Slovenia committed to expanding cooperation with Japan

By Janez Premoze

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Republic of Slovenia to Japan

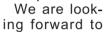
This year, Slovenia is celebrating its 32nd Statehood Day, the day on which our nation gained its independence in 1991. Since then. Slovenia has been a staunch supporter of human rights, democracy, rules-based international order and the rule of law.

Slovenia's activities in the international arena were recognized and rewarded this June with its election as a non-permanent member of the U.N. Security Council for 2024-2025. We received the support of 153 countries in the first round. As a member, we will actively contribute to peace, security and the integration of the divided UNSC. We are looking forward to cooperating with Japan, which is already an active member of the council.

Slovenia will continue to work

closely with Japan bilaterally, with a view to extending our cooperation to various fields that still have the

potential to be deepened and developed, such as academia. culture. business cooperation, technology and sports.





one of the most important sports events of the year, the 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup. We are honored that Japan has chosen to host the Slovenian basketball team, which won fourth place at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. and we wish the best of luck to the Japanese basketball team. We will be rooting for both the Japan and Slovenia basketball teams during their play in Okinawa.

Slovenia has decided to par-

ticipate in EXPO Osaka 2025. Our participation will be linked to the main theme of the exhibition, "Shaping the Future Society for Our Lives," and to the more specific topic of "Connecting Lives." We want to demonstrate different types of connection — between people and nature. nature and technology. the virtual and real world, culture and science. Slovenia and Societv 5.0. Slovenia and Japan, and Slovenia and the world. We want to demonstrate that Slovenia has been successfully implementing Society 5.0, which was initially presented by Japan.

Our aim is to share with Japan our love for food. This year Slovenia participated again, after 22 years, at FOODEX Japan. We successfully presented Slovenian products such as wine, salt, ham, honey and honey-based food supplements. Our success was further deepened by the visit of the Min-

ister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia, Ms. Irena Šinko, whose enthusiasm over our exhibition was seen in her decision for Slovenia to return to FOODEX Japan in 2024.

While the relations between Slovenia and Japan have never been stronger, we are looking forward to developing our close connection further through the potential signing of a social security agreement between our two countries. This would strongly benefit Japan and Slovenian citizens who have found a new home in each other's country. We also hope to strengthen political, economic and scientific cooperation.

Two countries on opposite sides of the globe, Slovenia and Japan will add another successful story to their history of cooperation, already impressive in its variety, depth and strength. I am deeply grateful to all the individuals, institutions and corporations that have helped our



Photo by Jacob Riglin

Ljubljana, the capital of the Republic of Slovenia

small, young country achieve the successes I described, and I hope we can continue working together

to successfully promote the beautiful country of innovation that is Slo-

Congratulations

to the People of the Republic of Slovenia on the Occasion of the Anniversary of Their Independence

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