

It is my great pleasure to send a message in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Noritake Lanka Porcelain (PVT) Limited, the largest tableware manufacturer among Noritake group companies and one of the longest operating Japanese companies in Sri Lanka. I would like to extend my heartfelt felicitations on this historic milestone and my great respect and appreciation also go to everyone who has dedicated their efforts in achieving this outstanding feat.

Noritake is a Japanese company globally renowned for its high-end ceramic and porcelain products, which is contributing to the economic development of this country, employing approximately 1,100 people in Sri Lanka. In addition, most of the porcelain produced in this country is intended for export to more than 40 countries in the world, including Japan, supporting foreign currency acquisition in Sri Lanka.

Noritake Lanka Porcelain's most distinguished feature is that it maximises the advantages of both Japan and Sri Lanka. I visited their factory in Matale this year and I was deeply impressed by how Sri Lankan workers had masterfully acquired the delicate and intricate handwork required for Japanese porcelain manufacturing. I was also very pleased to see the way those talented Sri Lankan workers were playing an indispensable role in enhancing the prestige of Japanese companies. Noritake Lanka Porcelain's business is a blissful marriage between Japanese aesthetics and Sri Lankan dexterity, making it a shining example of a win-win relationship between our two countries.

As we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations last year, we reminded ourselves that our unparalleled friendly relationship would have been vacuous if it were not for the perspiration of the people from both countries like those strived at Noritake Lanka Porcelain. Building upon our 7 decades of mutual trust and support, we have invigorated our high-level visits this year highlighted by President Wickremesinghe's visit to Japan in May and the Japanese Foreign Minister's visit to Sri Lanka in July. We are greatly delighted to continue to provide the necessary support and cooperation not only for Sri Lanka's development but also for facilitation of Japanese companies' business in Sri Lanka, further deepening our friendship with Sri Lanka.

I would like to extend my sincere hope for the further prosperity and success of Noritake Lanka Porcelain, increasing its prominence as an icon of our unrivalled bilateral relations.

MIZUKOSHI Hideaki
Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka