



20th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Japan & BiH

Japanese Language Course Information

University of Sarajevo organizes Japanese language course, taught by a native Japanese language speaker, which started in October 2013.

The course is offered to the citizens of BiH in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan and with the support of the Japan Foundation.

Japanese Language Proficiency Test will also be held at the University of Sarajevo every year. It is a test for non-native speakers of Japanese language which evaluates and certifies their Japanese-language proficiency.

Intellectual Exchange/Scholarship Programs

Embassy of Japan, in cooperation with MEXT - Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and Japan Foundation, annually offers various scholarship programs for undergraduate, postgraduate (MA&PhD) studies in Japan, as well as short-term research programs for PhD students and teacher-training programs.



Cultural Grant Aid signing ceremony and calligraphy exhibition



Japanese Language Performance Contest

Embassy of Japan in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Japan will always stand by Bosnia and Herzegovina



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Japan will always stand by Bosnia and Herzegovina

This year marked the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Bosnia and Herzegovina. On this occasion, I would like to take a retrospective look at these 20 years of relations between our two countries.

First, Japan has firmly and continuously supported the reconstruction and development of BiH for these past two decades. Our support can be characterized by the following principles: we have no political motivations; we wish to contribute to ethnic reconciliation; we want to provide direct benefit to the people; and we seek an impartial support for both entities.

Take some examples of our official grant aid in the past. We provided 155 public busses in Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Mostar; donated music instruments for the Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra; installed X ray and other medical devices and ambulance vehicles to many BiH public hospitals across the country. We rehabilitated totally 72 public school buildings. We also provided flood assistance in 2014, amounting to 26 million KM. We have another scheme of assistance - the grassroots assistance. This small-scale aid is implemented mainly in the fields of health care, education, water supply, and demining. In total, more than



Ambassador
Kazuya OGAWA

200 projects benefited from this scheme. More information on these past aid projects are presented in the middle section of this brochure.

Our total assistance to date in Bosnia and Herzegovina is around 1 billion KM, placing Japan as one of the biggest donor countries, after the EU and the United States. Today I promise that we will continue our assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Japan will always stand by BiH.

Japan congratulates BiH for submitting its application for the EU membership. My country strongly supports BiH's European and Atlantic path, though we are not a member of neither the EU nor NATO. As a member of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board, Japan also has made every effort in support of political stability and development in BiH.

In 2008, the premises housing the Embassy of Japan were officially opened in Bistrik, Sarajevo. Since the outset, we have been engaged actively in recovery and



From the
People of Japan

development assistance and cultural activities. On this 20th anniversary occasion, we wish to turn a new page in our relations. Japanese companies' investment and direct business activities in the BiH market would be encouraged. I believe that BiH has strong economic potential in such fields as the automotive industry, energy, tourism, and agriculture. Unfortunately, many Japanese companies still have some negative perceptions about BiH, because they believe that BiH is still a war-torn country. To remove such erroneous stereotypes, the first visit of Japanese business mission to BiH was organized successfully in October, in cooperation with JETRO, FTC, and FIPA. I hope that this mission would create a better understanding of the business environment in BiH among Japanese companies and would lead to direct Japanese investment here.



Japanese business mission in Sarajevo

Football is very popular and is regarded as the national sport here in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It also has brought us, Japan and BiH, much closer. The project of the rehabilitation of the Cultural and Sports

Center "Kantarevac" in Mostar was completed last summer. The purpose of this project is to facilitate ethnic reconciliation among local children through sports. This project was initiated by the former captain of the Japanese national football team, Mr. Miyamoto and financed by the Japanese government. He believes that children from different ethnic group can overcome difficulties and nourish friendships through football.



Kirin Cup in Japan

There is one more football connection between our two countries. Mr. Ivica Osim, a BiH national hero, used to be the Japanese national football team coach, and now Mr. Halilhodzic is the actual coach of our national team. Many of my compatriots know BiH via football, and we owe a lot to these two famous Bosnian football figures for their contribution to improving football in my country. Finally, BiH's national team was invited to play in Japan for the Kirin Cup last June. Unfortunately, Japanese team lost the final game against BiH team.

The bilateral relations between Japan and BiH are excellent, and a high-level visit took place this year. In October, Japanese State



Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Nobuo Kishi paid an official visit to BiH and met several leadership of this country. He also attended the handover ceremony of the aforementioned "Kantarevac" project in Mostar. Not only state level relations but also municipal relations are steadily improving. I am pleased to know that Sarajevo city and Hiroshima city are now seeking to conclude a letter of mutual exchange and collaboration.



State Minister Mr. Kishi with member of BiH Presidency Mr. Bakir Izetbegović

Many Japanese cultural events were also organized this year. They started with the concert of the Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Mr. Yanagisawa, Japanese conductor in March, followed by Japanese traditional music "Shamisen" concert in Sarajevo and Banja Luka in April. In May, Japanese contemporary architecture photo exhibition titled "Parallel Nippon" was organized at the National Gallery of BiH in Sarajevo. In memory of late Ms. Jadranka Stojaković, famous BiH singer, a Japanese traditional music concert by B-Come was held in June, both in Sarajevo and Banja Luka. An internationally

renowned Japanese drum team "Ondekoza" performed in BKC in September. It recorded a big success. The Ryukyu traditional dance was performed in October at the Sarajevo National Theatre. I hope that many Bosnian people enjoyed these events.



Commemoration for Ms. Jadranka Stojaković

Three years have passed since the Japanese language course was launched at the Sarajevo University, now fourth year has just started. The number of Japanese learners as well as Japanese-speaking Bosnians is increasing. The Japanese language proficiency examination will be held this coming December.

As Japan's Ambassador to BiH, I am pleased to know that people-to-people exchanges are maturing. I feel so privileged to represent my country in BiH and fulfill such an important role, which is to further strengthen the good relations between our two countries.



Japan will always support BiH by assisting in peace building and reconstruction of the country

The Government of Japan has been proactively engaged in the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a member of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board (PIC SB) since 1995, and in recovery and development efforts of the country through its Official Development Assistance (ODA) program. **Its total value amounts to around 1 billion KM.**

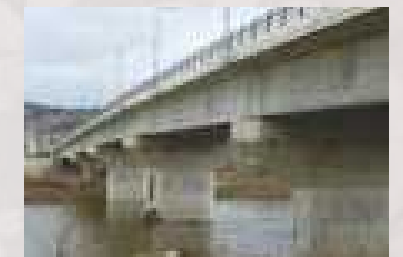
1 Bilateral Scheme

(1) General Grant Aid

Total: 9,188,000,000 JPY (approx. 158 million KM)

(Main Projects)

- Agricultural assistance for Increase of Food Production
- Donation of public buses (155 buses in Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Mostar)
- Donation of medical equipment to 85 Primary Health Care Institutions in BiH Federation, RS and Brcko District
- Construction of 11 primary schools in BiH Federation and RS
- Construction and rehabilitation of 4 bridges (Osanica Bridge, Bogatic Bridge, Doboje Bridge and Modrica Bridge)
- Provision of special water rescue vehicles to BiH Federation, RS and Brcko District (post-flood assistance)
- Donation of eco-friendly vehicles: 40 clean-diesel vehicles and 80 hybrid vehicles to BiH Federation, RS and Brcko District



(2) Loan Aid

Total: 16,743,000,000 JPY (approx. 288 million KM)

- Rehabilitation of coal mines in Kakanj, Tuzla, Ugljevik and Gacko, and of the thermal power plant in Kakanj in 1998
- Construction of flue gas desulphurization facilities for Ugljevik Thermal Power Plant to remove toxic material in 2009



(3) Technical Cooperation

Total: 6,607,000,000 JPY (approx. 114 million KM)

Since 1996, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been actively supporting capacity building of the BiH governing bodies.





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- 120 Japanese experts have been dispatched to BiH. (e.x. Mostar IT education, Srebrenica agricultural project)
- 706 BiH trainees have been invited to Japan.
- 7 development studies have been conducted in BiH.

(4) Cultural Grant Aid

Total: 171,700,000 JPY (approx. 3.0 million KM)

(Recent Projects)

- Donation of Studio Equipment to Public Broadcasting Service of BiH in 2008
- Donation of Musical Instruments to Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra in 2010

(5) Grant Aid for Cultural Grassroots Projects

Total: 62,000,000 JPY (approx. 1.1 million KM)

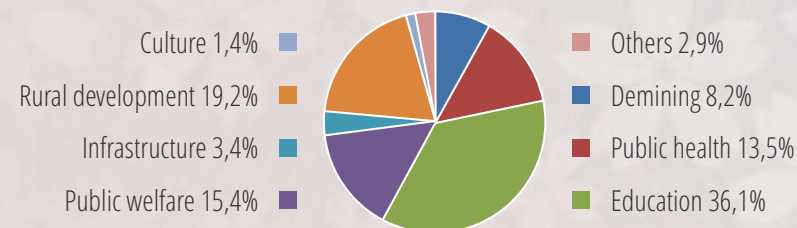
(Recent Projects)

- Rehabilitation of Sports Center in Novi Travnik in 2013
- Rehabilitation of Sports Center "Kantarevac" in Mostar for Community Reconciliation through Sports Activities in 2014

(6) Grant Aid for Human Security Grassroots Projects

Total: 1,873,811,053 JPY (approx. 32 million KM)

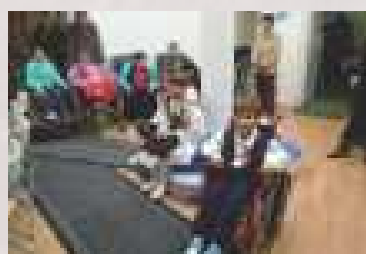
Since 1996, over 200 projects with a total sum of approx. 32 million KM have been implemented in BiH such as school rehabilitation, medical equipment and demining.



2 Multilateral Scheme

Total: over 137 million KM through international organizations like UNDP, IOM, UNHCR or World Bank

- Financial Contribution to OHR: approx. 66 million KM
- Japan-UNDP Trust Fund for BiH (23 projects): approx. 56 million KM
- UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNFHS): approx. 8.9 million KM
- Post-flood assistance to BiH: approx. 6.3 million KM
- Landslide Disaster Risk Management in BiH (UNDP)
- Repair and Reconstruction of Centers for Disabled Children (IOM)



From the People of Japan

Friendship between Japan and BiH based on tight cultural links

Embassy of Japan in BiH is in charge of public relation activities, cultural events, educational promotion and people-to-people exchange in BiH.

This year 2016 commemorates the 20th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Japan and BiH, and we have held a number of culture events as below.

Japanese Culture Year 2016

- 24/04 Tsugaru Shamisen Concert by Keisho Ohno, Sarajevo Youth Theater
- 26/04 Tsugaru Shamisen Concert by Keisho Ohno, Cultural Center Banski Dvor, Banja Luka
- 10-31/05 Contemporary Japanese Architecture Exhibition "Parallel Nippon", Art Gallery of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo
- 26/05 Symposium on Japanese Architecture with Prof. Yusuke Obuchi and Mr. Amir Vuk Zec, The Burence Hall - Faculty of Architecture, University of Sarajevo
- 27/05 Lecture on Japanese Architecture by Prof. Yusuke Obuchi, Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, University of Banja Luka
- 01/06 Traditional Japanese Instrument Concert in Honour of Ms. Jadranka Stojaković "The Way of Silk" by B-come, Cultural Center Banski Dvor, Banja Luka
- 03/06 Traditional Japanese Instrument Concert in Honour of Ms. Jadranka Stojaković "In Memory of Jadranka" by B-come, The Army Hall of BiH, Sarajevo
- 30/09 Traditional Japanese Drum Concert by Ondekoza, Bosnian Cultural Center, Sarajevo
- 20/10 Ryukyu Dance Performance by Izena no kai, Sarajevo National Theater

