

# Congo independence day

## Congo's many investment opportunities await Japan

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THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO

This Aug. 15 is an important day for the Congolese nation, which is celebrating the 53rd anniversary of its independence.



As it is the first time, that the Embassy of the Republic of the Congo is celebrating this historic event in Japan, I have the honor and pleasure to express,

on behalf of the President of the Republic H.E. Denis Sassou Nguesso, the government and the Congolese people my best wishes of peace, long life and prosperity to the distinguished members of the Imperial family, particularly to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko.

My warmest wishes to the Japanese government led by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and to the kind and hardworking Japanese people.

I take also this opportunity to share compassion with the Japanese people hit and destabilized

by the tragic disaster in the Tohoku region in 2011.

My sincere thanks to the diplomatic community and other institutions, the partners and friends of Congo in Japan for the active and frank cooperation with the Congolese delegation before, during and after the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) activities.

Finally, my congratulations to the President Sassou Nguesso, the government and members of the Congolese diaspora who spared no efforts to make the celebration of this 53rd anniversary a success.

### Business opportunities

The Republic of the Congo is a French-speaking country with a surface area of 342,000 sq. km and a population of 4,012,800. The nation is bordered by Cameroon and the Central African Republic to the north, the Republic of Angola to the south, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the east, and by Gabon and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. Concerning the economic features, the CFA Franc is the currency (pegged to the euro; €1 = 656.57 CFA Franc), and Congo's gross domestic product (GDP) is \$15.2 billion, income per capita \$4,238 and the GDP breakdown



President of the Republic of the Congo Denis Sassou Nguesso

is agriculture, livestock and fishing (7.9 percent), industry (48.5 percent), services (40.5 percent), with four specialized economic zones and an inflation rate of 3

percent.

Brazzaville is the capital (1,373,000 inhabitants) and Pointe-Noire the economic capital, open to the sea. Both

are linked by a 510-km railroad. The deep-water port of Pointe-Noire, the railroad and the Congo River are strategic and advantageous for Congo as an ideal land of transit for goods being shipped or carried to other countries.

Oil, timber, gas, gold, diamonds, copper, lead, silver, phosphates, potassium, magnesium; rivers (Congo, Ubangi); large forests (22.2 million hectares) with a variety of trees (limba, sapele, bahia, ebony, sipo, kambala) are also home to wild animals (elephants, antelopes, buffaloes, lions, gorillas). The fertile land is also appropriated for agriculture and livestock. All these huge natural resources allied to peace and stability are warranties for investment in Congo, thanks to the President of the Republic H. E. Sassou Nguesso, a "man of peace and concrete actions."

That's why our call today is an invitation to Japanese investors to join the process of modernizing and industrializing the Congo, through the president of the republic's program called "The path of the future." So, the new process of celebration of the national day called the "accelerated development of cities," created nearly a decade by the head of state, and the National Plan of Development 2012-2016, adopted last year by the parliament, are both mechanisms to implement "The path of the

future." The "accelerated development of cities" is a process that encourages the prefectures or departments to host the celebration of the Independence

Day (instead of Brazzaville, the capital), according to a rotation plan. Beyond this passion, the aim is to make Congo become an emerging country in 2025.

**Congratulations**  
**to the People of**  
**the Republic of Congo**  
**on the 53rd Anniversary**  
**of Their Independence**

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**Nature: The Republic of the Congo is home to many wildlife, including African buffalo.** EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO