



# MATANO, Motosada

Minister, Head of Political Affairs Department  
Embassy of Japan  
Washington, D.C.

Mr. MATANO Motosada (Moto) joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan in 1993. He assumed his current post since the end of August 2022 as Minister and the head of Political Affairs Department of the Embassy. He is in charge of political and security related affairs.

Prior to his current assignment, from November 2021, he served as Deputy Assistant Minister / Deputy Director-General of the Foreign Policy Bureau and Ambassador in charge of Policy Planning of MOFA being in charge of coordinating and formulating foreign policies that involve various Bureaus of the Ministry – ranging from national security, policy planning, multilateral affairs to human rights diplomacy.

Before assuming Deputy Assistant Minister, he served as Executive Assistant to Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu, playing the role of Chief of Staff to his “body man,” accompanying him wherever he went to as Foreign Minister, since September 2019, for two years and two months. Before this position, he served as Director of the Second North America Division of MOFA, being in charge of Japan-US trade and economic relations since July 2018, heavily engaged in the Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement negotiations during the Trump Administration.

Prior to this directorship, he was seconded to the Prime Minister’s Office (*Kantei*) as Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Public Affairs and Director of Global Communications at the Prime Minister’s Office, dealing with the non-Japanese press and promoting Prime Minister ABE Shinzo’s prioritized policies globally since July 2016, while accompanying all the extensive foreign visits that PM ABE made, for over two years.

Before *Kantei*, he served as Director of the International Trade Division of MOFA in charge of Japan’s overall trade policies and negotiations while coordinating relevant economic ministries, since July 2014. Since August 2012, he was Director of the Services Trade Division of MOFA in charge of Japan’s all the services trade related negotiations as Japan’s lead negotiator, ranging from multilateral to bilateral ones. He served as Japan’s lead services trade and investment negotiator to the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement from the beginning to the conclusion of the negotiation (2013-2016).

From January 2009 to August 2012, he was stationed in Washington, D.C. as Counselor and Deputy Chief of Public Affairs/Press Section at the Embassy of Japan. He was also stationed in Washington, D.C. from 1996 to 1998 as Ambassador SAITO Kunihiko’s Personal Aide, making this his third tour of duty to Washington.

Mr. Matano played various roles in the Japanese government as well. From August 2004 to January 2009, he worked intensively on national security and defense issues, especially on our close cooperation with the Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and the Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). He first served as Principal Deputy Director of the National Security Policy Division of MOFA, a Pol-Mil branch in charge of security and defence issues, for over two years and seven months. The Division dealt with the Japan Self Defense Forces’ dispatch to Iraq and the Indian Ocean; North Korea’s 2006 missile launches and the nuke test; and other critical national security issues including initial drastic reviews of our defense policies. Subsequently, he served as Principal Deputy Director of the Second Middle East Division of MOFA in charge of Japan’s comprehensive foreign policies toward Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and the Gulf oil producing countries, ranging from security, political, and economic affairs, for nearly two years.

He was once seconded to then Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI, now METI) as Deputy Director for International Petroleum Affairs from 1998 to 2000. His other past portfolio includes G8 Okinawa Summit in 2000 and comprehensive bilateral relations with Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Mr. Matano earned his BA in Economics from Keio University (’93) and MA in International Relations from Yale University (GRD/IR ’96). He is married with two children and has been a serious *metal head* –particularly 80s *hair metal* – and plays guitar and soccer.