

**In his New Year's message to the citizens of Turkmenistan, the Japanese Ambassador to Ashgabat, Sasaki Hiroshi, noted a significant increase in interest in learning the Japanese language among young people.**

The diplomat highlighted the dynamic development of bilateral relations during his tenure as head of the diplomatic mission. He specified that there have been mutual visits by high-ranking officials and strengthened trade and economic ties. Additionally, Sasaki Hiroshi stated that since 2015, the number of Turkmen citizens learning Japanese has increased from 50 to 16,000 people.

In conclusion, the ambassador wished that the new year would be a year of happiness for the entire Turkmen people and expressed hope that the President of Turkmenistan, Serdar Berdimuhamedov, would visit Japan.