

National Day of Türkiye

PUBLICITY

Türkiye & Japan: 100 yrs of amity, solidarity

By Korkut Günger
Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye

In 2024, we proudly celebrate the centennial of diplomatic relations between Türkiye and Japan. It is an honor to address the esteemed readers of The Japan News on this momentous occasion.



Korkut Günger

Since our relationship was upgraded to a "Strategic Partnership" in 2013, the bond between Türkiye and Japan has flourished, bolstered by numerous high-level visits and a robust foundation of mutual respect and cooperation.

Our formal relations began in 1924, following the establishment of the Republic of Türkiye in 1923. However, the roots of our friendship and solidarity extend back to the late 19th century.

In 1890, the Ottoman Frigate "Ertuğrul" embarked on a goodwill voyage to Japan, bearing honors and gifts from Sultan Abdulhamid II to Emperor Meiji. Tragically, on its return journey, the vessel encountered a typhoon, struck a reef and sank off the rocky coast of Kushimoto, Wakayama Prefecture. The assistance provided by the Japanese government and local people to the survivors laid the cornerstone for the enduring friendship between our nations.

During the Iran-Iraq War, Turkish authorities responded promptly to Japan's request for assistance in evacuating Japanese citizens from Tehran. Turkish Airlines safely transported them back to Türkiye, further solidifying our strong ties.

Our mutual support has continued through various incidents, including the 1999 İzmit Earthquake in Türkiye and the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. Most recently, following the earthquakes of February 6, 2023, Japan was among the first nations to dispatch search and rescue teams to Türkiye, despite the great distance.

Our cooperation extends beyond disaster relief. Guided by our strategic partnership, we aim to deepen our multi-faceted relationship across the fields of economy, tourism, culture, education, natural disaster management, and science and technology.

Economically, Türkiye and Japan enjoy robust trade and commercial relations. Japan is our third-largest trading partner in the Asia-Pacific region, and we see vast potential for further collaboration. With 257 Japanese



Photos courtesy of Turkish Embassy

Hot air balloon rides are one of the best ways to discover and explore the beautiful Cappadocia region.



Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque, a major cultural and historical site in Istanbul, seen from above

companies operating in Türkiye and investments totaling \$3.47 billion, Japan ranks 13th in direct investments in Türkiye in 2023. We foresee these economic ties evolving into a more comprehensive partnership.

In October, we will host the 27th Meeting of the Türkiye-Japan Business Council in Tokyo. This gathering will undoubtedly contribute to new partnerships and broaden our collaboration, both bilaterally and in third countries.

Concluding an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) remains a pivotal goal. We believe that an EPA could provide a stronger foundation for our commercial relationship to thrive and facilitate enhanced cooperation and investment.

Looking ahead to Kansai EXPO 2025, we anticipate further advancements in our economic and cultural relations.

Tourism holds immense potential for both nations. Türkiye now is among the most attractive tourist destinations in the world, boasting 21 UNESCO World Heritage sites. The number of Japanese visitors to

Türkiye in 2023, though still relatively low, reached 80,000.

Turkish Airlines, with its daily flights between Istanbul and Tokyo and Istanbul and Osaka, significantly contribute to our economic and tourist relations. We also welcome All Nippon Airways' (ANA) decision to resume flights to and from Istanbul starting in February 2025.

In light of global energy transformation and climate change, energy and decarbonization are prominent on our bilateral agenda. This year, we plan to organize the first Türkiye-Japan Energy Forum in Tokyo to explore new avenues for cooperation in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and new technologies.

We also seek to bolster our collaboration in science, technology, and education. Our academic cooperation will expand far beyond with the inauguration of the Turkish-Japanese Science and Technology University, focusing initially on disaster management, energy-environment and information technologies.

To commemorate the centennial of our diplomatic relations, we are organizing a series of cultural events, in-

cluding cinema and food festivals, Turkish classical music concerts, and thematic exhibitions, celebrating our enduring friendship.

In June 2024, TCG Kınalıada (F-514), a Turkish Navy corvette, made port visits to Kushimoto, Tokyo and Hiroshima (Kure). It is the fourth Turkish naval vessel to embark on such a journey to Japan in recent decades, following the route of the Ertuğrul Frigate.

Similarly, the Japan Training Squadron, comprising JS Kashima and JS Shimakaze, of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), will visit Istanbul from August 9-12, 2024.

With our joint efforts, I am confident that we will make the 100th anniversary a memorable year, advancing our cooperation across many fields.

Before concluding, I wish to emphasize that our enduring friendship and steadfast solidarity are not mere words but deeply felt sentiments. Our hearts swell with gratitude and pride, knowing that together we will continue to reach even greater heights, bound by a friendship that transcends borders and time.



Ephesus, in İzmir, one of the most important ancient cities in world history, reflects centuries of history.



On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, Turkish corvette TCG Kınalıada made port visits in Japan between July 8 and 21. The photo shows the vessel in Tokyo on July 12.



Baklava, a popular Turkish sweet, is made from layers of thin pastry with nuts and syrup or honey.



Anıtkabir, in Ankara, is the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder and first president of the Turkish Republic.

Congratulations

on the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Republic of Türkiye

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Congratulations on the 100th Anniversary Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of Türkiye and Japan.

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC

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