

## **Farewall message from Ambassador**

Time flies fast and since taking up the position as the first Japanese Ambassador residing in Estonia, already two years and seven months have passed. Now I have received directions to return to the Foreign Ministry and will be leaving Estonia in the beginning of October.

During my time here, Estonia has shown steady development, joining OECD and the Euro-zone and achieving high economic growth despite the difficult economic situation in the world after the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers.

When looking at the relations with Japan, one can notice the advance in economic relations. A good example is the electric cars project initiated through the Kyoto protocol emissions trading. High level visits took place, among others the visit of the Prime Minister and the President of the Riigikogu to Japan and the visit of the Vice Foreign Minister of Japan Mr. Banno to Estonia. The Japanese embassy organized various cultural events, among them to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the renewal of the Japan-Estonia diplomatic relations in 2011 and many lectures about Japan.

I believe that thanks to your help, we managed to significantly reinforce the economic and cultural ties between Japan and Estonia. The number of Japanese tourists in Estonia has grown every year. The interest of Japanese companies towards Estonia has also increased and the knowledge about Estonia has grown thanks to the success of Ozeki Baruto. I will never forget the great support we received from the Estonian government and the people in March last year after the Great East-Japan Earthquake.

While leaving Estonia, I feel that there are many things I could not do, but still believe that I have managed to lay the foundation for the overall development of the Japan-Estonia relations.

In October the new Ambassador will take up post. I hope that you will support him as you have supported me and contribute to the further development of the Japan-Estonia relations. I wish further success to Estonia.

With best regards,

September, 2012

Hideaki HOSHI  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary of Japan to Estonia