

Your Excellency Ambassador Sakata,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

It is a great honor for me to deliver a speech at today's reception organized on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Japan.

From a historical point of view the period of 20 years is just an instant. But for Ukraine those years were the most challenging ones in the process of building a new state and establishing new relations with the world community, including Japan.

Despite the fact that our countries are geographically very far from each other, from year to year our bilateral relations are developing very actively. Contacts between our peoples are getting closer and broader. During the past years many visits, events, joint projects and initiatives were successfully implemented in Ukraine and Japan.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries we had laid a solid basis for the fruitful development of bilateral cooperation in all spheres.

We highly appreciate the current state of bilateral cooperation with Japan.

“The Joint Statement on Ukraine-Japan Global Partnership”, signed in January last year by the President of Ukraine and the Prime Minister of Japan, outlined the main priorities in our further cooperation and became a vivid example of reaching qualitatively new stage of cooperation between our countries.

At the same time, the existence of considerable potential in our interaction determines the necessity of finding new ways and opportunities for its expanding, especially in economic area. We hope that our economic cooperation will not be limited to the traditional spheres, which are successfully developing, but will be broadened due to the active attraction of the Japanese investments to Ukraine.

In this regard, I would like to stress the importance of signing the Agreement on Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments between our countries in the nearest future.

Taking this opportunity, on behalf of the Government of Ukraine I would like to express our deep gratitude to the Government and the people of Japan for continuous financial and humanitarian aid rendered to Ukraine in various spheres, including assistance in overcoming of the consequences of the Chornobyl accident.

Ukraine also appreciates the efforts made by Japan during those 20 years, aimed at supporting economic development and democratic processes in Ukraine.

I would like to assure the Japanese side that Ukraine as a sincere friend and reliable partner of Japan is always ready to render necessary assistance in overcoming of the consequences of the powerful earthquake and devastating tsunami that happened in Japan in March last.

I hope that in the nearest future we will sign the Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of Japan concerning cooperation to advance aftermath response to accidents at nuclear power stations.

With great pleasure I would like to emphasize the high level of cooperation in cultural and educational spheres between our countries.

In conclusion, let me express deep confidence that fruitful dialogue at all levels between Ukraine and Japan as well as good and friendly relations between our people will be further strengthened and expanded for the mutual benefit.

Thank you!