



I am KOBAYASHI Ryuichiro, and I had the honor of taking up my post in this beautiful Republic of Malta on 25 March 2026.

Japan and the Republic of Malta, both maritime nations, share fundamental values and principles, including freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

For many years, Malta was covered by the Embassy of Japan in Italy.

In January 2024, however, a resident office was established in Sliema, marking an important step toward further strengthening our bilateral relations.

In 2025, on the occasion of Expo Osaka, Malta's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, the Honourable Ian Borg, and the Honourable Clifton Grima, Minister for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation, visited Japan.

From Japan, Mr. FUJII Hisayuki, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited Malta to commemorate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations. These exchanges reaffirmed the close and friendly ties between our two countries.

The launch of the Working Holiday Programme this year is another welcome development, expected to further deepen mutual understanding, particularly among younger generations.

Building on the strong foundation laid by our predecessors, and under the guidance of H.E. Ms. ONO Hikariko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Italy, I will work closely with my colleagues to advance diplomacy that reflects Japan's distinctive strengths, characterized by thoughtfulness and careful attention.

Malta is well known in Japan for its World Heritage sites, natural beauty, and rich history.

It has become a popular destination for both study and travel, and is widely regarded as a country to visit at least once in a lifetime. I am equally confident that Japan, with its rich cultural heritage and unique character, will offer the people of Malta a rewarding and memorable experience.

During my tenure, I look forward to engaging widely, experiencing Malta's many charms, and further deepening the ties between our two countries. Malta is uniquely positioned at the crossroads of Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

With this in mind, I intend to place particular emphasis on economic diplomacy, including support for Japanese companies seeking to expand their presence.

At the same time, I will promote a deeper understanding of Japan among the people of Malta and encourage greater interest in our country through a wide range of cultural initiatives.

Above all, I am committed to ensuring that the Embassy serves as a reliable and accessible partner for the Japanese community, and to steadily strengthening our support systems so that we may serve you effectively from the earliest possible stage.

KOBAYASHI Ryuichiro

Chargé d'affaires a.i.

[CV](#)