

Support for Ukraine

Grateful for ongoing support, friendship in hard times

SERGIY KORSUNSKY
AMBASSADOR OF UKRAINE



Ukraine has a long-lasting, glorious and yet tragic history in its fight for freedom. One of the literal readings of Ukraine's national emblem — the Trident — is nothing but the emblematic

word “freedom” in Ukrainian. The sacred idea of freedom, having our own independent country and being masters of our own land, has been smoldering in the hearts of all Ukrainians since the collapse of the medieval Kyiv Rus in the 13th century. The fight for freedom had its ups and downs while spilling on the pages of history both the tears from our brutal enemies' invasions and the triumph of the spirit of free Cossacks, the blood of thousands of Ukrainian patriots and the joys of their victories paving the way to an independent Ukraine.

Few people know that the first demo-

cratic constitution in the world was crafted back in 1710 by Philip Orlik, a high-ranking Ukrainian Cossacks officer who was exiled from his homeland after the defeat of the Ukrainian-Swedish army in the Battle of Poltava a year earlier. Even fewer people are aware of the numerous national uprisings accompanying the history of Ukraine during the centuries of statelessness. And we are talking about distant history, not just the 2005 Orange Revolution and the 2014 Revolution of Dignity.

Although trapped in the “prison of the nations” — the Russian empire — suffering from enslavement, cut off from its European roots and deprived of the development of language and culture, our nation managed to preserve its identity and, with the voices of Taras Shevchenko and other national bards of Ukraine, to pass the word freedom to generations to come.

That voice was heard early in the 20th century with an attempt to establish the Ukrainian state that existed for only a short period of time. The bloody storm from Petrograd that followed the Russian communists' invasion, including Stalin's repres-

sions, the Holodomor famine from 1932 to 1933, World War II and the postwar Sovietization of Ukraine, cost millions of Ukrainians their lives.

While trying to mute the Ukrainian language and execute our top artists and intellectuals — the whole of Ukrainian culture consigned to oblivion — the Russian communists strived to kill the very soul of Ukraine. Nevertheless, the Ukrainian liberation movement continued in the forms of both armed (1920s to '50s) and nonviolent (1960s to '80s) struggle.

The collapse of the Soviet Union gave the Ukrainian nation one more chance. The historic decision of the Ukrainian parliament on Aug. 24, 1991, to proclaim independence opened a new chapter in Ukraine's history.

The ensuing 30 years of independence demonstrated to the world that Ukraine emerged as a state capable of affirming democratic values, defending freedom and dignity, and developing a free market economy.

But freedom is not free. On Feb. 24 Ukraine was attacked unprovoked by Russia. Therefore, on the 31st birthday of their country, millions of Ukrainians have to cel-

ebate in trenches with weapons in hand, in cities no longer peaceful under enemy shelling, and suffering from the hardship of war as POWs or refugees.

Russia launched the war against Ukraine to stop its European integration and to punish its desire to be free, independently decide its destiny and take the path toward the European-Atlantic community. The enemy did not treat Ukrainians seriously and expected to conquer our country in just three days. But it has severely miscalculated. Already half a year in, Ukraine, its army and people are still fighting against the aggressor.

Although our men and women are brave, they would not be able to stand strong without the support of Ukraine's friends and partners around the globe, including Japan.

Japan and its people are extending the hand of support and compassion, providing Ukraine with financial and humanitarian assistance. Unprecedented in its postwar history, Japan is also granting nonlethal military assistance to Ukraine. Japan has imposed 13 packages of severe sanctions against Russia. Hundreds of thou-

sands of Japanese have contributed to different humanitarian funds. We are grateful to the government, the Diet, businesses and people of Japan for their valuable support to Ukraine. We invite Japan to participate in the reconstruction of Ukraine as well. There will be a lot of work to do.

Make no mistake doubting that Ukraine will win this war. We will share this victory with our friends and partners. Ukraine will be reborn like a phoenix to appear to the world as a democratic, prosperous friend and partner.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper. Part of the sales from this supplement will be donated to the Ukrainian Embassy.



President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy delivers an address to the members of the parliament via video call on March 23.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Students raise funds for charity, promote peace with music

THE JAPAN TIMES AGENCY

On July 18, the Tokyo College of Music's Music Liberal Arts school held a charity concert at TCM Hall on the Daikanyama Campus to raise money and awareness to support war-torn Ukraine.

Organized by third-year student Nanaha Kinoshita, the show featured Ukrainian artist Kateryna performing folk songs on the *bandura*, a traditional Ukrainian string instrument. Kateryna is one of only two bandura players in Japan and has been involved in charity work for her homeland both here and abroad. She also expressed

a wish for the concert to be shown in Ukraine once the conflict is over. Other performers featured included faculty and students from the Tokyo College of Music and about 70 volunteer youth singers from outside the school.

When asked what inspired the event, Kinoshita said: “Through music we can protest and pray for peace. This project aims to appeal for peace through the power of music, while watching news of the war every day, feeling the pain of not being able to do anything, feeling helpless.” This spurred her and the 38 other organizers into action and the result was the successful concert.

The organizers, who received assistance from Ukraine to promote the concert, also got a shot in the arm from celebrity UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and Tokyo College of Music alumnus Tetsuko Kuroyanagi, who raised funds via her Instagram account and talked up the event online.

All funds generated by the concert were donated to UNICEF to aid war victims, provide medical care and help children caught up in the conflict. Students from the school also participated in collecting donations on the streets around the Nakameguro shopping district in June and July, bringing in over ¥426,000 for UNICEF.



Organizer Nanaha Kinoshita (center) poses with bandura player Kateryna (left) and her mother, Mariya, after the concert.

Our sincerest wishes
for a swift restoration
of peace

JT

JAPAN TOBACCO INC.

Kamiyacho Trust Tower, 1-1, Toranomon 4-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-6927 JAPAN
Phone: (03)6636-2914 FAX: (03)6772-0495 URL: <http://www.jt.com>