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# Cameroon national day

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## Cameroon's democratic process strengthened

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AMBASSADOR OF CAMEROON

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As we celebrate our National Day, I would like on behalf of the people and government of the Republic of Cameroon, to extend hearty and sincere wishes of goodwill to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko.



On this very special day in the life of our nation we look back at the past years with a sense of achievement. We know that there are still many challenges facing us in the noble and exalting task of nation building but are ready to face them with humility and determination borne out of our conviction that the path we have chosen offers us the best way to an enduring and sustainable development. We would like to express our gratitude to Japan, which contin-

ues to support our development efforts both at the bilateral and multilateral levels. In this regard my country hosted in Yaoundé, Cameroon from May 3 to 5, 2014, the first ministerial conference since the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V). The conference drew participants from forty-seven African countries as well from co-host Japan, the World Bank, the African Union, the United Nations Development Program and many other organizations and nongovernmental organizations. Among other things, it drew up a matrix for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Yokohama Plan of Action adopted during TICAD V. It was also an opportunity for the reinforcement and consolidation of bilateral ties between Cameroon and Japan.

I would like to reiterate here the support and encouragement of the people of Cameroon to the people of Japan in

their determination to resolve the Fukushima nuclear accident and for the ongoing efforts for the reconstruction of areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. It is heartening to note that despite the many challenges and difficulties considerable progress continues to be made in these two areas.

Cameroon, in the course of its march forward, is experiencing major transformation. Politically, we are making great strides in consolidating our democratic process. Last year we voted in dual local and legislative elections. For the first time in our history the Senate came into existence to complement and reinforce the legislative arm of the state. The final structure in this consolidation process is the Constitutional Council whose creation is imminent. This year we successfully celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Reunification of Cameroon.

Economically our goal is to transform Cameroon into an

emergent economy by 2035. That is why we continue to pursue efforts to attract foreign investors to Cameroon. As I do every year through this medium, I would like to encourage Japanese investors to take up the many investment opportunities Cameroon offers. As an indication of its determination to attract investors the government enacted a new law in April 2013, which came into effect this year and which provides many incentives and tax breaks to both foreign and local investors.

Four years ago, Cameroon and Japan qualified for the FIFA World Cup finals in South Africa and interestingly were pooled in the same group. This year, for the same competition taking place in Brazil, both teams have again qualified to play in the final round. However, they are not going to face each other. It is with immense pleasure that I extend to the two teams my congratulations and the wish that they will go as far as possible in this competition.