

Momentum of Türkiye-Japan ties keeps growing

By **Oğuzhan Ertuğrul**

Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye

It is a privilege to address the readers of The Japan News on the 103rd anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye. On this day, we remember with deep respect and gratitude Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of our Republic, his comrades in arms and the generations who built our nation.

I would like to reflect on the relationship between Türkiye and Japan, a strategic partnership rooted in history, tested in times of hardship, carried forward by cooperation and dialogue at the highest level, and of growing consequence for stability in Asia and beyond.

Our friendship was forever sealed in 1890, when the people of Kushimoto rescued the survivors of the Ottoman frigate Ertuğrul, a kindness the people of Türkiye have never forgotten. Time and again since then, our two nations have stood by each other in times of hardship, cementing the bond between our peoples.

Trust that has been tested in difficult times is what allows us to do more together today. Since the centenary of our diplomatic relations in 2024, our Strategic Partnership has gained remarkable momentum. Our leaders are resolved to build on it and to take our cooperation in education, trade and defense to new heights.

The latest expression of this determination is the Turkish-Japanese Science and Technology University (TJU), which began its academic life in Ankara this month. TJU is a milestone in our partnership, and we



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are confident that both our countries will do their part to make it a lasting success story.

Regular dialogue between our institutions gives this partnership its continuity. The political consultations and consultations on counter-terror in Türkiye were welcome steps in the right direction. Our defense exchanges also gained pace this year, with the visit of the commander of the Turkish Land Forces to Japan in January to observe the Indo-Pacific New Year Jump exercise, and the fifth Japan-Türkiye Military-to-Military Dialogue held in Tokyo in April. I am confident that the ongoing dialogue between our defense industries will open further possibilities.

Parliamentary relations complement traditional diplomacy and bring our societies closer. We are pleased to see contacts between our parliaments grow steadily and look forward to welcoming more members of the Japanese Diet to Türkiye.

The same momentum is now needed in our economic relations, where the potential remains far greater than what we have achieved so far. Our bilateral trade reached approximately \$5.7 billion last year, and we are determined to raise this figure substantially in the years ahead.

Our business communities share this ambition. The 29th meeting of the Japan-Türkiye Joint Business Committee, held in Tokyo on Oct. 5 brought together more than 150 participants.

The meeting also highlighted joint projects in third countries, where our comparative strengths complement each other. The Türkiye-Japan Construction Industry Conference took cooperation in third-country markets as its main theme when it met in Tokyo for the eighth time on Oct. 6. The Conference highlighted the potential for our companies to undertake infrastructure and reconstruction projects in third countries together on a

far greater scale.

Alongside these economic ties, our cultural bonds continue to flourish. This year, we celebrated the centenary of the Japan-Türkiye Society, established in Tokyo in 1926, with Her Imperial Highness Princess Akiko and its members. Its century of cultural exchange is a reminder that our friendship lives, above all, in the ties between our peoples. Travel between our countries is

growing rapidly, boosted by more frequent flights. We also welcome the growing exchange of students and academics between Türkiye and Japan and remain committed to further strengthening our ties in higher education.

As I conclude, I extend my warmest wishes to the friendly people of Japan on the 103rd anniversary of our Republic.



CONGRATULATIONS

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



Hot air balloon rides are a popular tourist activity in Cappadocia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in central Türkiye.

