



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA JANEZ JANŠA TO JAPAN

Tokyo, 23 April 2008

1. Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Prime Minister of Japan and Mr. Janez Janša, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia met in Tokyo on 23 April 2008.
2. During his visit to Japan from April 21 to 24, as an official guest of the Government of Japan, Prime Minister Janša attended the 17th EU-Japan Summit, as the President of the European Council, with Jose Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission, and was received in audience by His Majesty the Emperor.
3. Both leaders welcomed the steady development of bilateral relations that have followed a successful path of 16 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1992, and recognized the importance of further strengthening the friendly relations in many fields, and reaffirmed their intention to explore instruments to enhance cooperation in the future.
4. Noting the importance of strengthening political dialogue to promote further cooperation within bilateral and multilateral frameworks, both leaders expressed the intention to hold political consultations at senior-official level of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs on a regular basis, in principle once a year, which are to be held alternately in both countries.
5. Both leaders also welcomed the recent developments of trade and investment between the two countries and expressed their willingness to further promote bilateral economic relations. The Japanese side welcomed Slovenia's efforts to accede to the OECD.
6. Both leaders shared the view that the bilateral cooperation should reflect the needs of the 21st century. They welcomed the on-going cooperation between both countries in the fields of science and technology. The leaders looked forward to further cooperation aiming at stimulating the flow of capital, technology and services between the two countries.
7. Both leaders shared the view that they would promote people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, particularly in the fields of culture and tourism.
8. Both leaders expressed their willingness to support the promotion of their respective languages. They also recognized the significance of the Japanese language education as a tool to enhance the understanding on Japan among Slovenian people.

9. Both leaders expressed their determination to work actively together for early realization of the United Nations Security Council reform, including the expansion of both the permanent and non-permanent membership to increase its representation and effectiveness. The Slovenian side reiterated its support for Japan's permanent membership in the Security Council, and the Japanese side expressed its appreciation for the support. The Japanese side welcomed the active role by the Republic of Slovenia at the United Nations.

10. Both leaders confirmed the importance of efforts related to human security in promoting international cooperation and expressed their willingness to cooperate in disseminating the concept in various fora, including the United Nations, as well as in implementing the concept on the ground through United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security.