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2



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The Malta-Japan Parliamentary friendship group meets with the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Vice-Minister of Japan Yoichi Fukazawa

During a meeting held on 26 February in the Maltese Parliament between the members of the Malta-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Group and the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Vice-Minister of Japan Yoichi Fukazawa, both sides discussed the excellent relations that exist between Malta and Japan, which were being marked with the opening of the Japanese Embassy in Malta.

Even though Malta and Japan are geographically distant, the relations between the two countries go back fifty-nine years. The two sides mentioned the commonalities that both states have. Both Malta and Japan are island states and cherish their traditions, with the production of fireworks being a case in point. Reference was also made to the excellent trade relations between the two countries with particular reference to the fisheries sector and Malta's tuna exports to Japan.

The Maltese Members of Parliament shared ideas on how the relations between Malta and Japan can improve in areas such as digitalisation with reference to artificial intelligence and fintech; sharing of expertise and experience in the manufacturing industry; exchange programmes and projects in the area of health, and further collaboration in the area of education in particular in the field of psychology.

The Maltese side was led by the Head of the Malta-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Group Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, and comprised Jo Etienne Abela, Jerome Caruana Cilia, Katya De Giovanni and Stanley Zammit.