



## **Church Ties Important - Japanese PM**

The Russian Orthodox Church plays an important role in relations between Russia and Japan.

A statement to this effect was made by Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda during his meeting with Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia in Tokyo on Tuesday.



Photo: EPA

Mr.Noda thanked Patriarch Kirill for visiting Sendai, which suffered from the devastating earthquake and tsunami last year.

In his turn, Patriarch Kirill expressed support for Mr.Noda's efforts to strengthen bilateral ties between Russia and Japan.

The current visit by the primate of the Russian Orthodox Church is timed to the centenary to the demise of St.Nicholas of Japan, a Russian Orthodox priest who introduced the Eastern Orthodox Church to Japan.

*Source: [Voice of Russia](#)*