

Japan – Netherlands Relations



在オランダ日本国大使館
Embassy of Japan
in the Netherlands

February 3rd, 2025

Overview

1 . History

- First encounter in 1600.
- The only trading partner in the west for Japan until mid - 19c.
- Now sharing same values such as freedom democracy, human rights, rule of law.
- Strategic Partnership(2015)
- 2025 is 425th anniversary of bilateral relations.

2 . Diplomatic Events in 2024

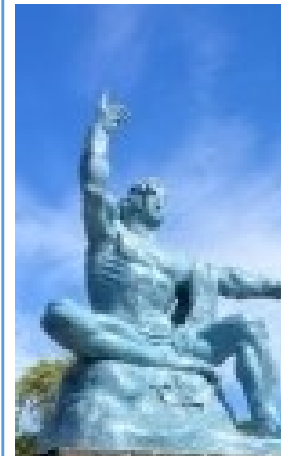
- FM Kamikawa's visit to the Netherlands. (January, The Hague)
- PM Kishida met PM Schoof (July, Washington DC)



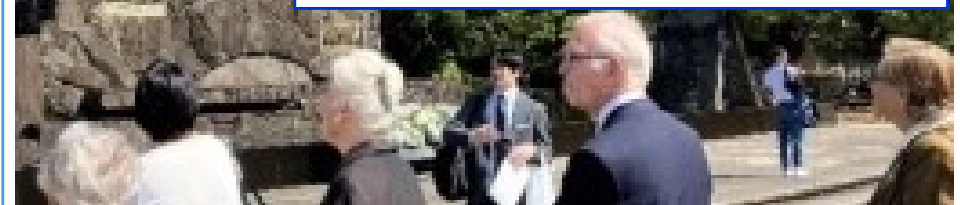
3 . Imperial Family and Royal House

- UNSGAB(UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water & Sanitation) HM The Emperor was Honorary President, HM The King was Chair.
- State visit by TM the King and Queen.(2014)
- Visit by TM the King and Queen for the Accession to the Throne.(2019)

4 . Reconciliation



- Japan occupied Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia, in 1942-1945.
- Since 1996, more than 700 people experienced the war in Indonesia, have been invited to Japan, by Peace Exchange Program, of GOJ.

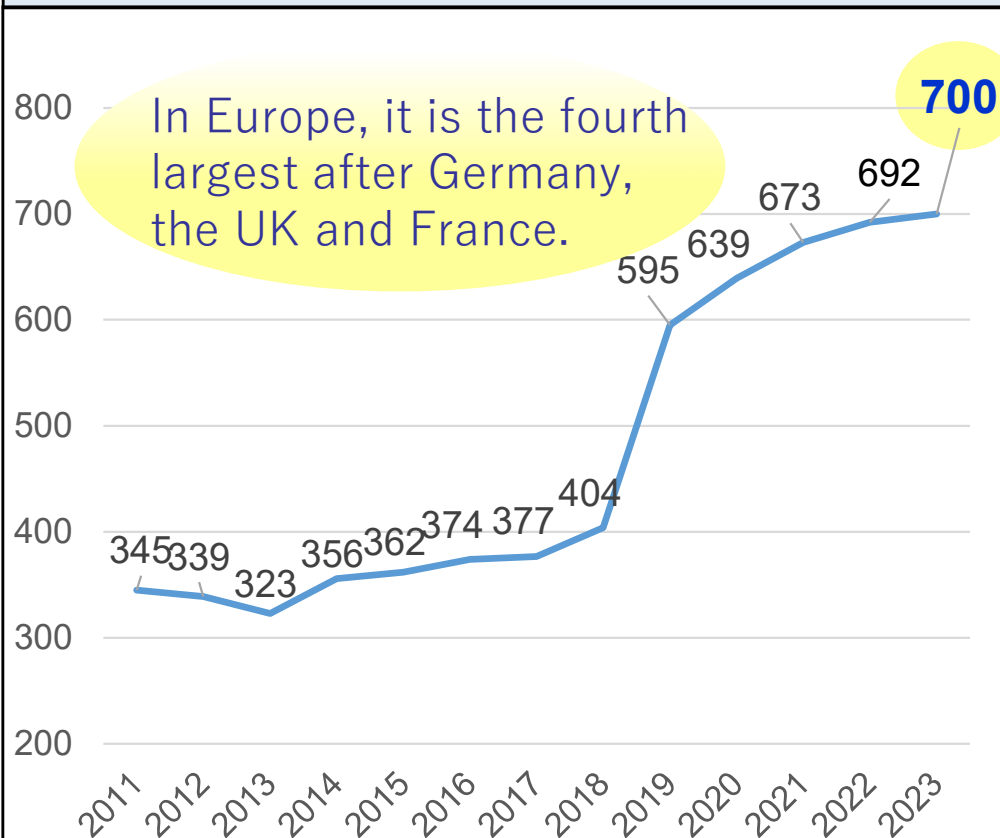


Economic Relations - 1

1. Overview

The Netherlands as a major trading partner to Japa, due to its geographical location, favorable infrastructure and environment (English, Education, Safety etc).

Number of Japanese companies operating in the Netherlands



Source: Research from Embassy of Japan(2023)

1) Direct investment balances

Japan to NL

434 billion EUR

(1st in Europe)
(2nd in the world)

NL to Japan

91 billion EUR

(4th in Europe)
(8th in the world)

Bank of Japan/ Balance of Payments Statistics (2023)

2) Trade

Japan to NL

General Machinery, Electrical equipment, Transport equipment (e.g. automotive parts)

12.5 billion EUR
(2nd largest in Europe)

Europe's No. 1 exporter of Japanese agricultural, forestry and fisheries products and foodstuffs

NL to Japan

General Machinery, Electrical equipment (Semiconductor manufacturing equipment, Electrical measuring equipment) Pharmaceuticals

3.3 billion EUR

Trade Statistics, Ministry of Finance (2023)

Economic Relations - 2

2. Public-Private Sectors Cooperation

Progress in cooperation, especially, in areas where both countries are powerful.

**Cutting-edge technology
(e.g. semiconductors)**

MoC (Memorandum of Cooperation) signed between the Japanese and Dutch Ministries of Economic Affairs to promote cooperation in the semiconductor sector and other areas (2023).

**Science and Technology**

MoC between Japanese and Dutch academic institutions (JST-NWO) on scientific and technological cooperation (2023).

**Agriculture**

Regular dialogue between the Japanese and Dutch Ministries of Agriculture on agricultural cooperation between Japan and the Netherlands.

**Harbours**

MoC between the Japanese and Dutch Ministries of Land, Infrastructure and Transport signed to promote cooperation in the port sector (2021).



Defence and Security Cooperation

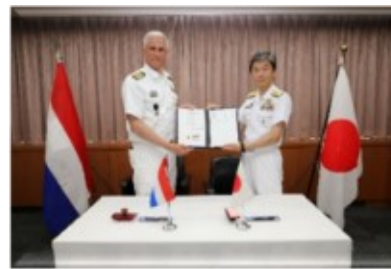
1. Overview

The Ministry of Defence of Japan and the Ministry of Defence of the Netherlands signed a “Memorandum on Defence Cooperation and Exchanges” in 2016. Both countries are deepening their collaboration in various fields to achieve a free and open international order based on the rule of law and to ensure regional peace and stability.

2. Recent Key Defence Exchanges



CHOD of the Dutch Armed Forces made an **official visit to Japan**. (April 2023)



The Joint Staff College and the Netherlands defence Academy **signed a LOI** to establish cooperative environment in areas of mutual interest. (June 2023)



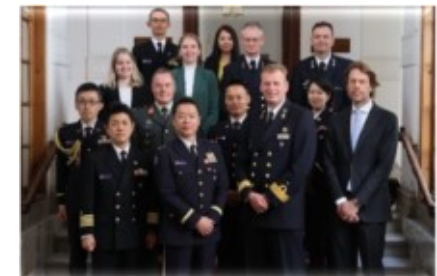
The 11th Air Assault Brigade of the Royal Netherlands Army participated for the first time in “**New Year Jump**”. (January 2024)



A Japan-Netherlands **defence Ministers' meeting** was held. (June 2024)



The Dutch Navy frigate HNLMS **Tromp** **visited Nagasaki** and conducted joint exercises with the Japan Maritime Self-defence Force. (June 2024)



The Joint Staff Office and the Dutch Staff Office held the first Japan-Netherlands **Staff Talks**. (June 2024)

Educational and Cultural Exchange - 1

1. Educational Exchange

Over 200 Dutch students have been sent to study in Japan under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program as of 2024.

The Department of Japanese Studies in the Faculty of Humanities of Leiden University (founded 1575) is the oldest institution for Japanese studies in Europe (founded 1855).

Many Dutch universities have academic links with a number of Japanese universities, including Tokyo University, Kyoto University and Nagasaki University.



2. Dutch Cultural Institutions with close ties with Japan

Sieboldhuis, Leiden

The building where the German physician and naturalist Von Siebold lived from 1836 to 1847, after his return from Japan in 1830. A memorial hall exhibiting part of Von Siebold's collection in Japan.



Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam

Van Gogh was greatly influenced by Ukiyo-E prints. The new wing of the museum, founded in 1999, was designed by a Japanese architect Kisho Kurokawa.



Clingendael Japanese Garden, The Hague

Built in 1913 by Baroness van Brienon, a Dutch noblewoman, under the influence of Japanism. Managed by the City of The Hague. Open to the public twice a year, from the end of April to the beginning of June and for two weeks in October.



Hortus Overzee Japanese Garden, Den Helder

Built in 2000 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Japan-Netherlands exchange, with the supports of Japanese landscape architects and Japanese garden researchers. Japan Day is held every year on a weekend in June.



Educational and Cultural Exchange - 2

1. From the Netherlands to Japan

Water Management Technology

Dutch civil engineers, Cornelis van Doorn(1837-1906) and Johannes de Rijke(1842-1912), introduced water management technology to Japan in the 19th century.



Words

**schop****kop****ransel****ontembaar**

2. From Japan to the Netherlands



Donation of cherry trees for the Amsterdamse Bos Park in Amstelveen (400 trees) and the Van Gogh Museum (61 trees) to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the exchange between Japan and the Netherlands in 2000.

3. Sports Exchanges

6 Japanese players in the Eredivisie.

As of 2024, Ayase Ueda (Feyenoord), Seiya Maikuma(AZ), Koki Ogawa(NEC), Kodai Sano(NEC), Kento Shiogai(NEC), Shunsuke Mito (Sparta).

The Eredivisie, has been home to many Japanese national team players, including Shinji Ono, Keisuke Honda, Maya Yoshida, and Ritsu Doan.



April 2024, Ambassador awarded Shinji Ono with the Certificate of Commendation at the Feyenoord Stadium.