

Italy National Day Special

75th anniversary sees republic primed for return to 'good life'

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On June 2 Italy celebrates its 75th anniversary as a republic. It is our national day and the living symbol of democracy and freedom as acquired once again by the Italian people in the aftermath of

World War II. Remembering those decisive pages of our history helps us to be determined in today's time of challenges.

This year the recurrence acquires a special significance. Italy, after enduring with bravery and determination the hardest and darkest months of the COVID-19 pandemic, will embark on a gradual normalization process. Thanks to the relentless efforts and commitment of the Italian government and people, we managed to set up an effective and thorough vaccination campaign that will allow us in the coming months to fully restore social relations and economic activities while safeguarding public health.

Soon we will safely enjoy our most cherished habits and get back to that *vivere all'italiana*, the synonym for good lifestyle that makes our country so unique and appreciated worldwide. We are ready to welcome and celebrate the return of the numerous Japanese tourists that every year discover and appreciate the extraordinary beauties of Italy.

On the economic side, our companies showed a remarkable resilience in facing the downturn caused by the pandemic, and now they are ready to look for future business opportunities that will arise on the domestic and international markets. Thanks to the recovery plan, recently devised by the Italian government to secure a sustainable long-term growth path, Italy will become an even more attractive destination for foreign investors and international partners. Within this framework, I am sure that Japanese companies will continue to play a key role in light of the steadfastness of our economic and commercial bilateral ties, which grew stronger thanks to the landmark EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement.

In the political domain, the strategic partnership between Italy and Japan is today deeper than ever, as exemplified by the

recent talks between our prime ministers, Mario Draghi and Yoshihide Suga, as well as between Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio and his Japanese counterpart Toshihiro Motegi. Our collaboration spans all key issues on the global agenda, both bilaterally and in all international forums. In an increasingly interconnected world, multilateralism is far more than an abstract concept. It is the key to responding to these challenges, and the Group of 20, bringing together much of the world's population and of the global economy, must live up to its role. This is why the 2021 G20, under an Italian presidency, will focus on three broad, interconnected pillars of action: people, planet and prosperity.

We count on Japan's valuable support to ensure the full success of the Rome G20 Heads of State and Government Summit on Oct. 30 and 31.

Allow me, dear readers, to acknowledge in conclusion the invaluable contribution of the Italian community to the cultural, scientific and economic life of Japan. Such a commitment is a true token of our everlasting friendship.

Buona Festa della Repubblica!

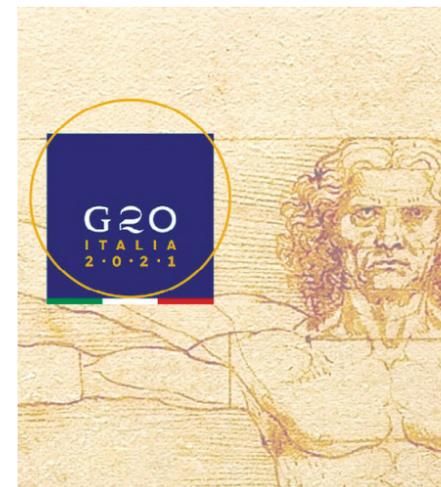


2021 will mark the 700th anniversary of the death of the poet and philosopher Dante Alighieri, the father of the Italian language. Dante was born in Florence (left) in 1265.



Italy, this year's president of the Group of 20, will host the forum's final summit in Rome at the end of October.

Right: The logo for the Italian G20 Presidency draws inspiration from "Vitruvian Man," a famous drawing by Leonardo da Vinci, symbol of the Renaissance, humanism and of Italy throughout the world. Far right: The local logo for Italian Republic Day (Festa della Repubblica), which is celebrated on June 2 each year



This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.