



Press Release

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Members of the Malta-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Group hold official meeting

The Malta-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Group met this morning at the House of Representatives. The members present discussed issues of mutual interest for both countries and initiatives necessary to enhance bilateral relations. The discussion referred to in various areas such as tourism, the need for a double taxation treaty, initiatives related to innovation and the possible twinning between local councils. Opportunities of engagement/fellowships for Japanese pharmacists with the Malta Medicines Authority were also discussed.

The respective heads of delegation underlined the fact that Japan and Malta have a maritime destiny. Although they are far from each other, there are various issues that can be addressed such as a common front particularly with regard to sea pollution and the need to address the realities that seas suffer from the excessive presence of waste plastic.

The members also referred to the enhanced possibilities of more trade and economic activity in the light of the EU – Japan Trade Agreement.

The Maltese side was represented by MPs Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi (Head of Delegation), Deo Debattista, Clayton Bartolo, Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, and Robert Cutajar. The Japanese side was represented by Jin Matsubara (Head of Delegation), Shunsuke Mutai, Yuhei Yamashita and Mr. Kimitoshi Kubo, CEO of Pise Corporation, Adviser to the Japan-Malta Parliamentary Friendship Group. Mr Keiichi Katakami, Ambassador of Japan to Malta, was also present.