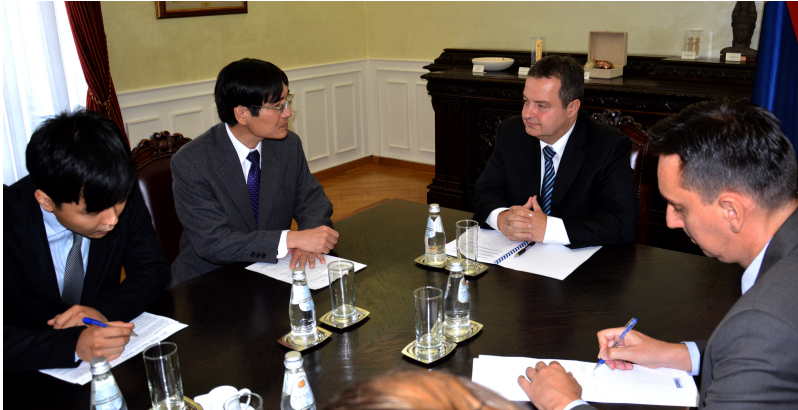




First Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic received today the courtesy call from Ambassador Takahara since he took office of the Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Serbia.

In a conversation with the Japanese Ambassador, Minister Dacic expressed particular satisfaction with the overall intensified cooperation between Serbia and Japan. He especially stressed our interest in further strengthening the political dialogue, economic cooperation, increasing Japanese investments in Serbia, as well as the intensification of other forms of cooperation in areas of common interest.

Ambassador Takahara assessed that the bilateral relations between the two countries were on the rise and promised that he would personally strive for their further development. He underlined that Japan considered Serbia a key country in the region of Southeast Europe, and that Tokyo supported Serbia's EU membership and its efforts to contribute to political stability and reconciliation in the Western Balkans region.

During the talks, both sides agreed to further improve relations between the two countries and expressed their willingness to strengthen political dialogue, exchange visits at all levels and interlink the economies of the two countries.