

絆

Friendly Ties
between
Japan and Bosnia
& Herzegovina





Message from Ambassador

Two and a half years have passed since I arrived in Sarajevo in May 2015. During this period, I visited many places all around Bosnia & Herzegovina and met many Bosnian dignitaries, business people, artists and youngsters, and I have made efforts for enhancing economic cooperation and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Through my experience, I am sure that Japan and Bosnia & Herzegovina can always and will forever keep and develop "Kizuna", bonds of friendship in Japanese. Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games 2020 will be one of the occasions to reinforce the "Kizuna" and I wish more athletes from Bosnia & Herzegovina participate in the Games. Besides the bond through sport, we are also linked by our political, economic and cultural relations. I hope this brochure will be beneficial for a lot of people for getting information and episodes between our countries.

Kazuya OGAWA
Ambassador of Japan
to Bosnia & Herzegovina

Table of contents

Message from Ambassador	2
Japan and the Olympics	3
Establishment of Diplomatic Relations	4
High-level Visits	5
Development Assistance	6-7
Bilateral Support	
Multilateral Support	
Distinguished people from Bosnia & Herzegovina well known in Japan	8
Some episodes between the two countries	9
Friendship between Japan and BiH based on tight cultural links	10
Travel to Japan	11
Japanese Cuisine	12

Japan and the Olympics



Tokyo 2020 Games Emblems



New National Stadium in Tokyo

The hosting of the 1964 Summer Olympics (Tokyo) and the 1972 Winter Olympics (Sapporo) were, respectively, the first summer and winter games ever held in Asia. The 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics marked the third time that Japan has hosted the games. At the Nagano Olympics, Bosnia and Herzegovina participated showing the current new flag internationally for the first time.

The International Olympic Committee has already selected Tokyo as the venue for the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020;. The schedule for the second ever “Tokyo Olympics” is from 24 July to 9 August, 2020, with the Paralympics due to be held from 25 August to 6 September 2020. It was officially announced that baseball/softball, karate, skateboarding, sports climbing, and surfing would be added to the Games.

Asada Mao

At the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, Asada Mao won a silver medal in women's figure skating. (Photo courtesy of Photo Kishimoto)



Silver medal in the men's 4 x 100-meter sprint relay

The men's 4 x 100-meter sprint relay team – Shota Iizuka, Yoshihide Kiryu, Ryota Yamagata, and Aska Cambridge – won a silver medal at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.

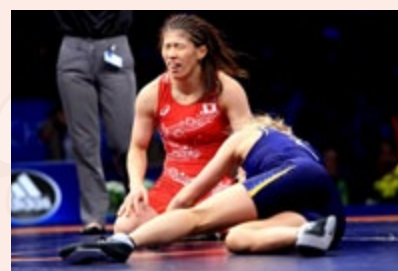


BiH athletes with the new current flag at the 1998 Nagano Olympics



Yoshida Saori

Yoshida Saori won gold medals in three consecutive Olympics starting with the 2004 Athens Games. She received the People's Honor Award in 2012. (Photo courtesy of Photo Kishimoto)



Uchimura Kohei

Winner of the gold medals in men's all-around gymnastics at 2012 London and 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games



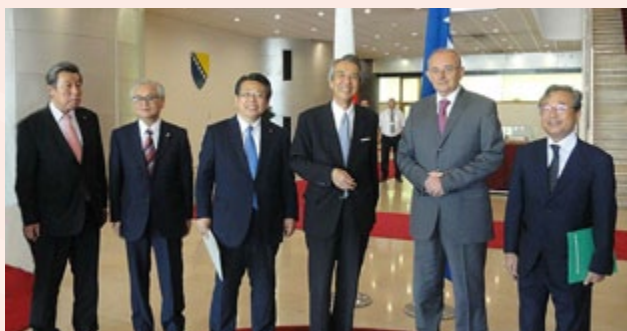
Establishment of Diplomatic Relations

Relations between the two Governments

After the formal signature of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina in December 1995, the Government of Japan recognized Bosnia and Herzegovina on 23 January 1996, and the two countries established diplomatic relations on 9 February. In February 1998 Japan opened its liaison office in Sarajevo, and in January 2008 it developed to the Embassy. Bosnia and Herzegovina opened its Embassy in Japan in December 1998.



Mr. Sven ALKALAJ, Minister of Foreign Affairs of BiH and Mr. Katsuya OKADA, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan (2009)



Delegates of the House of Representatives of the Japanese Diet (Head: Mr. Bunmei IBUKI, Speaker of the House of Representatives) (2014)



Mr. Bakir IZETBEGOVIĆ, the Chairman of the Presidency of BiH, and Mr. Nobuo KISHI, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan (2016)

Mutual official visits between the two countries

Japan and Bosnia and Herzegovina have exchanged numerous visits by high-ranking officials soon after the establishment of diplomatic relations. The first high-level visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina was made by the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Yukihiko Ikeda in July 1996. Subsequently, Mr. Keizo Obuchi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, visited Bosnia and Herzegovina in April 1998 and Dr. Haris Silajdžić, Co-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, visited Japan in June 1998.

The first summit meeting between Japan and Bosnia and Herzegovina was held in March 2005, when Mr. Adnan Terzić, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, visited Japan.

Speakers of the parliaments of both countries visited each other. In September 2013, Dr. Denis Bećirović, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, visited Japan. In return, Mr. Bunmei Ibuki, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Diet of Japan, visited Bosnia and Herzegovina in August 2014.

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations, Mr. Nobuo Kishi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, visited Bosnia and Herzegovina in October 2016.

Mr. Igor Crnadak, Minister of foreign Affairs of BiH paid an official visit to Japan from 28 October to 2 November 2017. He had a meeting with Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, and visited Hiroshima city.

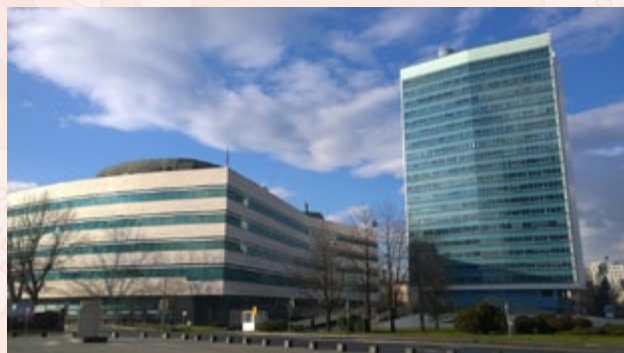


Mr. Igor CRNADAK, Minister of Foreign Affairs of BiH and Mr. Taro KONO, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan (October 2017)

High-level Visits



Parliament of Japan



Parliament of BiH

From Japan to Bosnia and Herzegovina (since 1994)

- 1994.1** Investigation Team for Former Yugoslavia, Headed by Mr. Shunji YANAI, Deputy Vice Minister for Foreign Policy, Director General, Foreign Policy Bureau, MOFA
- 1996.2** Investigation Team of Economic Cooperation, Headed by Mr. Norio HATTORI, Deputy Director General, Economic Cooperation Bureau, MOFA
- 1996.7** Minister for Foreign Affairs, Yukihiro IKEDA
- 1998.4** Minister for Foreign Affairs, Keizo OBUCHI
- 2001.4** Mr. Ryozi KATO, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 2003.8** Mr. Motohisa IKEDA, Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee, the House of the Representatives
- 2004.1** Mr. Isao MATSUMIYA, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs
- 2004.7** Mr. Tatsuo ARIMA, Representative of the Government of Japan
- 2006.11** Ms. Midori MATSUSHIMA, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 2008.5** Mr. Etsuro HONDA, Deputy Director-General, European Affairs Bureau, MOFA
- 2009.2** Mr. Noriteru FUKUSHIMA, Deputy Director-General, European Affairs Bureau, MOFA
- 2010.12** House of Councillors ODA Research Mission (Head: Mr. Tsutomu OKUBO)
- 2012.4** Mr. Kazuyuki HAMADA, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 2014.7** Mr. Takao MAKINO, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 2014.8** Delegates of the House of Representatives of the Diet (Head: Mr. Bunmei IBUKI, Speaker of the House of Representatives)
- 2015.7** Mr. Kentaro SONOURA, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 2016.10** Mr. Fumio KISHI, State Minister for Foreign Affairs

From Bosnia and Herzegovina to Japan (since 1996)

- 1996.9** Mr. Hasan DERVIŠBEGOVIĆ, Ambassador
- 1998.6** Dr. Haris SILAJDŽIĆ, Co-Chairman, Council of Ministers
- 1998.6** Milorad DODIK, Prime Minister of Republika Srpska
- 1999.9** Milorad DODIK, Prime Minister of Republika Srpska
- 2000.5** Mr. Husein ŽIVALJ, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mladen IVANIĆ, President of Party for Democratic Progress (took part in High-Level meeting on South Eastern Europe)
- 2004.4** Mr. Mladen IVANIĆ, Minister of Foreign Affairs (took part in Ministerial Conference on Peace Consolidation and Economic Development of the Western Balkans)
- 2004.8** Mr. Fuad ŠABETA, Secretary General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 2005.1** Mr. Bariša ČOLAK, Minister for Security (took part in the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction)
- 2005.3** Mr. Adnan TERZIĆ, Chairman, Council of Ministers
Ms. Ljerka MARIĆ, Minister of Finance
- 2009.10** Mr. Sven ALKALAJ, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- 2013.9** Dr. Denis BEČIROVIĆ, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dr. Milorad ŽIVKOVIĆ, First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives; Mr. Mato FRANJIČEVIĆ, Chair of the Croats Caucus at the House of Representatives
- 2014.8** Mr. Mirsad KEBO, Vice President of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 2017.10** Mr. Igor CRNADAK, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Development Assistance

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

1 Bilateral Support

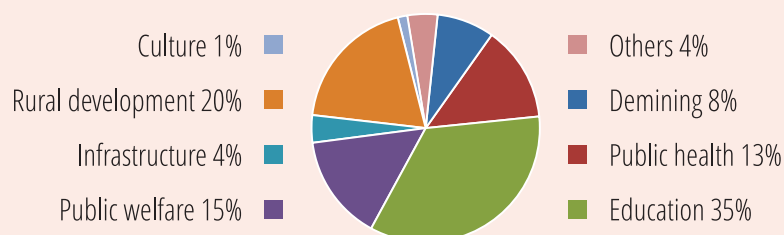
(1) Grant Aid

Total: 28,866,000,000 JPY (approx. 420 million KM)

(2) Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects(GAGP)

Total: 1,952,313,698 JPY (approx. 28.5 million KM)

Since 1996, over 200 GAGP projects have been implemented in BiH such as school rehabilitation, medical equipment provision and demining activities.



GAGP: ratio of the number of projects in each sector

(3) Loan Aid

Total: 16,743,000,000 JPY (approx. 243 million KM)

(4) Technical Cooperation (by JICA/Japan International Cooperation Agency)

Total: 6,742,000,000 JPY (approx. 98 million KM)

More than 100 Japanese experts dispatched to BiH

More than 700 BiH trainees invited to Japan

6 development study projects

16 technical assistance projects

(5) Cultural Grant Aid

Total: 171,700,000 JPY (approx. 2.5 million KM)

(6) Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects

Total: 69,771,227 JPY (approx. 1.0 million KM)



2 Multilateral Support

Total: **over 138 million KM** through international organizations

- Financial contribution to OHR: approx. 67 million KM
- Japan-UNDP Trust Fund for BiH (23 projects): approx. 56 million KM
- Project by UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS): approx. 8.9 million KM
- Post-flood assistance (UNDP, IOM): approx. 6.3 million KM

Japan's Yen loan project: Flue gas desulphurization construction project for Ugljevik Thermal Power Plant

In May 2017, the construction of a flue gas desulphurization plant has started at Ugljevik Thermal Power Plant. This project is funded by a Japanese ODA loan amounting up to 12.633 billion Japanese Yen (approx. 200 million KM). The first flue gas desulphurization plant in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be installed in this Thermal Power Plant, which is a critical part of electrical power supply in the Republic of Srpska and whose facilities have aged and use coal with high sulfur content and a low heat generation rate. A Japanese company, MHPS (Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems, Ltd.) is the contractor of the project and the planned construction period is about 3 years.

Flue gas desulphurization plant is expected to reduce drastically sulfur dioxide and coarse particulates that pollute the air and will also contribute to the protection of environment in BiH and improving the health of nearby residents.



120 Japanese cars granted to social welfare centers throughout BiH

The Government of Japan granted 500 million Japanese Yen (approx. 7.2 million KM) to BiH Government for purchasing 120 Japanese next generation vehicles (40 clean-diesel and 80 hybrid vehicles). Among them 40 clean-diesel vehicles were handed over in October 2016 and remaining 80 hybrid vehicles were handed over

in April 2017 to the government of BiH, through the Ministry of Civil Affairs. These vehicles were delivered to 120 social welfare institutions in Federation of BiH, RS and Brčko District.



They are used to improve services of the social welfare institutions, for example, transporting local people with special needs and elderly people, doing home visit by center staff, etc. These hybrid vehicles, together with clean-diesel vehicles vastly cut emission of exhaust gas, which contributes also to the protection of environment in BiH.

Distinguished people from Bosnia & Herzegovina well known in Japan

Jadranka Stojaković

At the age of 16, Ms. Jadranka Stojaković joined her uncle's jazz group, who lived and performed in Germany, and was in charge of bass and vocal. At the 1984 Winter Olympics, held in her native Sarajevo, she sang the official theme song of the Games, and was awarded the prize for SFR Yugoslavia's best artist. She was also interested in Japanese culture, especially Ukiyoe and Haiku. In 1988, she visited Japan for a recording, but in the meantime the conflicts in Bosnia and Herzegovina started. She used Japan as a base for her activities until 2011. She offered her songs to Japanese film and TV. She passed away in Banja Luka in 2016. A Japanese group "B-come" held musical events in Sarajevo and Banja Luka in her honor in June 2016.



Ivica Osim

In 1964, Mr. Ivica Osim came to Japan for the Tokyo Olympic Games as a Yugoslav Football Representative and made two goals against Japan. After his retirement as a player, he was in charge of the Yugoslavian National Football Team as coach from 1986, but resigned in 1992. In 2006 he became the coach of the Japanese National Team. Due to the contribution to the development of Japanese football, he received the decoration "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette" from the Government of Japan in November 2016.



Vahid Halilhodžić

In the 1970s and 1980s, Mr. Vahid Halilhodžić was regarded as one of the best Yugoslav football players. During conflicts in Bosnia, he moved to France, and now has also French citizenship. He has served as the coach for Cote d'Ivoire, Algeria, and others. Since 2015 he has been the coach of the Japanese National Team. In the Kirin Cup held in June 2016 in Japan, the Bosnia & Herzegovina team and the Japanese team led by him played in the final match, with Bosnia & Herzegovina taking the first championship. Japan won the game against Australia last August and was qualified to the 2018 World Cup in Russia.



Some episodes between the two countries

Sakura in BiH

Since 2002 Japanese NGO group "Ipilipil no kai" has donated 1,750 cherry trees as symbols of peace to Sarajevo and other major cities in BiH. The group also holds a children's painting contest on the subject of peace in Sarajevo every year during the cherry blossom season in Japan. The prize-winning works at the contest are exhibited in Japan.



Hiroshima and Sarajevo

In January 2017, Hiroshima City of Japan and Sarajevo City signed the declaration on exchange of experience and cooperation between both counties. Sarajevo has similar history as Hiroshima city, not only because both cities suffered excessive damage during wars with a lot of victims, but also because they have revived from the ashes and splendidly developed mainly via their thriving manufacturing industries.



Football exchange

Mali Most is an NGO established under the leadership of Mr. Tsuneyasu Miyamoto, who was the captain of Japanese National Football Team, aiming at reconciliation between different ethnic groups through sports. Mali Most runs football teaching courses for local children at Mostar City Sports Center "Kantarevac", which was renovated under the Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects, funded by the Japanese government. This August, ten children and four members of Mali Most visited Japan under the support of a Japanese company and a foundation supporting Mali Most. They realised a rich program of activities, such as watching a J-League game at a stadium, football exchanges, Japanese culture experience, etc.



Hanabi

"Hanabi" ("fireworks" in Japanese), also known as the "Anime/Manga Fan Community" or Anime Fan Club in BiH, was founded in 2013. The number of members has reached about 1 thousand throughout the country. They support cultural events such as the Kids Festival as well as other events related to Japan. If you are interested, please visit the following site.
(<https://www.facebook.com/AnimeMangaSarajevo/>)



Friendship between Japan and BiH based on tight cultural links

Embassy of Japan in Bosnia & Herzegovina organizes public relation activities, cultural events, educational promotion and people-to people exchange in BiH. Judo tournament, Japanese calligraphy exhibition and traditional music concert are held every year.



Japanese Language Course

Since October 2013, University of Sarajevo has organized the Japanese language course, taught by a native Japanese language teacher. This course started for anyone who might be interested in Japanese language, regardless of their age or occupation. It is currently attended by a hundred of people such as primary school, high school and university students, as well as working people of various professions.

For more information, please visit the website of the Embassy of Japan in BiH, in the Culture and PR section tab:
http://www.bosnia.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/index.html

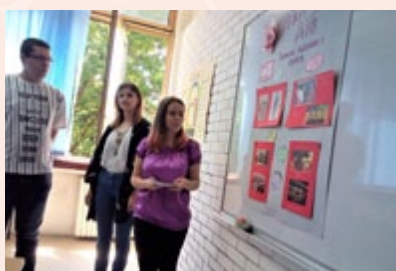
(Some Japanese Phrases)

Good afternoon	<i>Dobar dan</i>	こんにちは	Konnichiwa
Good morning	<i>Dobro jutro</i>	おはよう	Ohayoo
Good evening	<i>Dobro večer</i>	こんばんは	Konbanwa
Thank you	<i>Hvala</i>	ありがとう	Arigatoo
Good bye	<i>Doviđenja</i>	さようなら	Sayoonara
How are you?	<i>Kako ste?</i>	お元気ですか？	Ogenki desuka?

Intellectual Exchange / Scholarship Programs

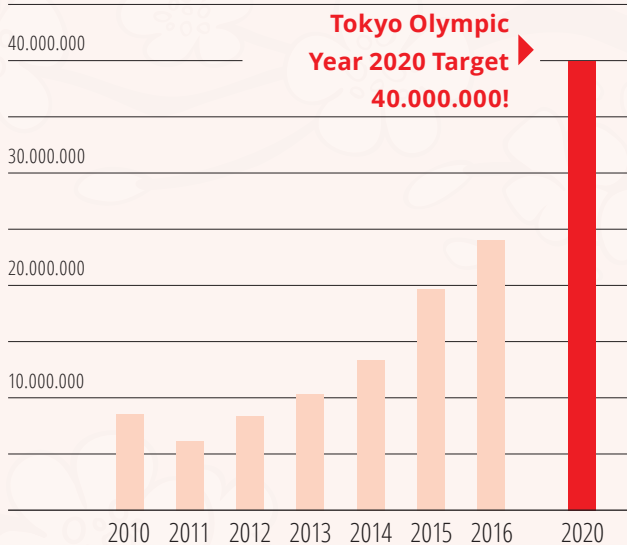
Embassy of Japan, in cooperation with MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan) and Japan Foundation, annually offers various scholarship programs for undergraduate, postgraduate (MA&PhD) studies in Japan, as well as short term research programs for PhD students and teacher-training programs. The number of scholarship students from Bosnia and Herzegovina has reached around 40 and "DOSOKAI", Alumni Association of former scholarship students has been established in March 2017.

For more information: http://www.bosnia.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/00_000184.html



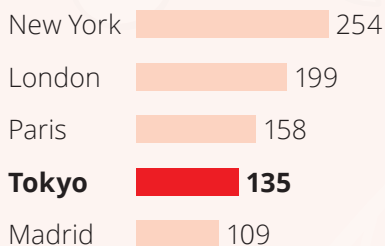
Travel to Japan!

GROWTH OF NUMBER OF FOREIGN TOURISTS



**Tokyo Olympic
Year 2020 Target
40.000.000!**

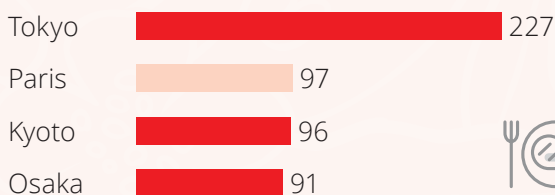
ACCOMMODATION FOR LESS



The *Hotels.com* Hotel Price Index (2015, USD) shows that Tokyo has a **lower average price point** compared to other iconic cities.

TOP DESTINATION FOR FINE DINING

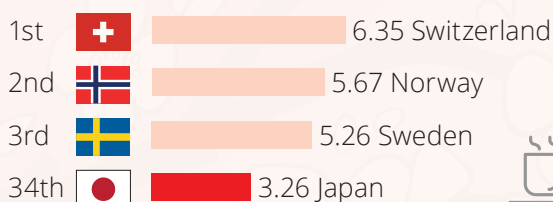
According to *The Michelin Guide* (2017) Tokyo has the most **Michelin-starred restaurants globally**.



(Number of restaurant)

SHOP FOR LESS

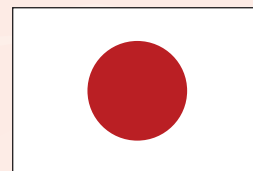
Japan is not that expensive anymore. In fact, *The Economist's Big Mac Index* - a broad indicator of price points - ranks Japan 34th out of 56 countries. (Jan 2017, USD)



It is not true that the traveling to Japan is expensive. The cheapest group trip to Tokyo including air fare and accommodation for 12 days can be found at the price of 2,200KM. The number of foreign tourist to Japan is increasing significantly year by year. The target for Tokyo Olympic Year 2020 is 40 million tourists from all over the world. Japan Tourism Agency publishes an official travel guide.

Please find more information with:

<http://www.mlit.go.jp/kankocho/>



Japan

日本

Area: **377,835km²**

Population: **127 million people**

Capital: **Tokyo (about 12.04 million)**

Currency: **Japanese Yen**

Japanese Cuisine



Embassy of Japan in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bistrik 9, 71000, Sarajevo

Tel: +387-33-277-500 (Dial-In) | Fax: +387-33-209-583 | e-mail: japanbih@sx.mofa.go.jp

