



FRIENDLY TIES
BETWEEN JAPAN AND
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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Message from Ambassador



SAKAMOTO Hideyuki
Ambassador of Japan
to Bosnia and Herzegovina

It is my great pleasure that the brochure “KIZUNA” is now being published in a renewed version.

“KIZUNA” means “Friendly Ties”, and represents ties shared by our two countries, and to be strengthened in the future.

This brochure includes many aspects and various information on bilateral relations between Japan and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), and will help its readers get more familiar with the friendship between our countries.

Our bilateral cooperation is growing in many fields, but there is still potential for further development.

Therefore, I will continuously do my best, together with my counterparts in this country, to deepen our substantial cooperation and relations.

The national flag of BiH will be back in Japan in summer 2020. It was at the Nagano Winter Olympics in 1998 that the flag was hung for the first time in an international arena.

I sincerely hope that the successful participation of BiH athletes in this event will be another opportunity for the people of BiH to be united all together.

February 2020



Tokyo Bay, the main area for the Tokyo 2020 Games

Japan and the Olympics and Paralympics

The 1964 Summer Olympics (Tokyo) and the 1972 Winter Olympics (Sapporo) were, respectively, the first Summer and Winter Games ever hosted in Asia. The 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics marked the third time that Japan has hosted the games. At the Nagano Olympics, BiH participated showing the current new flag internationally for the first time. In 2020, Tokyo will again host the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. The schedule for the Tokyo Olympics is from 24 July to 9 August 2020, and the Paralympics from 25 August to 6 September 2020. It was officially announced that baseball/softball, karate, skateboarding, sports climbing, and surfing will be added to the Games.



BiH athletes with a new national flag at the 1998 Nagano Olympics



Tokyo 2020 Games Emblems

The name of the mascot character for the Olympic Games is “Miraitowa” (pronounced mee-rah-e-toh-wa), and is based on the compound of Japanese words mirai (future) and towa (eternity). This name was chosen to promote a future full of eternal hope in the hearts of people all over the world.

The name of the mascot character for the Paralympic Games is “Someity” (pronounced soh-may-tee), and the name comes from somei-yoshino, a popular cherry blossom variety, and additionally echoes the English phrase “so mighty”. Someity has tactile cherry blossom sensors and exhibits enormous mental and physical strength. It represents Paralympic athletes who overcome obstacles and redefine the boundaries of what is possible.



The mascot characters



© 2014 Japan Travel and Tourism Association, Setaumi Kaihin Park, Isen town

The Host Town of BiH for 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

BiH has got its host town in Japan for 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games – this is Isen town, situated in the southern island of Kagoshima Prefecture. Isen has become the host town for BiH athletes because the country shares a tradition of bull fighting with this town. Mr. OKUBO Akira, Mayor of Isen town, visited BiH in July 2019. Mayor Okubo and his colleagues had several meetings, including the one with the BiH Olympic and Paralympic Committees. They also held a very good exchange with the BiH Association of Bull Breeders.

Two months later, Mr. Besim Gljiva, President of the BiH Association of Bull Breeders, visited Japan upon invitation by Isen town. He and Dr. Siniša Berjan, Ambassador of BiH to Japan, were cordially welcomed by Mayor Okubo and a number of local people. During their stay in Isen town, a Host Town Agreement was signed among Isen town, the BiH Olympic and Paralympic Committees, and the BiH Association of Bull Breeders, to implement various exchange projects on the occasion of 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. Mr. Gljiva and Ambassador Berjan also enjoyed cultural exchange with the local people.



Western Balkans Cooperation Initiative

Japanese Prime Minister Abe announced Japan's "Western Balkan Cooperation Initiative" in January 2018, with the goal to promote mutual understanding and cooperation between Japan and the Western Balkans, as well as among different ethnic groups in the region. Under the initiative, projects such as the MIRAI Program (youth exchange program in cooperation with RYCO (Regional Youth Cooperation Office)), and the Seminar to encourage Japanese companies to invest in the region in cooperation with CIF (Western Balkans Chamber Investment Forum), and Japan-Western Balkans Workshop on Flood Risk Management in Sofia have been organized.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) has been implementing, for the second year in a row, the youth exchange program "Western Balkans meet Japan: A Bridge into the Future", in cooperation with the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), one of key actors working on youth issues in the Western Balkans.

Three youths from Bosnia and Herzegovina visited Tokyo and Hiroshima as part of the program in 2019. Some of the activities in each city included a visit to JICA Global Plaza, some cultural institutions and companies in Tokyo, as well as a brief exchange of opinions with students from Sophia University in Tokyo. In Hiroshima, participants visited the Peace Memorial Park, listened to stories of *hibakusha* (survivors of the atomic bombing), and learned about the realities of atomic bombing. They also stayed with host families in this city to further expand their knowledge of Japanese customs, and its people.

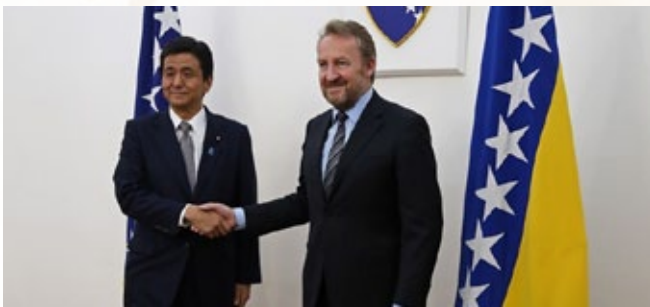
Japan's Friendship Ties Program "MIRAI" (Mutual understanding, Intellectual Relations and Academic Exchange Initiative) invites groups of promising young leaders who are expected to play an active role in the international society, and provides opportunity to have intellectual exchanges with Japanese students of the same generations and scholars. The program aims to deepen participants' understanding of Japan and its policy, to promote mutual understanding, and thus to build a basis for future friendship and cooperation between Japan and the regions the participants are from.



Diplomatic Relations

Relations between the Two Governments

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



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



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



Mr. Željko KOMŠIĆ, Chairman of the Presidency of BiH and Japan-BiH Parliamentarians' Friendship Group (October 2019)

Exchange of High-Level Visits

Japan and BiH have exchanged numerous high-level visits soon after the establishment of diplomatic relations. The first high-level visit to BiH was made by the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs IKEDA Yukihiro in July 1996. Subsequently, Mr. Obuchi Keizo, Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited BiH in April 1998, and Dr. Haris SILAJDŽIĆ, Co-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, visited Japan in June 1998. The first summit meeting was held in Japan in March 2005 between Prime Minister KOIZUMI Junichiro and Mr. Adnan TERZIĆ, Chairman of the Council of Ministers. In September 2013, Dr. Denis BEĆIROVIĆ, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of BiH, visited Japan. In return, Mr. IBUKI Bunmei, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Diet of Japan, visited BiH in August 2014. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the diplomatic relations, Mr. KISHI Nobuo, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited BiH in October 2016. Mr. Igor CRNADAK, Minister of Foreign Affairs, 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. In October 2019, Mr. Željko KOMŠIĆ, Chairman of the Presidency of BiH and his spouse visited Japan to attend the Ceremony of Enthronement of the Emperor of Japan. He had a meeting with the Japan-BiH Parliamentarians' Friendship Group.



Mr. and Mrs. Željko KOMŠIĆ, Chairman of the Presidency of BiH, with their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan

© Secretariat for Ceremonies of Imperial Succession, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

Development Assistance

The Government of Japan has been proactively engaged in supporting the peace process in 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.

Bilateral Support

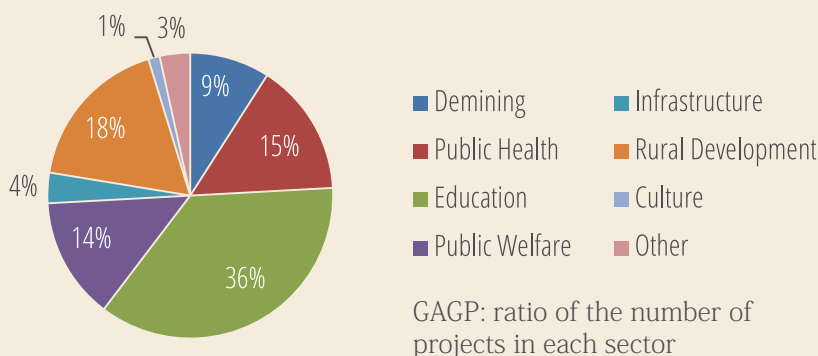
1. Grant Aid

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

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

Total: **2,176,613,568 JPY** (approx. 36.8 million KM)

Since 1996, over 230 GAGP projects with a total sum of approx. 36 million KM have been implemented in BiH, such as school rehabilitation, providing medical equipment, and demining activities.



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 **120 Japanese experts** dispatched to BiH

More than **750 BiH trainees** invited to Japan

7 development study projects

17 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)



Rehabilitation of a Primary School as Joint Development Project with V4 Countries (Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia)



Donation of Ambulance Vehicles to a Health Care Center



Grant Aid of Agro-Meteorological Observation System



Handover of Emergency Vehicles to Civil Protection Administration

Multilateral Support

Total: approx. **140 million KM** through international organizations

- **Financial contribution to OHR:**
approx. 68 million KM
- **Japan-UNDP Trust Fund for BiH (23 projects):**
approx. 56 million KM
- **Projects by UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS):**
approx. 8.9 million KM
- **Post-flood assistance (UNDP, IOM):**
approx. 6.3 million KM
- **EBRD Green City Action Plan (GCAP): Sarajevo project by Japan-EBRD Cooperation Fund (JECF):**
0.6 million KM



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 the Federation of BiH, the Republic of Srpska, and Brčko District. They are used to improve services of the social welfare institutions, such as transporting local elderly people and people with special needs, doing home visits by the Center's staff, etc. These hybrid vehicles, together with clean-diesel vehicles, vastly cut emission of exhaust gas, which also contributes to the protection of environment in BiH.

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 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 BiH 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 construction will be completed by the end of May 2020. Flue gas desulphurization plant is expected to drastically reduce sulfur dioxide and coarse particulates that pollute the air, as well as contribute to the protection of environment in BiH and improve the health of nearby residents.

Economic Relations

Foreign Trade between BiH and Japan (2016, 2017 & 2018)

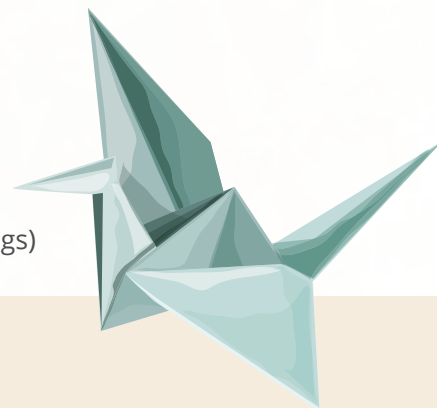
	2016	2017	2018	%
EXPORT	640,174	283,627	111,836	-60.57
IMPORT	4,327,536	5,872,148	5,983,697	+1.90
VOLUME	4,967,710	6,155,775	6,095,534	-1.00
BALANCE	-3,687,362	-5,588,522	-5,871,861	+5.07

Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH

(EURO)

Japanese Companies Operating in BiH

JTI	JT International a.d. Senta - Representative Office in BiH (sales)
KONIKA MINOLTA	Konika Minolta Business Solutions BiH Representative Office (sales)
MITSUBISHI MOTORS	SLT d.o.o - Mitsubishi Motors Sarajevo (sales)
OLYMPUS	Olympus BiH Affiliate (sales)
PANASONIC	Panasonic Representative Office in BiH (sales)
SHIMADZU	Shimadzu Representative Office in BiH (sales)
SONY	Sony Representative Office in BiH (sales)
TAKEDA	Takeda GmbH Representative Office in BiH (sales)
TOYOTA	Toyota Representative Office in BiH (sales)
TSUBAKI NAKASHIMA	TN Bosnia d.o.o Konjic (manufacturing of precision rollers for anti-friction bearings)



The Western Balkans Business Seminar



On 7 December 2018, the Western Balkans Business Seminar was held in Tokyo, co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the Western Balkans Chamber Investment Forum (CIF). This seminar was held as part of the "Western Balkans Cooperation Initiative" announced by Prime Minister ABE Shinzo in January 2018.

In this seminar, attended by more than 120 Japanese business persons from 90 companies, Director of BiH Export Promotion Agency (BHEPA) of Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH (FTC), explained the attractiveness of BiH as an investment destination, such as the high quality labor force and the non-tariff access to the EU market.

The seminar provided an opportunity for Japanese companies to gain more interest in Western Balkan countries including BiH. In May 2019, another seminar for the same objective was also held in Dusseldorf.



BiH Citizens 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 Ukiyo-e and Haiku. In 1988, she visited Japan for a recording, but in the meantime the conflicts in BiH 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. The Japanese group "B-come" held musical events in Sarajevo and Banja Luka in her honor in June 2016 and April 2019.



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 Yugoslav National Football Team as coach from 1986, then resigned in 1992. In 2006, he became the coach of the Japanese National Team. For his contribution to the development of Japanese football, he received the Imperial 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 BiH, he moved to France, and now holds French-BiH dual citizenship. He served as the coach for Cote d'Ivoire, Algeria, and others. From 2015 to 2018, he was active as coach of the Japanese National Team.



Vahdeta Kazić

Mrs. Vahdeta "Vajka" Kazić started her work as one of the first local staff members at the Sarajevo Liaison Office of the Japanese Embassy, right after the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and BiH in 1996. Since then, as the Assistant to the Ambassador, she dedicated herself to Japan's assistance to BiH, and other diplomatic activities in BiH for over 17 years. After retiring in 2013, she continues to contribute to the promotion of friendship between the two nations, helping the humanitarian activities of the Japanese NGO group "Ipil-Ipil no Kai" as Resident Coordinator in BiH. She is considered as the "Bosnian Mother" by many Japanese, including diplomats. In recognition of her contributions, she was awarded the Imperial Decoration "The Order Of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays" in 2018.



Episodes between the Two Countries



Sakura in BiH

Since 2002, a Japanese NGO group "Ipil-ipil no Kai" has donated 1,750 sakura (Japanese cherry trees) as symbols of peace to Sarajevo and other major cities in BiH. The group also hosts children's painting contests on the subject of peace in Sarajevo every year during the cherry blossom season. The prize-winning works at the contest are exhibited in Japan. In April 2019, Sakura festivals were held in Sarajevo and Banja Luka.



Hiroshima and Sarajevo

In January 2017, Hiroshima City and Sarajevo City signed the declaration on exchange of experience and cooperation between both cities. Sarajevo has similar history as Hiroshima, 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 in Mostar under the leadership of Mr. MIYAMOTO Tsuneyasu, 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 Japan's grant aid. In



2018, ten children and four members of "Mali Most" visited Japan under the support of a Japanese company, and one of the foundations supporting "Mali Most". They realised a rich program of activities, which included watching a J-League game at a stadium, football exchanges, Japanese culture experience. In return, nine Japanese children visited Mostar as one of the activities of the NPO "Little Bridge" in 2018. The children enjoyed a sports exchange in soccer and basketball with the children of Mostar.



Friendship between Japan and BiH Based on Tight Cultural Links

The Embassy of Japan organizes public relation activities, cultural events, educational promotion, and people-to-people exchange in BiH. The judo tournament, Japanese calligraphy exhibition, and traditional music concerts are held every year.



Japanese Language Course & Electives

Since October 2013, University of Sarajevo has organized the Japanese Language Course, taught by a native Japanese language teacher. This course is held for anyone who might be interested in Japanese language, regardless of their age or occupation. It is currently attended by a hundred people, including primary school, high school and university students, as well as working people of various professions. The University also hosts Japanese Speech Contest every year.



With the goal of establishing the Department of Japanese Language and Culture in the years to come, an elective in Japanese Language was introduced as part of the scope of activities on MA level of the University of Sarajevo in October 2019.

For more information, please visit the website of the Embassy of Japan in BiH, in the Culture and PR section tab, or write to our Culture e-mail address:

www.bosnia.emb-japan.go.jp/

embassyofjapan.culture@sx.mofa.go.jp



Likewise, please feel free to visit the Facebook page of the Course: <https://www.facebook.com/KlubJapanskiuSarajevu/>

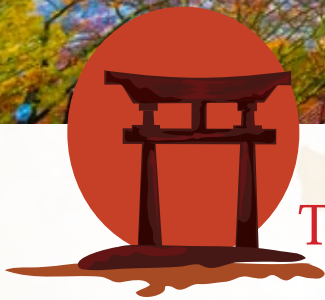


Scholarship Programs

The 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 and 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 BiH has reached around 50, and the "DOSOKAI" (Alumni Association of former scholarship students) was established in March 2017.

For more information please visit the Embassy's website under Culture & PR > Scholarship Programs.



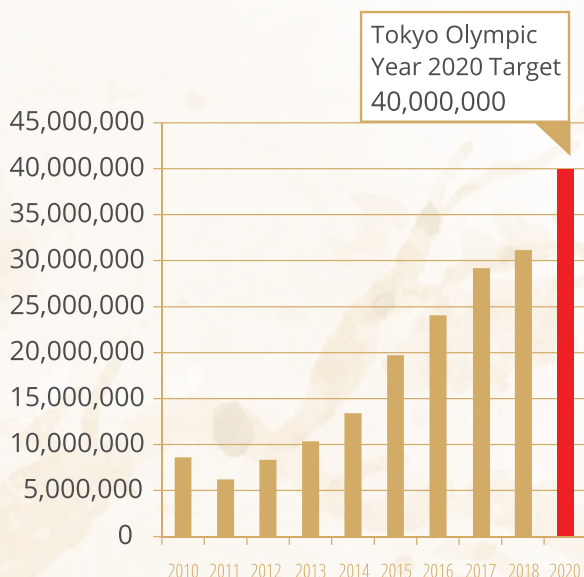


Travel to Japan!

Growth of the Number of Foreign Tourists

It is not true that 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 2,000 KM. The number of foreign tourists to Japan is increasing significantly year by year. The target for Tokyo Olympic/Paralympic Year 2020 is 40 million tourists from all over the world. Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) publishes an official travel guide that can be accessed by anyone who is interested.

Refer to the following link for more information:
www.japan.travel/en/



Top Destination for Fine Dining

According to The Michelin Guide (2018) Tokyo has the most Michelin-starred restaurants globally.

Tokyo	314
Paris	141
Kyoto	134
Osaka	121



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 24th out of 53 countries. (Jan 2018, USD)

1st	6.54	Switzerland
2nd	5.83	Sweden
3rd	5.51	United States
24th	3,51	Japan





Japan 日本

Area: 377,835 km²

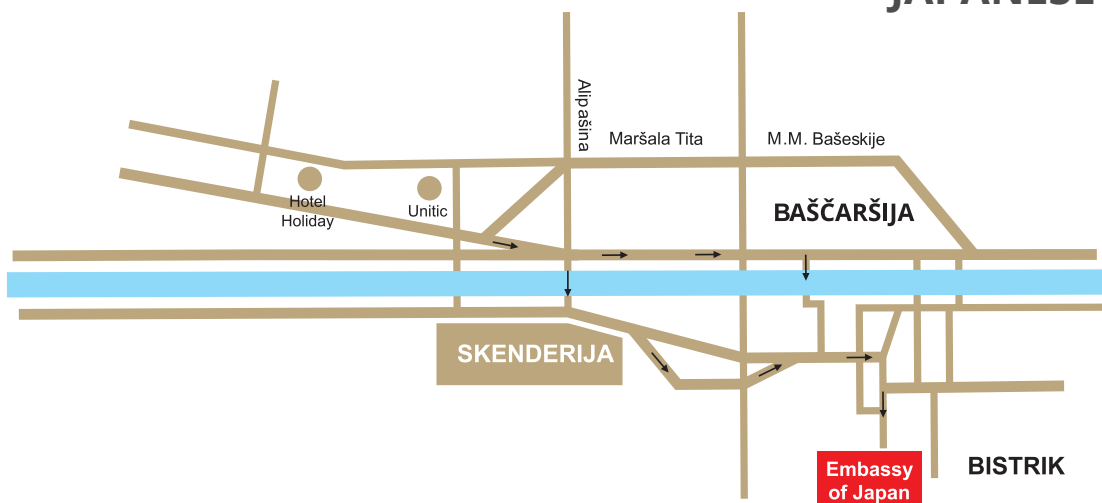
Population: 127 million people

Capital: Tokyo (about 12.04 million)

Currency: Japanese Yen



JAPANESE CUISINE



Embassy of Japan in BiH

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