

# Djibouti National Day Special

## Aiming to be key transshipment hub

**IBRAHIM BILEH DOUALEH**  
AMBASSADOR OF DJIBOUTI



Today, June 27, marks the 45th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Djibouti and I have the privilege and great pleasure of conveying the warm greetings of H.E. President

Ismail Omar Guelleh, as well as his best wishes for health and happiness, to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako. I would also like to express my best wishes to the members of the imperial family, and my hopes for peace and prosperity to the people and government of Japan.

I returned to Tokyo in September 2021 after a previous 7½-year term as ambassador of Djibouti to Morocco. I am very happy to work once again in this beautiful country and to contribute to the recent developments in Japan-Djibouti relations.

Japan provides Djibouti with significant overseas development assistance, mainly in the areas of sustainable economic growth, creating sustainable societies to support the economy and regional stability.

Japan's much appreciated support is also visible in the fields of health, education, infrastructure and maritime security.

The Tokyo International Conference



**President Ismail Omar Guelleh**  
EMBASSY OF DJIBOUTI

on African Development, which will convene for the eighth time later this year at TICAD 8, remains for us the platform of choice for discussing current topics of common interest.

My mission is to further strengthen our already excellent Djibouti-Japan bilateral relations and to explore better ways to attract the Japanese business community to Djibouti.

Japanese companies have great potential for business opportunities in Djibouti in the ecotourism, transport, telecommunications, infrastructure construction and energy sectors.

Concerning the Japan International Cooperation Agency in Djibouti, as in pre-

vious years, a commemoration ceremony was held by the Association of JICA Alumni in Tokyo Square, on March 11.

Our country has pursued its aim of becoming Africa's maritime powerhouse by exploiting its location at the entrance of the Red Sea and of becoming a major transshipment hub connecting the Horn of Africa to the Middle East, North and East Africa and Europe through the creation of six ports, free zones and a road and new electrified rail system linking Ethiopia to Djibouti.

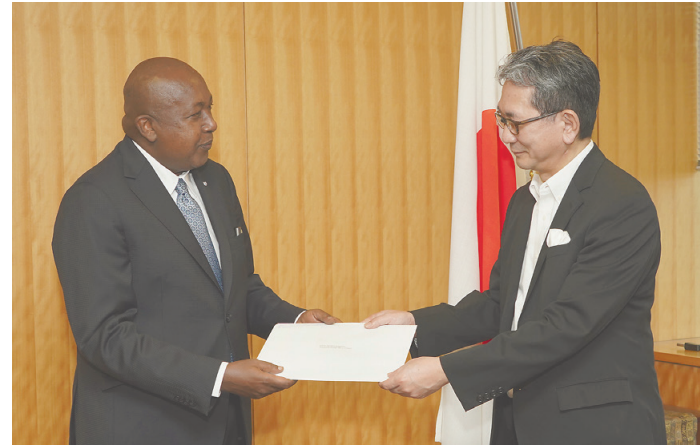
Our largest inland client is Ethiopia, which is also Djibouti's main supplier of electricity, water and food. Therefore, a stable Ethiopia is of vital importance for Djibouti and we welcome Japan's contribution toward maintaining such stability.

Of international concern is piracy in the Indian Ocean. This has led to an explosive rise in insurance tariffs and consequently to rising prices of consumption goods.

Djibouti, at the initiative of its president, now plays a leading role in efforts to curb piracy and terrorism on a regional and international scale by offering all port and airport facilities to the multinational armed forces fighting these dangers. With the help of Japan, Djibouti also recently hosted a "regional center" to monitor and counter piracy and terrorist activity in the area.

My country is determined to modernize and strengthen its diplomacy in the service of peace.

Ten years have passed since the Self-



**Ambassador Ibrahim B. Doualeh presents copies of his credentials to Vice Foreign Minister Takeo Mori in September 2021.**

FOREIGN MINISTRY

Defense Forces facilities were established in Djibouti to combat piracy and Japan has continued to boost its logistics and presence since then. The JSDF has continually distinguished itself by its irreproachable behavior, constant support and daily availability – exemplary practices that we greatly appreciate.

Accordingly, we are very grateful for Japan's contribution to the development of Djibouti, which includes schools, roads, ferries, public health, maritime security and border control.

The Fukuzawa School, built in 1995, will soon be complemented by the construction of a large primary and secondary school in Nasib. Moreover, a large ferry to connect the city of Djibouti and the north part of the country was recently delivered from Japan.

Djibouti is Japan's gateway to Africa. Given that the two nations hold the common objectives of peace and stability, we welcome the constant relationship between our two nations.

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

**Congratulations**  
to the People of the Republic of Djibouti  
on the Anniversary of Their Independence



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on the Anniversary of Their Independence



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**Congratulations**  
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