



THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN
JAPAN AND LITHUANIA

Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
2026



35 YEAR HISTORY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND LITHUANIA

- 20 December 1922 – Japan recognized the Republic of Lithuania
- 10 October 1991 – Diplomatic relations were restored**
- 1992 – Visit of the Chairman of the Supreme Council, Prof. Vytautas Landsbergis, to Japan
- 1997 – The Embassy of Japan was opened in Lithuania
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- 2001 – Visit of President Valdas Adamkus to Japan
- 2007 – Visit of the Emperor and Empress of Japan to Lithuania
- 2018 – Visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Lithuania
- 2019 – Visit of President Gitanas Nausėda to Japan
- 2022 – Strategic Partnership Agreement
- 2023 – Visit of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida to Lithuania
- 2025 – Visit of President Gitanas Nausėda to Japan
- 2026 – 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Lithuania
- 40th anniversary of Chiune Sugihara's passing.



The Monument to Chiune Sugihara "Moonlight" and the Chiune Sugihara Sakura Park, Vilnius.

CHIUNE SUGIHARA

Chiune Sugihara was born in 1900 in Gifu Prefecture. He began his diplomatic service in 1924, and in 1939 he was appointed to serve at the Japanese Consulate in Kaunas.

In July 1940, as the Soviet occupation and annexation of Lithuania approached, Jewish refugees from Poland flooded the Japanese Consulate seeking transit visas. After much deliberation, Sugihara decided to issue transit visas to Jewish refugees. Within one month, he issued more than 2,000 so-called "visas for life."

For this humanitarian act, in 1985 the Yad Vashem Institute

awarded Chiune Sugihara the title of Righteous Among the Nations. After his death, in 1992 the monument Moonlight was erected in his honor at the Holocaust Museum in Vilnius, and in 1993 Chiune Sugihara was honored by the Government of Lithuania.

In 1999, the Sugihara House Museum was established in Kaunas. Commemorating the 100th anniversary of Sugihara's birth, a memorial plaque dedicated to him was unveiled at the Diplomatic Archives of Japan in 2000, and 100 cherry trees were planted in Vilnius, forming a park named after Chiune Sugihara. Sugihara is buried at the Kamakura City Cemetery. The year 2026 marks the 40th anniversary of Chiune Sugihara's passing."

The year 2026 marks a significant milestone in Japan-Lithuania relations.

It commemorates the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and the 40th anniversary of the passing of Chiune Sugihara.

A wide range of commemorative events will be held across Lithuania thanks to the dedicated efforts of many friendship associations and other related organizations. Additionally, an exhibition of works by M. K. Čiurlionis will be held in Japan. Through these exchanges, it is expected that mutual understanding and cooperation based on shared values will be deepened, thereby further strengthening the strategic partnership between our two countries.

We warmly encourage all those who share this vision to plan additional events and to join this initiative. Information on planned events will be updated regularly on the Embassy's website and social media. I look forward to seeing you at the events!

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Shinsuke Shimizu

Ambassador of Japan in the Republic of Lithuania

EVENTS TO COMMEMORATE

the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations
between Japan and Lithuania and the
40th anniversary of Chiune Sugihara's passing

2026 JANUARY



01.30

Opening event commemorating the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Lithuania. Exhibition "Greatness in Humility. Japanese swords, artistic details, graphics, miniature sculpture". Kenbu – the art of the Samurai sword dance and Poetry

LNMA Museum of Applied Arts and Design, Vilnius

01.31

Kenbu – the art of the samurai sword dance and poetry

Kaunas cinema centre "Romuva", Kaunas



MAY

05.14-16

"Japan Days in Kaunas WA"
(Mikoshi parade, Ningyo dolls exhibition, flash mob, etc.)

Various locations in Kaunas

05.22-23

Japanese Food and Culture Day

Shopping center PANORAMA, Vilnius



02.05-08.02

An exhibition dedicated to Ainu culture "A Soul Between Worlds"
NML House of Histories, Vilnius

02.18-21, 27-28

24th Japan Film Festival
Vilnius, Klaipėda

02.27-03.01

Ainu Culture Festival
NML House of Histories, Vilnius

FEBRUARY

MARCH

03.16

Symposium dedicated to Chiune Sugihara
Sugihara House Museum, Kaunas



APRIL

Sakura Blossom Festival

Chiune Sugihara Sakura Park, Vilnius



Concert by Japanese choir AKchoir and kanklės players, dedicated to the 120th anniversary of the kanklės

Concerts in Vilnius and other locations

JUNE



07.19

Sakura trees planting ceremony at the 500th anniversary festival of Kurkliai village
Kurkliai, Anykščiai district

07.29

Chiune Sugihara Memorial

Event Vilna Gaon Museum of Jewish History, Vilnius

Concert by jazz pianist Keiko Borjeson

Japanese garden, Kрetinga district

JULY

AUGUST

08.12-13

Concerts by Shakuhachi
flute artist Dōzan
Fujiwara
Kaunas, Vilnius

08.16

Concert and exhibition
"Gardens of Silence and
Water"
Rokiškis

08.29-30

Presentation of traditional
Japanese culture at the
Pakruojis City Festival
Pakruojis



SEPTEMBER



09.04-25

Exhibition "Japanese Graphic Design 1875-1975"
Neringa

9.5-6 & 8

Bon Odori Festival with Kōenji Awa Odori Association
"Kikusui-ren"
Vilnius, Šiauliai

09.17

Artistic and educational project "Bridges of the Sun"
Franciscan monastery, Vilnius

—
9th Japanese Language Contest
Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas

10.15

Artistic and educational
project "Bridges of the Sun"
Franciscan monastery, Vilnius

OCTOBER



2027 JANUARY

—
Vilnius Light Festival with
light installations by
Japanese artists
Vilnius



Tea ceremony



Ikebana



Matcha



Event updates



Embassy of Japan
Instagram



Embassy of Japan
Facebook

Event updates will be published regularly on the website
of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania.

https://www.lt.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/sukaktis35.html

For event proposals, please contact:
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