

## Romania and Japan promoting innovation-driven cooperation

By Ovidiu Dranga  
Ambassador of Romania

On this anniversary day for Romanians everywhere, I am honored to convey my heartfelt wishes of health and happiness to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and the Government of Japan, as well as my warm wishes of peace and prosperity to the Japanese people.



Ovidiu Dranga



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Tokyo 2020 Olympic gold medalists Ancuta Bodnar and Simona Radis in the women's double sculls event

disputable success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games under the most unique of circumstances.

In 2021, we celebrate 100 years of diplomatic relations between Romania and Japan, a reliable and like-minded partner, with whom we share the respect for freedom, democracy and the rule of law, as well as a common set of geopolitical sensitivities. It is a good moment to take stock of our accomplishments and start advancing an ambitious agenda, building upon the Strategic Partnership that our countries will sign soon, with a special focus on security and defense.

Today, Romania is a net contributor to international security, supporting strengthened EU-NATO operational cooperation in geographic areas of common geopolitical interest, such as the Indo-Pacific, seeking synergies and complementari-

ties between EU and NATO defense capabilities.

The recently released EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific is clear about what we should and can do together to ensure the stability, security, prosperity and sustainable development in the region, in line with the principles of democracy, rule of law, human rights and international law.

Romania is and will continue to be an active participant in this effort and is ready to facilitate the strategic coordination of Japan with the EU and NATO. The Euro-Atlantic Center for Resilience in Bucharest is designed to function as an expertise hub in support to NATO allies, EU Member States and partner states.

Furthermore, in recognition of our special expertise in digital technologies and cybersecurity, Romania has been designated host of the Eu-

ropean Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre, which will soon become operational and work with the main European stakeholders to form a cybersecurity competence community. It will also implement relevant parts of the Digital Europe and Horizon Europe programs, to bolster resilience together with Romania's and the EU's partners, such as Japan.

In science and technology, Ro-

mania is notably the home of the Extreme Light Infrastructure Nuclear Physics (ELI-NP) project, one of the most prestigious research infrastructures in the world due to its unique state-of-the-art equipment. Collaboration between ELI-NP and the scientific community in Japan has developed naturally, given the Japanese expertise in high power lasers and gamma rays. ELI-NP's scientific director is a Japanese pro-

fessor.

Romania and Japan have built a strong relationship over the last century and are ready to enter a new phase of enhanced cooperation with special focus on strategic resilience, research and development, preparing for the social, economic and political realities of the 21st century, in a show of solidarity and strength in approaching upcoming global challenges.



Happy National Day Romania!

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