

O Primeiro-Ministro

Lisbon, 3 August 2020

Excellency,

This day marks the 160th anniversary of the signing of the Peace, Friendship and Trade Treaty between Portugal and Japan, which took place on 3 August 1860, in “Edo”, and established diplomatic relations between the two countries. The treaty formalised the deep and long-standing relations initiated with our first bilateral contact, in Tanegashima, in 1543.

On this date, we reaffirm the Portuguese Government’s commitment to strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation between Portugal and Japan in all its dimensions.

United by historical and friendly ties, our countries and peoples today enjoy a robust and diverse framework for cooperation, which will certainly be developed further in the future. In this context, I would like to highlight Japan’s condition as an Associate Observer to the CPLP.

Portugal welcomes the strategic partnership established between the EU and Japan. Together, we will be able to deal more adequately with challenges currently facing our societies, such as global health, Europe-Asia connectivity, environmental and ocean protection, digital transformation and the promotion of multilateral free trade system, fair and rules-based. Our countries share fundamental values and principles, namely respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Finally, I would like to note that, in this second’ year of the Japanese Reiwa era, several initiatives planned to commemorate this anniversary had to be postponed due to pandemic. We are now assessing ways to resume a wide range of activities commemorating our historic and close friendship in the near future and once the situation is normalized.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

António Costa