

Plantation of Cherry Trees and Commemorative Reception



To commemorate the 25th anniversary of Japan's Observer status with the Council of Europe, Japan offered the CoE cherry trees, symbol of the country, which are widely known and admired all over the world.

These trees were planted in the forecourt of CoE jointly by Ambassador Akamatsu and Mr. Berge, Deputy Secretary General of CoE, with a presence of Ms. Hamard, city councilor of Strasbourg, Ms. Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, Secretary General of PACE as well as distinguished ambassadors and high officials of CoE, hoping a further development of our long-standing relationship.

After the planting ceremony, Croatia and Japan co-hosted a reception in the Lobby of Hemicycle to celebrate the "double" anniversary. Croatia became a member state of the CoE in 1996.

On this occasion, Mr. Gordan Grlić Radman, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, made a remark, followed by Mr. Akamatsu and Mr. Berge.

To decorate this special moment, Mr. Tsuji, a master of shamisen (japanese traditional guitar), demonstrated the instrument. Audiences were impressed and fascinated by his magnificent performance.

With these two commemorative events, the 25th anniversary came to a successful end. We would like to convey our heartfelt appreciation to all those who helped us organize the commemorative events throughout the year. This reconfirmed strong relationship with CoE, as well as with other institutions and diplomatic delegations, serves as the solid basis for our further active involvement in various activities of CoE, which will strengthen our shared values; human rights, democracy and the rule of law.