

Andreas BAUM
Ambassador of Switzerland to Japan



It is a great joy for my country Switzerland to celebrate 160 years of diplomatic relations with Japan! From precision and ingenuity to our love of nature and a shared commitment to multilateralism, we have much in common. Our bilateral relations were first established thanks to the pioneering spirit of Swiss watchmakers. They came to Japan to explore a new market for their innovative products and ended up concluding the Treaty of Amity and Commerce in 1864. To this day, entrepreneurship and economic exchanges remain at the core of our ties. Recently, Japan has been the strongest driver of Swiss exports to Asia. Here in Japan, a growing presence of Swiss companies makes Switzerland the 8th largest investor. Our friendship continues to expand: new Swiss representations in Osaka, Kyushu and soon Hokkaido, in addition to lively cultural and people-to-people exchanges, are proof of this dynamism. On the road to Expo 2025, our public diplomacy program Vitality.Swiss highlights the diversity and breadth of our relations with an emphasis on sustainability, health and innovation. Happy anniversary!

November 2023 

Switzerland In Numbers

- Population of Switzerland: **8,815,385**
- Area of Switzerland: **41,291 km²**
- Swiss Residents in Japan: **1,969**
- Swiss Companies in Japan: **around 200**
- Swiss Exports to Japan: **Chemical Products, Medical Products, Precise Machines**

Sources: Federal Statistical Office (2022), Embassy of Switzerland in Japan, Japan National Tourism Organization (2022), Trade Statistics of Japan (2022).

Do you want to know more about Japan?

If you want to experience Japan or find out more about possibilities to study and work, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Embassy of Japan in Switzerland
Engestrasse 53
3012 Bern
031 300 22 22
eojs@br.mofa.go.jp

Japan Information and Cultural Center
Engestrasse 43
3012 Bern
031 305 15 70
jicc@br.mofa.go.jp
japan-switzerland160@br.mofa.go.jp

Consulate of Japan in Geneva
(Covering Cantons of Geneva, Vaud, Valais and Ticino)
Rue de Lausanne 82
1202 Genève
022 716 99 00
consulate@br.mofa.go.jp

Honorary Consulate-General of Japan in Zurich
Utoquai 55 – 7th floor
8008 Zurich
044 269 40 46
george.mueller@japan-consulate-zurich.ch

JETRO GENEVA – Japan External Trade Organization
Rue de Lausanne 80
1202 Geneva
022 732 13 04
SWG@jetro.go.jp

To find out more, scan the QR code on the right or access our website with the link below:

https://www.ch.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_de/160.html



Yoshinori FUJIYAMA
Ambassador of Japan to Switzerland



Over the past 160 years, Japan and Switzerland have developed a dynamic and prosperous relationship. Switzerland is now an important partner for Japan that shares universal values such as freedom, democracy, respect for fundamental human rights, and the rule of law. In fact, we are cooperating closely in various fora in the international community, including addressing global challenges in the United Nations Security Council of which we are both non-permanent members in 2023 and 2024. Meetings and exchanges between leaders and high level representatives of both governments and parliaments are extremely active. Our cooperation in the fields of business, academia, science and technology, culture, and people-to-people exchange is also steadily expanding. At the local governmental level, sister city relationships have reached as many as 17. I am excited to mark the 160th anniversary with you, and very much hope that it will further strengthen these close ties between our two countries beyond 2024 into the future.

November 2023 

Japan In Numbers

- Population of Japan: **124,554,329**
- Area of Japan: **377,975 km²**
- Japanese Residents in Switzerland: **11,980**
- Japanese Companies in Switzerland: **around 170**
- Japanese Exports to Switzerland: **Chemical Products, Medical Products, Gold**

Sources: Statistics Bureau of Japan (2023) , Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2022), Trade Statistics of Japan (2022).



Celebrating
160 Years of Diplomatic
Relations between
Japan and Switzerland

Vibrant Partnerships on Different Levels

The diplomatic relation was established with the conclusion of the Treaty of Amity and Trade between the Tokugawa Shogunate and the Swiss Confederation in 1864. Ever since, Japan and Switzerland do not only enjoy excellent diplomatic relations, they also foster partnerships on different levels. An excellent example for this are the vibrant partnerships established between municipalities:

City Partnerships

- Arosa (GR)

Brienz (BE)

Davos (GR)

Geneva (GE)

Grindelwald (BE)

Interlaken (BE)

Montreux (VD)

Neuchâtel (NE)

Romainmôtier-Envy (VS)

St. Moritz (GR)

Yverdon-les-Bains (VD)

Zermatt (VS)
- Nanto, Toyama

– Shimada, Shizuoka

– Ueda, Nagano

– Shinagawa-District, Tokyo

– Matsumoto, Nagano

– Otsu, Shiga

– Chiba, Chiba

– Shinshiro, Aichi

– Nagaoka, Niigata

– Kutchan, Hokkaido, and Hakone, Kanagawa

– Kagamino, Okayama

– Fujikawaguchiko, Yamanashi and Myoko, Niigata

Regional Partnerships

- Canton of Bern

Cantons of Basel Stadt and Landschaft
- Nara Prefecture

– Toyama Prefecture

160 Years
A Roadmap From the Past to the Present

1864

Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Switzerland established

1906

Swiss Legation in Japan opens

1916

Japanese Legation in Switzerland opens

1933

Japanese Consulate in Geneva opens

1955

Embassy of Japan in Switzerland opens

1957

Embassy of Switzerland in Japan opens
Visa Exemption Agreement

1971

Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation

2007

Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology

2009

Agreement on Free Trade and Economic Partnership


2012

Social Security Agreement

2023


Swiss Consulate (Swissnex in Japan) opens in Osaka

1971



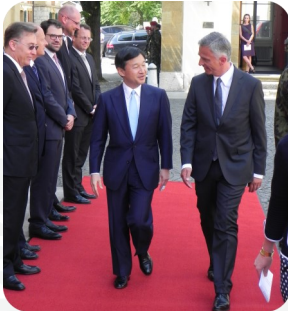
Their Majesties the Emperor Hirohito and Empress Nagako make a visit to Switzerland

2000




Their Majesties the Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko make a visit to Switzerland

2014




His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito makes a visit to Switzerland

2022



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio KISHIDA and Swiss President Ignazio CASSIS hold a Summit Meeting in Japan



160th

日本・スイス国交樹立記念
Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations
between Japan and Switzerland

About the Logo Design

The logo was created by Mr Anthony Cherbuin, a web development engineer who lives in Canton of Fribourg, Switzerland. It combines images of cherry blossom and edelweiss to reflect the shared value of perseverance, beauty, and love. It also represents the resilience and friendship of the two countries.

Active Initiatives between Japan and Switzerland

Various Japan-related organizations in Switzerland bring an uplifting momentum to both countries:

Parliamentary Friendship Group Switzerland-Japan



Swiss-Japanese Chamber of Commerce



Swiss-Japanese Society



Schweizerisch-Japanische Gesellschaft
Swiss-Japanese Society スイス・日本協会



ASSOCIATION SUISSE-JAPON
SECTION SUISSE ROMANDE 日本・スイス協会ロマンテ支部

Regional Business Organizations

Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Zurich (JCCIZ)

The Japan Club of Geneva Commerce and Industry Section

Swiss-Japanese Societies and Organizations

Swiss Japanese Cultural Association Yamato

Association d'Amitié Genève-Shinagawa

Cercle Suisse Japon

Alumni Associations

KIZUNA Network

JETAA-CH

Japanese Schools

Japanische Schule in Zürich und Ergänzungsschule

Ecole Japonaise Complémentaire de Genève

Japanese Community Groups and Others

Bern Nipponjin-kai

The Japan Club of Geneva

Basel Nihonjinkai

Camelia Club Giapponese

Japan Club Zurich (JCZ)

Luzern Nihonjinnokai

Care Team Japan

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