

Danish Queen's Birthday

Publicity

Denmark celebrates Queen's birthday with confidence, hope

By Peter Taksøe-Jensen
Ambassador of Denmark

On this day, April 16, Denmark celebrates the 81st birthday of Her Majesty the Queen Margrethe II. Even though the passing year has been anything but joyous, we look ahead with confidence and hope for the coming times.

For the second year in a row, the celebrations will be virtual due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In the yearly New Year's speech, the Queen reminded us that even in crisis, there are moments worthy of appreciation.

Moreover, Her Majesty highlighted the importance of coming together as a community to overcome great challenges and as individuals to appreciate our friends and loved ones. Especially those on the other side of the world.

Her Majesty looks forward to welcoming the Japanese Emperor and Empress on an official state visit once the situation allows it, reiterating their special bond.

Denmark and Japan share many fundamental values. We honor democratic elections, respect human rights and the rule of law, and strive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

For more than 150 years, Denmark and Japan have maintained diplomatic relations, and we continue to strengthen our alliance by reinforcing our joint strategic partnership.

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Her Majesty the Queen Margrethe II delivers her traditional New Year's speech on Dec. 31, 2020.

and sustainable energy production, Denmark is eager to develop our collaboration with Japan. Through cooperation and ingenuity, we will succeed in shaping a more sustainable future for the global community.

This spring also marks 10 years since the tragic events of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. In the summer of 2011, Crown Prince Frederik visited the devastated area of Higashi-Matsushima in

Miyagi Prefecture, and on March 11, 2021, I traveled there to participate in the moving commemoration ceremony.

Returning to Tokyo, I felt assured that we can overcome the most insurmountable of obstacles when we work together.

This is especially true in the current pandemic. The EU member states have worked together to secure vaccines for its citizens and produce enough to even become the current sole provider of vaccines to Japan. Soon we will be rolling out vaccine passports, allowing us once again to travel freely within the union.

Currently, we expect the entire Danish population to be vaccinated by July 25. This brings hope that we can resume traveling and continuing our cultural and business exchanges soon.



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We very much hope that Japan will introduce similar methods. This will also be an important component to ensure a successful implementation of the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the EU and Japan.

An efficient vaccine rollout will also be a game changer ensuring the safety of international events. Even though the Olympic and Paralympic Games will not become the symbol of the world overcoming the pandemic, we will all still follow Danish athletes in Tokyo. I always experience invigorating enthusiasm when visiting the Japanese host villages.

I would like to thank the Japan-Denmark Parliamentary League and its president, Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Administrative Reform and Regulatory Reform, for the strong support in expanding our bond of cooperation and shared hope for the future.



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