



**PRÍHOVOR PREZIDENTA SR
pri príležitosti Národného dňa SR
na svetovej výstave EXPO 2025**

Osaka, 10. 9. 2025

Excellencies, dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I warmly welcome you to the National Day of the Slovak Republic, which we are celebrating today at the World Expo 2025 in Osaka.

Allow me to start by congratulating the Government of Japan, the city of Osaka, and the organizers of this significant event. EXPO 2025 serves as an extraordinary platform for the exchange of inspiring ideas. We are very happy to be part of it.

For me personally, it is a great honour to address you from this place today. From a place where the nations of the world have come together to celebrate human creativity and contribute to the common effort for a better future.

Today, there is no doubt that the development of a knowledge economy and the widespread use of modern scientific achievements are the key to success.

We've gathered here at the World Expo 2025 surrounded by the majestic Grand Ring. A symbol of harmony and unity. The largest structure ever made of wood. On an artificial island, with a view of the natural beauty of the Seto Inland Sea, or Seto Naikai.

However, the environment around is also a powerful metaphor. Proving that technology and science can live in harmony with nature and tradition, working to protect them instead of standing in opposition. That scientific knowledge is the solid ground we stand on. Allowing us to see beyond the horizon. This is where I see the core idea of this Expo: Designing Future Society for Our Lives.

Here in Osaka, we share a common goal with Japan and the global community – to turn this vision into reality. Through the participation of the Slovak Republic, we reaffirm our commitment to contributing to sustainable development and global cooperation.

It gives us the opportunity to showcase the unique advantages of Slovakia and present it as an attractive and inspiring country that has much to contribute to global progress.

With pride, we are presenting the natural beauty of Slovakia and its rich cultural heritage. Not only as a timeless value that we cherish and preserve for future generations but also as a source of inspiration.

Because the greatest wealth of Slovakia is not measured in numbers. It lies in the knowledge and creativity of our people. In their ideas, talent, and determination.

In recent weeks, we have shared stories where this determination turned into success. Some of them presented specific innovations driven by Slovak scientists striving to protect human life and improve its quality. For example, unique medical implants that are highly regarded worldwide.

We are also presenting Slovakia as a significant wine producer. Thanks to excellent natural conditions, but also due to the skills of Slovak winemakers. They are able to combine the wisdom of their ancestors with the use of the most modern technologies.

With the help of innovations rooted in traditions, we are building a country that helps to shape a better future while remaining true to its roots. It is a modern democratic state, a convinced advocate of multilateralism, peace, and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Our participation in Osaka is also an opportunity to celebrate the deep friendship between the Slovak Republic and Japan. At the very beginning of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918, Japan supported the mission of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik and assisted our legionnaires in returning from Siberia.

After the creation of independent Slovakia in 1993, Japan stood firmly by our side once again. Japanese financial institutions were the first to provide us with a credit rating, allowing our entry into international financial markets.

Today, our partnership is even stronger. From economic cooperation to science and education, culture and sports, to important personal contacts.

Allow me to conclude by expressing my gratitude to Japan, the city of Osaka, and the Kansai region for their support and hospitality. I offer my most sincere thanks to all those who represent our country and bring a piece of home to this event. I look forward to visiting the Slovak exhibition and warmly invite you to join me. Get to know our beautiful country and enjoy this exceptional day dedicated to the Slovak Republic with us.

Thank you.