

Video Message from
Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
100th Anniversary of Friendship Japan - Lithuania

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen and Distinguished Guests,

Warmest greetings from Tokyo. It is my great pleasure to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the friendship between Japan and Lithuania.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Lithuanian National Library for hosting this event and the wonderful exhibition which commemorates our long-standing friendship to date.

We appreciate the Lithuanian National Library's dedication to promoting Japanese Culture in Lithuania.

Last month, Prime Minister ŠIMONYTĖ visited Japan and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister KISHIDA. Taking that opportunity, they upgraded our bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership.

Since the security of Europe and that of the Indo-Pacific region are inseparable, we are determined to further strengthen our political dialogue, while promoting our economic relations in various fields.

In addition to political and economic cooperation, I would like to highlight the importance of promoting people-to-people exchange and deepening the mutual understanding between Japan and Lithuania.

Above all, it would be remiss if I don't emphasize our willingness of passing the legacy of Mr. SUGIHARA Chiune, known for his "Visa for Life," to the next generation.

The legacy is the symbol of the historical ties between Japan and Lithuania.

As we stand at a historic crossroad, the unity of like-minded countries, such as Japan and Lithuania, is more important than ever.

I sincerely hope that our friendship will flourish further as we work together to address the challenges facing the international community.

Thank you for your kind attention.