

Ambassador's address on the occasion of National Day of Japan

Excellences, dear colleagues and friends,

It is my great pleasure to address my message to you on the occasion of the National Day of Japan, as 23 February is the 61st birthday of His Majesty the Emperor.

His Majesty the Emperor acceded to the throne on 1 May 2019 and the era named Reiwa replaced Heisei.

The ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty was conducted in October 2019, at which the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Željko Komšić, was present, among other foreign dignitaries.

According to the Constitution of Japan, the Emperor is the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people, deriving his position from the will of people with whom he resides the sovereign power.

His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito is the 126th Emperor of Japan and the history of imperial family is lasting more than 2700 years.

This year we mark the 25th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations and it is important for both countries to look back over past years on our cooperation, history and friendship and to reconfirm our determination to consolidate close friendly relations.

My government continues to increase and strengthen its efforts in economic and business relations, cooperation projects, JICA technical assistance and human security Grass Roots projects, as well as culture grants, contributing to social economic stability and development of BiH.

On this year of our anniversary, I am very pleased to mention that recently Japanese Government donated language laboratory equipment to the Department of Philosophy at the University of Sarajevo. On this opportunity, I wish many students to become more familiar with Japanese culture and tradition through studying Japanese language.

Also, I want to mention that this year Mr. Branislav Crnogorac, President of the Judo Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was awarded by the Japanese Government. He received Emperor's decoration for his lifetime efforts, achievements and contributions to strengthening of our bilateral relations, in the field of promotion of Judo here in BiH, and Japanese culture.

Many Japanese people remember Sarajevo winter Olympic Games 1984, at which all the world athletes gathered together in the beautiful city of Sarajevo.

Next summer Olympic Games, which have been already postponed for one year, are scheduled to take place in July this year in Tokyo.

In spite of pandemic difficult circumstances, my Government, in cooperation with IOC and international communities, is working hard to successfully organize and host the safe Olympic

Games. I'm wishing many highly qualified athletes from BiH to come to Tokyo for joining the Games.

After we overcome the pandemic crisis together, I really hope we will organise here our anniversary events to celebrate, therefore I'm looking forward to your kind cooperation and further assistance.

February 23, 2021

ITO Makoto

Ambassador of Japan to BiH

Obraćanje ambasadora u povodu Nacionalnog dana Japana

Ekselencije, drage kolege i prijatelji,

Veliko mi je zadovoljstvo obratiti Vam se porukom, u povodu Nacionalnog dana Japana, 23. februara, kada slavimo 61. rođendan Njegovog veličanstva Cara.

Njegovo veličanstvo je preuzeo prijestolje 1. maja 2019. godine, te je era pod nazivom Reiwa zamijenila eru Heisei.

Ceremoniji ustoličenja Njegovog veličanstva, koja je održana u oktobru 2019, je između ostalih stranih državnika, prisustvovao i predsjedavajući Predsjedništva BiH, gospodin Željko Komšić.

Po japanskom ustavu, Car je simbol države i zajedništva naroda, a njegova položaj proizilazi iz volje naroda, u kojem leži suverenitet vlasti.

Njegovo veličanstvo Car Naruhito je 126 po redu japanski car, a historija carske porodice traje više od 2700 godina.

Ove godine se obilježava 25. godišnjica uspostave diplomatskih odnosa između Japana i Bosne i Hercegovine, te je za obje države važno da se osvrnemo na protekle godine naše saradnje, historije i prijateljstva, te da ponovo potvrdimo našu spremnost za učvršćivanje bliskih prijateljskih odnosa.

Moja vlada nastavlja ulagati napore za jačanje ekonomskih i poslovnih veza, kroz projekte razvojne pomoći, putem tehničke pomoći preko agencije JICA, te kroz Temeljne Grant projekte iz oblasti ljudske sigurnosti, kao i granta u oblasti kulture, doprinoseći na taj način socijalno-ekonomskoj stabilnosti i razvoju BiH.

U ovoj godini kad obilježavamo obljetnicu, veoma sam sretan što mogu pomenuti nedavnu donaciju japanske vlade, u vidu opreme za jezičku predavaonicu na Filozofskom fakultetu u Sarajevu. Tim povodom, želim istaći svoju želju da što više studenata upozna japansku kulturu i tradiciju kroz učenje japanskog jezika.

Također, želim ove godine pomenuti gospodina Branislava Crnogorca, predsjednika Judo saveza Bosne i Hercegovine, kojeg je odlikovala japanska vlada. On je primio Carsko odlikovanje za njegovo životna zalaganja, postignuća i doprinos u jačanju bilateralnih odnosa, u polju promocije juda i japanske kulture, ovdje u BiH.

Mnogi Japanci će se sjetiti Olimpijskih igara u Sarajevu, održanih 1984. godine, na kojima su se okupili svjetski sportisti u ovom lijepom gradu.

Sljedeće Olimpijske i Paraolimpijske igre, koje su već jednom bile odgođene za godinu dana, planirano je da se održe u julu ove godine u Tokiju.

Uprkos teškim okolnostima pandemije, moja vlada, u saradnji sa Međunarodnim olimpijskim komitetom (MOK) i međunarodnom zajednicom, naporno radi kako bi uspješno i sigurno organizirali Olimpijske i Paraolimpijske igre. Nadam se da će brojni vrhunski sportisti iz BiH stići u Tokio i učestvovati na Igrama.

Nakon što prebrodimo krizu izazvanu pandemijom zajedno, iskreno se nadam da ćemo ovdje organizirati prijem povodom godišnjice. Tim povodom, nadam se budućoj saradnji i vašoj pomoći.

23. februar 2021

ITO Makoto

ambasador Japana u BiH
