

Senegal Independence Day Special

Investment sought for new chapter in ties

GORGUI CISS
AMBASSADOR OF SENEGAL



Today, the Republic of Senegal is celebrating the 63rd anniversary of its independence. I extend my warmest congratulations to all my fellow citizens living in Japan.

I would also like to express my best wishes for good health, well-being and continued progress to their majesties the emperor and the empress, the imperial family, the prime minister, his Cabinet and the friendly Japanese people.

After almost five years as ambassador to Japan, I am appreciative of the excellent relations of cordial friendship and trusting cooperation between our countries.

Africa, in general, and its west subregion in particular, including Senegal, still have little Japanese direct investment.

This is rather astonishing because Japan was the first economic power to have expressed its optimism about Africa by launching the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process in 1993.

Against this background, TICAD 8 was held in Tunis in August 2022. Fortunately, the government of Japan reiterated on this occasion its confidence in the future of Africa and allocated \$30 billion in public and private financing for the next three years.

The Business Forum organized on the sidelines of this summit has been imprinted by the signing of important memorandums of understanding between Japanese companies and their Senegalese counterparts, confirming the growing interest of Japanese investors in Senegal.

In this regard, the mayor of Sandiara, who visited Japan in November 2022, has expressed his willingness to host a special economic zone dedicated exclusively to Japanese companies.

Our governments have dynamic cooper-

ation, constantly strengthening and diversifying in the fields of health, education, agriculture, fisheries, water, infrastructure and security.

The official visit to Japan by His Excellency President Macky Sall from Dec. 17 to 20 at the invitation of His Excellency Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, was a key milestone in further strengthening this partnership and materializing the political will of the two leaders to build a strong and confident relationship between our countries by encouraging Japanese investment in Senegal, including in start-ups.

In this connection, the two leaders, satisfied with the vitality of bilateral cooperation, have committed to meet the challenge of intensifying economic partnership and direct investment, creating wealth and jobs to take advantage of Senegal's enormous human potential.

One of the highlights of this visit was the meeting between the president and His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, in which they mainly addressed their shared commitment to issues related to water access

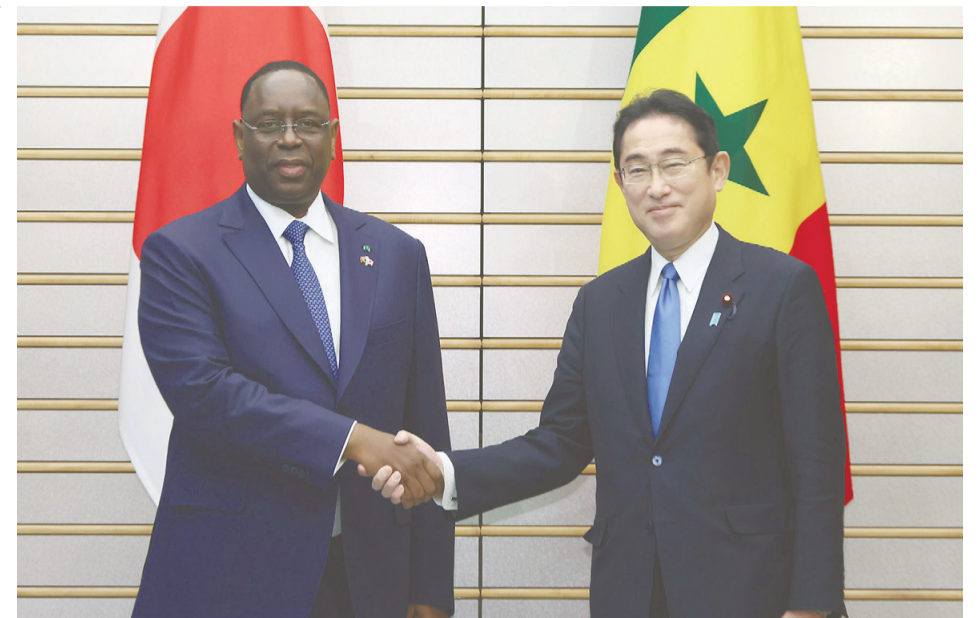


Baobab trees are the symbol of Senegal and known as good sources of nutrition.

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and sanitation, an occasion for Sall to warmly congratulate, again, the emperor for Japan's quality contribution to the ninth World Water Forum, held in Dakar, in March 2022.

In addition, the president received the Japanese leaders of companies and renowned organizations, such as Toyota Tsusho Corp., Keidanren, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Mitsubishi Corp., Mitsui Bussan, the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, Shosen Mitsui



President Macky Sall and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pose for their summit at the Prime Minister's Office on Dec. 19. EMBASSY OF SENEGAL

and the parliamentary friendship groups between Japan and the African Union and between Japan and Senegal.

It is important to underline two important exchange notes that have been signed, relating to financing the education sector development policy program and implementing the project for building a national laboratory for analysis of fishery and aquaculture products.

In total, this official visit to Japan, sanctioned by a joint communique, was indeed an opportunity to open a new chapter in the bilateral relations between Senegal and Japan.

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



Left: Dakar is Senegal's largest city. Right: Pirogue crews race during the annual St. Louis regatta. GETTY IMAGES; EMBASSY OF SENEGAL

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

from the president and staff of

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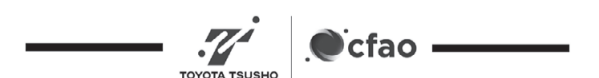
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