steady and constructive role in the world

**MIKHAIL GALUZIN**  
AMBASSADOR OF RUSSIA



It's my great honor and pleasure to address The Japan Times readers on the very special occasion of Russia Day — National Day of the Russian Federation — that we celebrate on

June 12. This important date marks not only the anniversary of political and economic reforms but reflects as well a millennium-long history of the Russian state that we are proud of.

Today our country is a land of political stability with a sustainable economy, rich cultural heritage and outstanding achievements in science, high-tech, education and sports. The Russian Federation is a modern, prosperous and dynamically developing nation ready to take up the challenges of the day and respond to them with all its energy.

We have managed to overcome most difficult economic and social problems. We believe that while changing with the world, we should not break away from our own roots, history and multinational culture.

Last year our country, as well as the whole world, faced a global threat — an unknown and dangerous infection called COVID-19. Under these difficult conditions, Russian scientists made a true breakthrough by creating a number of reliable, effective and safe vaccines against the coronavirus, including Sputnik V, EpiVac-Corona, Kovivak and Sputnik Light. We are ready to share our experience with other countries, including the issues of vaccine supply, transfer of technologies and local production. Sputnik V is now certified in more than 60 countries.

The priority of modern Russian foreign policy is to create favorable conditions to ensure progressive sustainable internal development. We are committed to constructive dialogue with foreign partners and to interaction without dividing lines and artificial restrictions.

In the international arena, Russia is among the influential global players advocating for peace and for maintaining the balance of power and interests. We stand for integration and mutually beneficial cooperation based on equality and respectful partnership. The future of the world community is associated with the ability of states to find effective solutions to common problems, as well as the willingness to show collective leadership in the interests of the triumph of true multilateralism. In this context, the unique legitimacy and capabilities of the U.N. as a supporting structure of the modern world order, as well as the basic postulates of international law contained in the U.N. Charter, are in exceptional demand.

We exercise strong leadership in ensuring and enhancing global strategic stability. This was demonstrated clearly when Russia initiated prolongation of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), which remains the only legal instrument in the area of nuclear arms control.

We have always been open to broad international cooperation and worked hard to provide assistance to the settlement

of regional conflicts, to fight international terrorism in Syria and to seek a peaceful solution between Palestinians and Israelis. Recently, Russia also played the central role in reaching a ceasefire deal in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

It is on the basis of mutual respect that we are building relations with a majority of the world's countries. We are consistently expanding contacts with our closest partners in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Eurasian Economic Union and our allies in the Collective Security Treaty Organization. We attach great importance to our participation in the activities of the Group of 20 and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation organization, and in promoting a strategic partnership with the Association of South-east Asian Nations. We stand for establishing in the Asia-Pacific region a new geostrategic contour of peace, stability and prosperity. This is the key purpose of President Vladimir Putin's initiative to found the Greater Eurasian Partnership.

Japan is Russia's important neighbor in the Asia-Pacific region. There is growing interest in the Russian society toward Japan's economic achievements, outstanding management system, as well as long history, rich traditions and sophisticated culture. Putin and Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga during their telephone conversation in September 2020 reaffirmed their determination to continue further comprehensive development of Russian-Japanese relations. Intensive contacts and exchanges have been maintained between their security councils, the foreign and defense ministries (including the "two plus two" format), within the Russian-Japanese Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Issues, parliaments, ruling parties and local governments in various regions. Though under COVID-19 many of the meetings have been held online, we believe that they will soon return to the normal mode.

As the coronavirus situation stabilizes, we hope to hold an opening ceremony for the Russia-Japan cross-cultural year of interregional exchange in Sapporo that was postponed due to the pandemic. We are pleased to note the growing interest of Japan's prefectures in promoting cooperation with the regions of the Russian Federation located both in the Far East and in the



An aerial view of Red Square and the State Historical Museum of Russia in Moscow  
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European part of our country.

Russian-Japanese collaboration in medicine and health care is particularly important. One of the latest examples of success is the joint creation of the first COVID-19 diagnostic system that has proven to be one of the fastest and most accurate in the world.

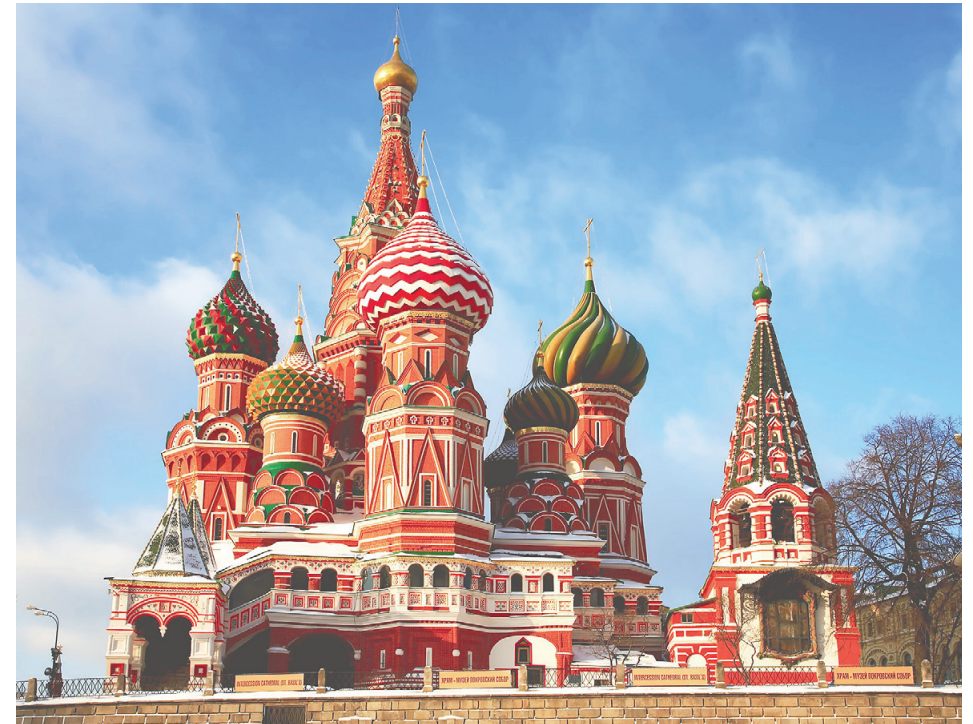
Our countries continue joint work on the implementation of the eight-point cooperation plan that was proposed by former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the list of priority projects introduced by the Russian side. Japanese entrepreneurs are investing in many sectors of the Russian economy, with energy being the strategic sphere of our bilateral cooperation. Japanese companies are involved in the Sakhalin-1 and Sakhalin-2 projects. Besides Mitsui & Co., Japan's National Oil, Gas and Metals Corp. has joined the construction of the Arctic LNG 2 project.

Rosatom Corp. stepped up by facilitating relief efforts in Fukushima Prefecture after the March 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. A number of initiatives are being explored regarding the peaceful use of nuclear energy. We are also boosting our cooperation in high-tech spheres.

However, we believe that the potential for bilateral cooperation in economics and other practical areas is still far from being completely realized. Therefore, together with our Japanese partners we shall work to develop more ambitious programs in the fields of trade and investment, technological cooperation, education and humanitarian exchanges.

Russia-Japan relations play a significant part not only in terms of bilateral interests, but also in terms of the stable and sustainable development of the Asia-Pacific region

**Russian President Vladimir Putin**  
PHOTO BANK KREMLIN



St. Basil's Cathedral in central Moscow  
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and the world, including in countering emerging threats and such challenges as terrorism and drugs.

For Russia, Japan is an important partner with whom we are seeking to build mutually beneficial relations as good neighbors and by taking into account each other's interests.

I would like to sincerely congratulate all my fellow compatriots and citizens of Russia currently staying in Japan on Russia Day. I am convinced that stable and progressive development of Russian-Japanese cooperation in a broad range of pressing issues will strengthen trust between the peoples of our countries and lead to the further prosperity and well-being of our nations.

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



The Samson Fountain sits in front of Peterhof Palace in Saint Petersburg.  
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Congratulations  
to the People  
of  
the Russian Federation  
on the Occasion  
of  
Their Independence Day



JAPAN TOBACCO INC.

Kamiyacho Trust Tower, 1-1, Toranomon 4-chome, Minato-Ku, Tokyo 105-6927 JAPAN  
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