

<page 1>



Dear readers of IAC Newsletter,

My name is Andrijana Cvetkovik and I am the first residential Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia in Japan. I am very eager to introduce the beauty, wisdom, culture and arts of Macedonia to Japanese people. I have spent almost 10 years in Japan and my experience and observation tells me that Japanese and Macedonian people have similar sensibility and emotional sensitivity. Japanese people recognize Macedonia by Alexander the Great, but only few people know that Macedonia is the birthplace of Mother Teresa; Macedonia has one of the best wines in the world; Macedonia is the country of the oldest and one of the deepest lake in Europe-the Ohrid Lake, which is estimated to be 4 million years old and has 200 endemic species that haven't been found at any other place in the world; it is also the country with the 4th oldest observatory - "Kokino", right after the great pyramids, the Stonehenge and the Angkor Wat and many more facts that make us proud to be Macedonian. I believe soon Macedonia will become a favorite destination for travel, doing business or people-to-people exchange in the near future.

The Republic of Macedonia and Japan officially established their diplomatic relations on 1st March 1994, after Macedonia's independence from former Yugoslavia. The friendship connecting these two geographically very far countries has been confirmed many times, especially with the visit of His Majesty the Emperor Akihito in 1976, several years after the devastating earthquake that destroyed Skopje in 1963. Another iconic figure being a symbol of the revival and friendship between the two countries is the well-known Japanese architect Kenzo Tange who designed Skopje's new city planning after the earthquake.

Basic facts:

Name of the state: Republic of Macedonia Capitol city: Skopje
Area: 25,713 km²

Access: Via Istanbul, Frankfurt, Wien, and many other European cities. Official currency: the denar (MKD)

Population: 2,069,162 Famous persons: Alexander the Great, Mother Teresa, Rene Redzepi (NOMA, chef of the world's best restaurant), Milcho Manchevski (Oscar nominated film director)
Official language: Macedonian language Official script: Cyrillic

About Macedonia:

In the heart of South East Europe, Macedonia represents a geographical connection between Central Europe, Mediterranean, and Eastern Europe. The Republic of Macedonia is multiethnic, democratic, safe, and a country leader in economic reforms in the region. The reforms that Macedonia has implemented within the last years allowed it to rise from 94 position of Ease of Doing Business of the World Bank report to the 12th position. This favorable investment climate has attracted many companies from around the world to set up their production facilities and business in some of the 12 free economic zones around the country, where companies enjoy many benefits among which is the 10 years of tax liberation.

The country represents the Balkans in the truest sense, consisting of a fascinating mix of Macedonian and Mediterranean influences, with Mediterranean to continental climate, which offers possibility for development of many different kinds of tourism.

Macedonian cuisine

Macedonia is home of organic and homemade foods. When it comes to Macedonia, fruits and vegetables are what stands out. In Italy they even have a special dish "Macedonia" which is a mix of various fruits. Macedonia is a country of slow food, the place where people know to enjoy food and eating is a type of a ritual. Each season has its own seasonal food and almost each part of the country has its own specialty. When you are in Macedonia you can try the finest yellow and white cheese made by old recipe by the master cheese makers.

One of the traditional Macedonian meals which we would like to recommend to your readers is "Tavche Gravche". Baked beans which can be found in almost all restaurants in Macedonia. It is served in traditional earthenware. Tavche gravche is considered the national dish of Macedonia.

Her Excellency Dr. Andrijana Cvetkovik,
Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia in Japan
Atsuko Yamazaki, IAC contributed to the editing of this letter

<page 4>

"Armenia Culture Week 2016: Cultural Rendezvous With Japan" 22nd-27th March, 2016



"Armenia Culture Week 2016: Cultural Rendezvous With Japan" was held from March 22 to 27 in HILLSIDE TERRACE, Daikanyama. This was among major events, which the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia organizes annually in order to introduce Armenian culture to the Japanese public and to promote cultural exchanges between the two nations.

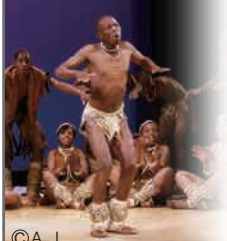
The week was saturated with many cultural occasions - exhibitions, concerts, short films, reception etc. They were implemented in close collaboration with our Japanese friends, among which is IAC - International Artists Center - our long-time partner. We are sure that our guests enjoyed the "Food Connection" part of the reception, where our IAC friends

introduced several Armenian and Japanese dishes that were prepared using the same ingredients.

Such cultural exchanges unquestionably stimulate the deepening of understanding and friendship between nations, and we are deeply grateful to all our friends in Japan who played a significant part in organizing and implementing the events.

His Excellency Dr. Grant POGOSYAN
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia to Japan

Dancers from Botswana



Join the IAC!

International Artists Center (IAC) is a non-profit organization. It was established in 1960 and has been doing its activities in the aim to contribute to the international understanding and the world peace through cultural exchanges programs.



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Join us for tea at the Embassy

Serbia 19th November, 2015



The Embassy of the Republic of Serbia in Tokyo would like to express special thanks to the International Artist Center (IAC) for organizing "Tea Party at the Embassy of Serbia".

We also like to thank guests who visited the Embassy on this occasion in such a great number.

We hope our guests found the presentation where we introduced general information, culture, sport exchange and ties with Japan informative and interesting.

We were pleasantly surprised by number of interesting questions asked by guests after the presentation and by very positive feedbacks and comments after the event.

We were very happy to hear that our home-made food ("Proja" corn flour bread, "Kiflice" roll bread with cheese and ham, Sopska Salad, "Cupavci" chocolate&coconut cake, "Lazy Pie" - apple cake and Walnut and Hazelnut cookies) made by our staff was delicious and that Serbian coffee and tea (marigold and linden) were for many the first time to taste it.

It was very pleasant time talking with our guests and IAC staff that assisted in preparing "Tea Party".

We hope that our guests got more interested in Serbia and they would visit it some day in the future.

Thank you! Hvala!

Azerbaijan 17th December, 2015



The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Japan would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to the members of the International Artists Center (IAC) and especially to Ms. Terumi Kanaya, Director-General of IAC for their continuous support and interest in further developing people-to-people contacts between various countries and Japan.

Recently held "Tea Party at the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Japan" co-organized by the Embassy and the IAC created an excellent opportunity for Japanese people to know more about Azerbaijan, its culture and traditions, nature and people, as well as uniqueness and tolerance. It was also a good chance to present the culture of tea ceremony in Azerbaijan as well as its delicious sweets, such as pakhlava, shekerbura, Karabakh style keta and others.

Azerbaijan is a secular country with a predominantly Muslim population that enjoys a centuries-long tradition of peaceful co-existence between a number of religions, cultures and ethnic minorities.

Our country's natural beauty, exquisite cuisine and hospitable people have created favourable conditions to attract tourists. Climate and terrain diversity, mountains, rivers and warm sea, as well as mud volcanoes, hot springs and crude oil treatments are just few attractions to mention. Besides being the first Democratic Republic in the Islamic World, Azerbaijan is home to the Oily Rocks - unique city in the open sea, the Flame Towers and the Heydar Aliyev Cultural Centre by Zaha Hadid.

Azerbaijan has more mud volcanoes than any other country on Earth, and the biggest of these has entered into the Guinness Book of Records.

We express our sincere gratitude to all of the participants of the event and hope it inspire them to learn more about our country and to visit Azerbaijan soon.

We would like to convey our sincere wishes to the members and readers of IAC for their continued good health and happiness! Happy holidays!

Madagascar 12th March, 2016



"The vanilla tea party hosted at the Embassy of the Republic of Madagascar on March 12, 2016 was enjoyable and successful with IAC's great cooperation.

It was a wonderful opportunity to present "the lamba Landy" as Madagascar traditional scarf symbolizing luxury and prosperity.

Indeed, it was a great moment for sharing with guests the beauty of vanilla beans from Madagascar, the number one in terms of quality, through the presentation and the gourmet using premium vanilla from the great Island Madagascar.

We hope IAC members and all guests will remind the nice smelling of vanilla and the tasty food prepared on Malagasy way, which is unique.

We have got new friends through the event and wishing to share talents and joyful moment later on. Indeed, it was a fruitful event ! Thanks to IAC.

We look forward to seeing you on such enjoyable event for discovering and exchanging culture with Madagascar Embassy staff."

Regards,
Rosette Rasoamanarivo
Chargé d'Affaires a.i