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## Hello, dear embassy vol.23 Bosnia and Herzegovina



**The year 2016 marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Japan**  
**Mr. Tsuneyasu Miyamoto, former member of Japan's national soccer team, founded a soccer school in Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
**Coach Osim is a typical Bosnia and Herzegovina person**  
**Followings are the words from the counsellor who loves cherry blossoms and Onsen (Japanese hot spring)**

Located in the North-eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula, Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country with area of 51,000km<sup>2</sup>, which is about the size of Kyushu and Shikoku combined, and population of more than 4 million people. The capitol is Sarajevo. Agriculture and forestry are its main industries and it exports furniture to European countries. We interviewed the counsellor, Ms. Jelena PASIC at the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is located in Hiroo, Tokyo.

—When we hear the name Bosnia and Herzegovina, we think of the war between 1992 and 1995.

Ms. PASIC: “In Bosnia and Herzegovina, 50% of the people are Muslims, 31% Serbians, 15% Roman Catholic Croats. Today, we live together, paying respect to other groups. We celebrate each other's religious holidays. In this world of globalization, diversity is an advantage for us.”

—I understand that 2016 is a special year for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Japan.

Ms. PASIC: “The diplomatic relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Japan was established in 1996, so the year 2016 is a very special year that marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of our relations. This year, former member of Japan's soccer national team, Mr. Tsuneyasu Miyamoto founded a soccer school for children in Mostar, the southern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Sports play an important role in connecting people.”

—In Japan, I think the most well known person from Bosnia and Herzegovina is Mr. Ivica Osim, the former coach of Japan's national soccer team.

Ms. PASIC: “He is very famous in our country, too. He is a man of character.”

—Do you think Mr. Osim's personality represents the people in Bosnia and Herzegovina?

Ms. PASIC: “He is a typical Bosnia and Herzegovina person. He cares about people; does not hesitate to help others; and communicates sincerely with everyone: these characters are typical of a Bosnia and Herzegovina person. The present coach of Japan's national soccer team, Mr. Vahid Halilhodžić is also from Bosnia and Herzegovina. I think the personality of our people and the Japanese people are very similar. Both people are polite and hospitable. Please come to our country. I recommend that you see our capital, Sarajevo, the old city of Mostar, which is listed as the world heritage, and Neum, a coastal town facing the Adriatic Sea.”

—For nearly an hour, Counsellor, Ms. PASIC answered my questions with a beautiful smile. I heard that the Ambassador is also female. It seems that Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country where women's social progress is common.

Organic farming is popular in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It has been exporting its organic wine to Japan for three years. Ms. PASIC showed us some containers of organic cosmetics Bosnia and Herzegovina is planning to export. Each package had a cute owl on its label.

I am sure that the relationship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Japan will deepen further.

(Sakurako Abe, IAC)  
 (translated by Keiko Hori, IAC)

Director General,

On this auspicious occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Artists Center (IAC) as an NPO, I would like to extend to you and your staff, on behalf of the Embassy of Guatemala, our warmest congratulations.

May the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the International Artists Center and the Embassy of Guatemala be further enhanced.

With my best wishes to you and your staff, I take this opportunity to renew the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
 Ángela María Chávez Bietti  
 Ambassador



Ms. Terumi Kanaya  
 Director General  
 International Artists Center  
 Tokyo

Ms Terumi KANAYA  
 Director-General  
 International Artists Center

Dear Ms Kanaya,

With reference to your letter date October, I would like to express to you my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Artists Center as a nonprofit organization.

I would like to thank you for your continued cooperation and look forward to working further with you to reinforce the cultural exchange and the friendly ties which so happily exist between Japan and Madagascar.

Sincerely yours,

  
  
 Rosette RASOAMANARIVO  
 Chargé d'Affaires a.i.