

New Year's greeting from Ambassador

A Happy New Year!

I send you my New Year's greetings and wish you all the success this year.

Last year was a fruitful year in tightening the relations between the Republic of Estonia and Japan. In January, I was appointed as the first residing ambassador in Estonia and in February, Estonian Prime Minister Andrus Ansip visited Japan and held a summit meeting with his Japanese counterpart, to name a few.

With the advent of new administration in Japan in June last year, Japan has been vigorously tackling various issues both domestically and internationally. Last year, Japan hosted The Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity (COP10) in October and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit meeting in November and proactively engaged in various global issues like economy, environment, development, security. Furthermore, while carrying out her part within the framework of such multinational organizations as the UN, G8 and G20, Japan has also worked in cooperation with Estonia in Afghanistan in constructing wells in Kariz Village in Lashkargah District of Helmand Province through utilizing the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects.

In Japan, Estonian-born Baruto-zeki who was promoted to Ozeki last spring showed great efforts. Estonia came to be featured in certain magazines and reported more often in TV and newspapers in Japan. I truly believe that Estonia has become more and more closer to the Japanese people.

Along with the long-awaited introduction of Euro, the beginning of 2011 also marks the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the new Diplomatic Relation between Estonia and Japan in 1991. Furthermore, with Tallinn being selected as the European Capital of Culture and various activities being held throughout the year, the Embassy is planning a lot of events to introduce Japan and her culture.

The number of Japanese visiting Estonia has been increasing every year. I wish visits to each direction will be on the rise this year as well and they will help the spur of understanding between our two countries and the friendly relations between Estonia and Japan to deepen both on a national and a personal level.

I sincerely hope this year would be a year of progress for all of you and also in the relations between Estonia and Japan.

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Hideaki HOSHI

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan  
to the Republic of Estonia