Switzerland and Japan: Bonded by the pursuit of quality and innovation

**Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Swiss Confederation**

Japan and Switzerland have traditionedly enjoyed excellent relations. At a political level, President Kishida of Japan visited Switzerland in April with an economic scientific delegation and had worthwhile meetings with Prime Minister Fabiusi Ketella, Foreign Minister Cassis, and several other ministers. Also, in June, Staatsrat and Foreign Minister Cassis met in New York on the occasion of the selection of the seven member states of the UN Security Council.

I am pleased to tell you that since the high-level meeting between our two countries last year, significant developments have taken place.

Switzerland and Japan enjoy excellent relations. This is evidenced by the fact that Japan is Switzerland’s largest trading partner and Switzerland is Japan’s secondlargest trading partner. In 2021, the value of bilateral trade reached CHF 12.6 billion. This is an increase of 10.6% compared to the previous year.

Moreover, the two countries have signed a number of agreements and memoranda of understanding in various fields, including economic and trade relations, science and technology, and culture and education.

In particular, the signing of the “Framework for Distribution Ledger Technology and Digital Assets Business Act” in 2020 is a significant milestone in the development of bilateral relations. This agreement provides a legal framework for the use of blockchain and other distributed ledger technologies, which is crucial for the future of digital assets.

Switzerland and Japan are also renowned for their cooperation in the field of health care. The two countries have a longstanding tradition of exchanging knowledge and expertise in various medical fields, including pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and public health.

In conclusion, the bilateral relationship between Switzerland and Japan is based on shared values, mutual respect, and a common commitment to excellence in various fields. The two countries continue to deepen their cooperation and work together to address global challenges.

**Novartis: Reimagining medicine in Japan through innovation**

Novartis has a long-standing tradition of innovation in Japan. The company has been committed to bringing the latest and most advanced treatments to patients in Japan, recognizing the country’s aging population and the need for new and effective therapies.

Novartis has been at the forefront of innovation in Japan, continuously investing in R&D and partnering with local organizations to develop and commercialize new treatments. The company has a strong presence in Japan, with multiple research and development centers across the country.

Today, Novartis is focused on leveraging the latest technologies to improve patient outcomes and enhance the quality of life for those in need. The company is also committed to supporting the growth of the biotech ecosystem in Japan, working closely with local universities, hospitals, and research institutions to foster innovation and collaboration.

Novartis continues to be a leader in the global pharmaceutical industry, and the company remains dedicated to its mission of improving the lives of people worldwide. Through its innovative approach and strong commitment to excellence, Novartis demonstrates its dedication to innovation and its unwavering pursuit of better health outcomes for all.