



**Seul le discours prononcé fait foi**

**Visite d'État  
S.A.R. le Grand-Duc au Japon  
du 27 au 29 novembre 2017**

**Discours de S.A.R. le Grand-Duc à l'occasion de  
l'ouverture du Luxembourg-Japan Business Forum  
le lundi 27 novembre 2017 à l'Hôtel Impérial**

Dear Ministers, Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Luxembourg-Japan Business forum here in Tokyo. This State visit marks an important milestone between Japan and Luxembourg as we celebrate the 90th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries.

Thank you for the warm welcome that you have given us. I am deeply honoured and I would like to thank our Japanese friends for their gracious hospitality and kindness.

I am delighted that relations between Japan and Luxembourg have developed so outstandingly. This State visit expresses this fact once again. The deep friendship between the Imperial family and my family as well as the excellent relations between our two countries make our partnership unique.

I have always been fascinated by your culture and the way tradition and modernity live side by side. I remain impressed by your great sense for innovation.

While Japan and Luxembourg are geographically and demographically very different, we are bound by our shared values and our shared interests. Luxembourg, like Japan, is an open country with an open economy. Being situated in the heart of Western Europe, it stands out as an attractive gateway to the European Union. My country enjoys a triple A-rating and offers a business-friendly regulatory environment together with an easy access to decision-makers as well as a multilingual and highly skilled labor force.

I am proud that nearly 80 business representatives are accompanying us, reflecting the strong interest that Luxembourg's business community has towards Japan.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the turbulent times we are living, companies need to diversify internationally to remain one step ahead of competition. Continuously developing new niches of activities is crucial in order to maintain a sustainable economy, to secure stable jobs and to preserve our environment.

In recent years, Luxembourg developed an ambitious framework for research and development, cooperating with the university and the public research centres as well as the private sector.

I warmly welcome the different cooperation initiatives that already exist between our two countries, for instance in the field of education, life sciences, biomedicine and more general in research and innovation. In all those fields and in many others, Japan and Luxembourg are indeed friends and partners who can learn a lot from one other. I truly hope that during our state visit and beyond we will identify new synergies that will allow companies and public institutions to cooperate and foster mutual progress.

The various business seminars taking place this week here in Tokyo represent a unique opportunity to explore new routes together with a particular focus on logistics, information and telecommunication technologies, automotive, tourism, space and the film industry.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With both our shared dedication for innovative ideas and the excellent business networks in place, I have no doubt that we will succeed in further strengthening the bonds between our two nations.

With this in mind, I wish all of you the best of success.

Thank you for your attention.