

Senegal Independence Day Special

Multifaceted cooperation anchors friendship

GORGUI CISS
AMBASSADOR OF SENEGAL



Today marks the 62nd anniversary of Senegal's accession to international sovereignty.

On this auspicious occasion, my first words will be, as you would expect, to convey my heartfelt

wishes for peace, happiness and good health to His Majesty Emperor Naruhito and the imperial family.

I am also pleased and honored to wish His Excellency Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, members of his government and Japanese institutions full success in their missions.

So, allow me, once again, to commend their continued commitment to strengthening the cooperative ties between our countries.

To the Japanese people, I express my deepest appreciation for the generous hospitality given to my fellow citizens, whom I urge to always be inspired in their daily behavior by the indelible imprint of their host country, namely discipline, method and rigor.

Certainly, Senegal remains among Japan's key partners in Africa, as evidenced by the central location of both its embassy and the Japan International Cooperation Agency's office in Dakar within the Japanese diplomatic apparatus on the western edge of the African continent.

Thus, this may be one of the most fitting

occasions to cast an objective glance at the multifaceted and fruitful cooperation between Senegal and Japan, which is based on an old and faithful friendship and a constant convergence of views on most international issues.

Senegal's stability, its attachment to the values of peace, respect for human rights, good governance and democracy constitute the solid foundation on which these relations of friendship and cooperation will continue to develop.

Indeed, no sector, no matter remains untouched by this cooperation, from technical support for the improvement of agricultural productivity and the achievement of food self-sufficiency to the realization of drilling and hydraulic installations; from the development of fish markets, fishing centers and refrigeration facilities to the construction and equipping of health infrastructure; from the building of schools to the granting of scholarships to students.

These examples are not exhaustive, of course, but they give an idea of the scale of

Japanese intervention in Senegal, which reached some ¥226 billion between 1974, when cooperation began, and 2018.

However, I wish to take this opportunity to advocate for the expansion of our bilateral cooperation toward a partnership focused on better promotion of investments in productive sectors, as it was declined at the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI).

Let me therefore make a strong appeal to the Japanese private sector for more active involvement in implementing Senegal's Adjusted and Accelerated Priority Action Plan, which allows for an inclusive and resilient post-COVID recovery of its economy from 2019 to 2023 by ensuring food, health and pharmaceutical sovereignty, and by boosting the industrialization of the economy, digital technology, tourism, housing, infrastructure and energy.

To do this, Senegal expects an overall mobilization of the public sector and foreign private sector of up to 4.77 billion CFA francs (about ¥972 billion), or 39% of investments.

On another note, I intend to focus on current projects such as water issues, highlighting the Mamelles seawater desalination plant, one of the most important hydraulic programs in Senegal, which involves a Japanese contribution of approximately 137.32 trillion CFA francs.

I shall also welcome Japan's scientific and significant financial contribution of 560 million CFA francs to the ninth World Water Forum, held in Dakar from March 21 to 26, on the theme of "Water security for peace and sustainable development," thus giving substance to its long-standing policy in the field of water and sanitation.

In addition, Japan is ensuring within the framework of its New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa, that peace and security issues are given top priority in the TICAD process so that all of Africa's capacities and resources are devoted to economic growth and sustainable development.

In this regard, I would like to welcome Japan's role in the Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa, with



Left: A Senegalese woman dances in traditional garb. Below: Ceebu jen, Senegal's national dish, was added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List in 2021.

EMBASSY OF SENEGAL



an important funding of 3.47 billion CFA francs, since its first edition.

As we are heading toward TICAD 8, H.E President Macky Sall, in his capacity as chairperson of the African Union, wishes to join Kishida in taking the partnership between Africa and Japan to an even higher level.

In closing, I wish to stress that my country, Senegal, through my voice, thanks Japan for its countless actions and calls for the bridges that have already been set up between our countries and peoples to be at the service of international peace and security.

Congratulations

to the People of the Republic of Senegal
on the Anniversary of Their Independence



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This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

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