

Türkiye-Japan ties enter into new centenary

By **Oğuzhan Ertuğrul**
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It is a privilege to share the 102nd anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye with the readers of The Japan News.

First of all, I extend our deepest gratitude to Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of our Republic, along with his brave comrades and the founding generations of our nation.

Democracy, rule of law, human rights and global prosperity continue to be cornerstones of our Republic. Our nation remains steadfast in its dedication to peace and stability, both in our region and beyond. In a world confronted by ongoing conflicts, the importance of cooperation and solidarity in fostering global peace has never been clearer.

Having one of the world's largest diplomatic networks, Türkiye is strongly committed to engaging with the international community on all issues affecting humanity.

With this in mind, we support the principle of indivisibility of security, namely between Europe and Eastern Asia.

In this regard, we place utmost importance on our relations with Japan, a friendly country with which we enjoy a long history.

Although our diplomatic relations started in 1924, our friendship goes back even further. After delivering the official gifts of the Ottoman Palace, the Ertuğrul Frigate sank off the shores of Kushimoto, Wakayama Prefecture, on her way back home in 1890. This tragic event, which fostered deep bonds of friendship between the Turkish and Japanese peoples, symbolizes the beginning of our long history of solidarity.

The friendship between our people has continuously developed since then. The evacuation of Japanese people from Tehran in 1985 during the Iran-Iraq War by



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Turkish Airlines and the mutual solidarity displayed after major earthquakes are still vivid in the memories of both nations.

As a clear reflection of the importance we attach to our cooperation with Japan, we upgraded our relations to the level of "Strategic Partnership" in 2013. Subsequently, we have witnessed considerable progress in every field, including economy, energy, culture, tourism, science, education and disaster management.

The centenary of our diplomatic relations last year has given a new impetus to our already progressing cooperation. On that occasion, we organized numerous cultural events, hosted Their Highnesses Crown Prince and Princess Akishino, and both Turkish and Japanese naval vessels made port visits.

Early this year, H.E. Numan Kurtulmuş, the Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, and H.E. Ömer Bolat, Minister of Trade, visited Japan.

We had the honor of hosting H.E. Gen Nakatani, Minister of Defense, in August, the first ever visit to our country from Japan in this capacity.

Most recently, Her Highness Princess Akiko paid an official visit to Türkiye in September on the occasion of the 135th anniversary of the Ertuğrul Frigate incident.

Japan is our third trade partner in East Asia, and we aim to further increase our commercial ties. The signing of the "Economic Partnership Agreement" and the "Social Security Agreement" will be particularly important, for upgrading our relations in this sphere to a new level.

The Türkiye-Japan Joint Business Committee, co-organized by the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye (DEİK) and Keidanren (Japan Business Federation), continues to be convened annually. The DEİK hosted the 28th meeting in Türkiye earlier this month.

Tourism is another field that has potential to be further explored. We are encouraged to see that social contacts between our people have surpassed the pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels. Last year, we welcomed about 134,000 Japanese tourists to our country and about 64,000 tourists from our country visited Japan.

In order to further increase tourist numbers, we strongly encourage more commercial flights between our countries. At the moment, Turkish Airlines conducts 21 weekly round trips from Tokyo and Osaka, while All Nippon Airways (ANA) conducts three weekly round trips between Tokyo and Istanbul.

The 2025 Osaka-Kansai Expo provided an excellent opportunity to share our cultural heritage, reinforcing our

commitment to cultural exchange. I once again wholeheartedly celebrate the Japanese authorities for the successful organization of the event.

Before concluding, I extend our warmest wishes to the friendly people of Japan and look forward to a joint future where our genuine friendship continues to flourish, connecting continents and cultures in the spirit of harmony and cooperation.



CONGRATULATIONS

on the Anniversary of the
Proclamation of the Republic of
Türkiye!



Courtesy of Turkish Embassy

Istanbul's Galata Tower was built in the mid-14th century and is currently known as the Galata Tower Museum.