



Poland

In pole position for growth

One of the fastest-growing economies in the EU, Poland has seen steady annual growth for 26 consecutive years. The nation is classified by the World Bank as a high-income society, and FTSE Russell upgraded Poland's status from emerging market to developed economy in 2017.

Polish businesses with interests in Japan range from players in the high-tech sector, including the gaming companies CD Projekt Red and 11 bit Studios, to food and beverage firms, such as Hortex, and Kompania Piwowarska, which is part of the Asahi Breweries group.

Next year, Poland will celebrate the centenary of its official diplomatic relations with Japan. The Polish Embassy in Japan has many events planned, including the Polish Culture Festival — organised in collaboration with Japan Arts — which will feature concerts by well-known Polish artists, theatre plays and a Chopin exhibition.



Trade with Japan

Exports to Japan: **\$1.2 billion**
Imports from Japan: **\$2 billion**

SOURCE: JETRO, 2017



Area

312,685 km².
Coastline: 440km.

Climate

Temperate with cold, cloudy, moderately severe winters with frequent precipitation; and mild summers with frequent showers and thunderstorms.



Major cities

Warsaw (capital), Lodz, Krakow and Wroclaw.

Population

38,476,269 (July 2017, estimate).
Urban population: 60.1% (2018). 43.48% are 25-54 years of age.

60.1%

Urban population

Natural resources

Coal, sulphur, copper, natural gas, silver, lead, salt, amber and arable land.



Grounds for celebration

Polish Ambassador to Japan Jacek Izydorczyk

In 2005, after passing the national judge's exam, Jacek Izydorczyk went on scholarship to Kyushu University where he studied Japanese and began a research programme on criminal law, criminal proceedings and white-collar crimes. He has also worked as a professor of law and as head of the Department of Special Criminal Proceedings at the University of Lodz in Poland, and has written more than 100 articles in Polish, English and Japanese. Additionally, he has had several books published, including *Hanzai Means Crime: Prosecution of common crimes and white-collar-crimes in Japan*. In 2017, Izydorczyk was appointed ambassador to Japan.

What has the embassy's focus been this year?

This year is very special for Polish people, as Poland celebrates its 100th anniversary of regaining independence. Japan was one of the first countries to have recognised the Republic of Poland. Among the many cultural and business events the embassy is holding to boost the image of Poland in Japan, the major one will be the arrival of the Polish sailing ship *Dar Młodzieży* in Osaka on Independence Day, 11 November. This constitutes a part of a trip around the world to commemorate the centenary. Of importance to our Japanese friends is that the ship will be open to the public.

What are some key areas of collaboration between Poland and Japan?



During the visit of Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski to Tokyo in May 2017, the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategic Partnership between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Poland for the years 2017-2020 was signed. It reflects our ongoing cooperation and maps out new initiatives in energy, climate change policy and security policy, among many other areas. The next COP24 forum in December in Katowice, Poland, will likely serve as an opportunity for new bilateral developments in the areas of energy and the environment.

Could you tell me about trade between Poland and Japan?

As the largest economy in central and eastern Europe and the sixth-biggest market in the European Union, Poland is one of the key markets for Japan in Europe. And Japan is one of Poland's biggest economic partners in Asia, both in terms of trade and investment. Polish-Japanese trade turnover amounted to almost \$3.1 billion in 2017.

We highly appreciate the Japanese investment in our country due to its high level of innovation and applied technology. In keeping with the Polish government's Plan for Responsible Development, we are encouraging Japanese companies to further invest in sectors such as infrastructure, energy and

shipbuilding. Innovation will be a key focus, so cooperation with Japan will become even more important.

What was discussed at the meeting in July between Japan's foreign minister, Taro Kono, and Poland's foreign minister, Jacek Czaputowicz?

The ministers reaffirmed that Poland and Japan are friendly partners who share many values such as human rights, democracy, the rule of law and respect for international law. The foreign ministers of Poland and Japan concluded that they will cooperate closely in the UN Security Council and at the European Union level to strengthen security in their regions. They also discussed and agreed to cooperate on global security and intensify cooperation in trade, business, science and clean energy. This visit probably had a special, nostalgic meaning for Foreign Minister Kono, who said he has warm memories from his days studying in Warsaw 30 years ago.

How do you feel about being back in Japan?

I appreciate the fact that Polish people are similar to Japanese people in many ways. Apart from both loving Chopin's music, we are respectful of tradition, we appreciate aesthetic beauty and we are very polite — if you talk to a stranger in Poland, you always say “sir” or “madam”. I'm very lucky to be serving my country in a country I'm very fond of. ●