

**State Minister for Foreign Affairs KUNIMITSU's
Video Message for the Reception Commemorating
the 120th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations
between Japan and the Kingdom of Norway**

Good afternoon, distinguished guests. I am KUNIMITSU Ayano, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

First of all, I wholeheartedly congratulate the 120th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Kingdom of Norway. I am pleased to see that various related events have been successfully held throughout the year in both countries.

In 1905, Norway declared its independence, and in the same year, diplomatic relations with Japan were established. Since then, based on long-standing exchanges between our imperial and royal families, our two countries have nurtured a friendly relationship.

Norway is an important strategic partner for Japan. Concrete cooperation has been steadily progressing in various areas including security, economy, and people-to-people exchanges.

Particularly, under the shared recognition that the security of the Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific has increasingly become inseparable, our security cooperation has been deepening. Both Japan and Norway are neighbors to Russia, and are strongly supporting Ukraine. Besides, from August to September this year, the Norwegian frigate "Roald Amundsen" made its first historic port call to Japan. We welcome Norway's engagement in the Indo-Pacific region.

In the international arena, Japan and Norway have served as co-chairs of the WPS Focal Points Network, leading international discussions on Women, Peace and Security.

On the occasion of the recently concluded Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, many Norwegian people including Foreign Minister Eide visited Japan. I firmly believe that the Expo not only served as a catalyst for strengthening bilateral business relations but also provided a valuable opportunity to showcase the appeal of Norwegian culture within Japan and to the world.

In the current international situation of heightened uncertainty, cooperation between our two countries is more important than ever. The year 2025 is coming to an end, but we will not regard this 120th anniversary as a goal, but as a new start for our ever-strengthened bilateral ties.

I am deeply committed to furthering the development of the friendly relations between Japan and Norway. I kindly ask all those present today for your continued support in advancing our bilateral relations.

Thank you very much.