

30th Anniversary of US-Georgia Diplomatic Relations



"Georgia's success as a prosperous, secure, strong democracy strengthens both our countries."

BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

US Ambassador to Georgia Kelly Dignan has delivered a speech in celebration of 30 years of diplomatic relations between Georgia and the US at the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia on 26th of January.

"Georgians and Americans are friends by nature, because we have a lot in common: a love of freedom, family, faith, helping others succeed, and also appreciating and respecting diversity and diversity... Our long friendship is represented by people like the American astrophysicist Carl Sagan, who believed that the Georgian song 'Chakrulo' embodies the subtle diversity of human achievements," the ambassador said, adding that common interests are values make these countries natural partners.

She spoke on her country's behalf that as a result of our 30 years of cooperation, the US is proud to have earned the confidence and friendship of the people of Georgia. There is a deep reserve of trust and respect that has developed as they navigated the difficult transitions Georgia has gone through.

"The United States is concerned about Georgia's progress because we care about the Georgian people and believe that Georgians deserve to achieve their goals and become full members of the transatlantic family."

"That trust and respect is precious to us," she said, reaffirming that Georgia and the US are 'strategic partners', and the US is 'very proud' to be assisting

Georgia in strengthening democracy, addressing geopolitical challenges and growing the economy.

In her speech, Dignan pointed out that despite Russia's efforts to destabilize the region, Georgia remains 'undeterred' towards NATO and EU membership, and the US supports Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

"Even as Russia threatens Europe's 75 years of security and stability with its aggressive actions against Ukraine, Georgia remains steadfast in its adherence to

these values and its commitment to NATO and EU membership. This resolute decision means that the US stands with the Georgian people and supports those who uphold our common values, despite the difficult geopolitical environment and opponents who seek to undermine Georgia's independence and sovereignty through coercion and aggression."

"In stark contrast to Russia's disrespect for Georgia's culture, faith, language, and traditions, the United States, Europe, and Georgia have a common vision of shared

prosperity, freedom, and dignity based on mutual respect," she noted.

The ambassador stressed that Russia has clearly shown that it does not respect the sovereignty of Georgia and other countries. It is the only country in Europe that has occupied the territories of other sovereign states. It is the only country in Europe that gathers troops on a neighboring border. It was Russia that destroyed the First Republic of Georgia in 1921, insulted the Georgian churches and made an unsuccessful attempt to suppress the Georgian language. In contrast to Russia's disrespect for Georgian culture, faith, language and traditions, the United States, Europe and Georgia share a common vision of prosperity, freedom and dignity.

Ambassador Dignan said that the US is looking forward to celebrating Georgia's achievements in many years to come.

As for the future of diplomatic relations, the US Ambassador emphasized that the vision for the next 30 years and beyond is an optimistic one that promotes peace, a healthy democracy, and prosperity in the region, but it faces challenges that need to be addressed today. Georgia's economy is struggling to offer sufficient economic opportunities to keep many of its most talented citizens from leaving, at a great loss to the country. In addition, Georgia's political, legal, and governance institutions remain under-developed and fall short of meeting its democratic ideals, stunted by a highly partisan and polarized political environment.

According to her, Georgia's greatest victory will be its success in building a prosperous, secure, vibrant democracy and the American people are proud to be part of that historic effort.

Georgia and the US established diplomatic ties in 1992, following Georgia's restoration of independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.



**UNITED STATES AND GEORGIA
CELEBRATING THIRTY YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP**



Pirosmani Museum Hosts Exhibition Saint Pirosmani by Takehide Harada

of this important anniversary. The Embassy plans to hold a series of events this year, including on literature, art, music, film, and food.

The logo of the 30th anniversary of Georgian-Japan diplomatic relation is also illustrated by Mr. Harada and uses patterns from the Japanese and

Georgian national flags as well as a Japanese sake cup and a Georgian kantsi, representing a toast for friendship between the people of two nations.

According to Kakha Sikharulidze, First Deputy Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Japan is a very important partner of Georgia, noting that the

relationship has been based on mutual respect, understanding, common interests and support to territorial integrity, the most important and painful issue for Georgia. The minister stressed that Japan is a distinguished country in every way for its unique traditions, history and art.

“It is a great pleasure that

our 30 year anniversary can be celebrated precisely through culture, intellect, and art that symbolizes our similarities,” Sikharulidze noted.

According to Dali Abashidze, Director of Pirosmani Museum, in the future it is planned to organize a larger exhibition, noting that Pirosmani State Museum will always be ready to greet Japanese people. The exhibition in Tbilisi will be open for one month for visitors and after that it will also travel around Georgia’s different regions.

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

Exhibition ‘Saint Pirosmani’ by Takehide Harada organized by the Embassy of Japan has opened in Pirosmani Museum, Tbilisi. Takehide Harada is a Japanese award-winning author and illustrator of numerous children’s books.

In 1977, he first encountered the works of Pirosmani at an exhibition in Tokyo and the following year he organized a screening of the film Pirosmani by Georgi Shengelaia. According to Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Georgia, IMAMURA Akira, since then Harada has fallen in love with Georgian films and the art of Pirosmani. He has published books on Pirosmani and organized Georgian Film Festivals many times in Japan.

According to Ambassador Imamura, Harada’s paintings of Pirosmani presented at the exhibition are an expression of how a Japanese person understood the life of a Georgian genius.

“They convey spirituality of a wandering ascetic, even a sense of holiness. That’s why it is titled Saint Pirosmani ... I hope that many Georgians will rediscover Pirosmani through Mr. Harada’s eyes,” the ambassador noted.

It is noteworthy that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Georgia. The ambassador notes that since 1992, Japan has been supporting Georgia’s independence and territorial integrity as well as assisting nation-building and development of Georgia.

According to him, the two countries have developed friendly relations in all areas including cultural ties, noting that this exhibition serves as the opening



Weather

Thursday, January 27

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 7°C

Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: -1°C

Friday, January 28

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 6°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: -3°C

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