

Madagascar National Day Special

Many areas available for future cooperation

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June 26 marks the 63rd anniversary of the independence of Madagascar.

On this auspicious occasion, I would like to share an account of the status of our present relationship

with Japan, as well as venues to further strengthen the existing amicable ties with our enabling and valuable partner.

First, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of all actors committed to the success of the 60th anniversary of friendly relations last year despite difficulties in 2022.

Indeed, following the passing of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in July 2022, I conveyed a condolence message during his state funeral in September in my capacity as designated representative of the foreign minister. Nonetheless, President Andry Rajoelina and the Honorable Foreign Minister of Japan and special envoy of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida Yoshimasa Hayashi took the opportunity to exchange congratulatory remarks on the sidelines of the eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Tunisia in August 2022.

In December 2022, Japan International Cooperation Agency Senior Vice President Katsura Miyazaki made an official visit to Antananarivo for the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers in Madagascar. Prime Minister Christian Ntsay honored the ceremony with his presence. TICAD's 30th anniversary this year is marked by unprecedented global security challenges. The consistent relevance of the Tunis Declaration carries the prospect of an even more difficult global environment. Indeed, while the world economy is recovering from the pandemic, the ongoing Ukraine crisis continues to negatively impact global prospects for peace, stability and prosperity. The Japanese

government pledged \$30 billion over three years in support of three pillars. These areas include structural transformation for sustainable economic growth; realization of a resilient and sustainable society; and advancement of a sustainable peace and stability.

Within the context of existing challenges, I would like to believe the circumstances still hold opportunities for joint action to rethink the future of cooperation between our countries.

Hence, I would like to invite relevant parties to strive for greater engagement on both sides, while emphasizing dialogue and action through diverse platforms and channels. For instance, structural transformation requires joint efforts in encouraging investment and

strengthening public-private and private-private dialogue through dedicated platforms. In a similar fashion, building a resilient and sustainable society demands a focus on creating initiatives to stir channels of cooperation on a diverse range of issues from the digital divide to adaptive solutions for challenges related to health and climate change.

Further, given the removal of all pandemic-related restrictions, the upcoming 2025 World Expo in Osaka and the recent reopening of global travel and tourism, people-to-people ties are expected to gradually increase. On April 9, TV Asahi featured Madagascar's unique biodiversity in a two-hour-long documentary that garnered an immense interest in travel to the distant island. Our work needs

to build from concrete aspirations and endeavor to create a conducive environment for them to materialize.

Indeed, the positive outcome of the world-class Ambatovy project, a unique Japanese-Korean joint venture in sub-Saharan Africa, shows success from opportunity. Recently, Madagascar succeeded in integrating a promising value chain with an annual supply of 48,000 metric tons of London Metal Exchange class-1 nickel, a key mineral for batteries.

The prospect of replicability of like-minded "green field" projects in strategic sectors, such as the agribusiness sector, can substantially increase value-addition for our world-class vanilla industry, with creation of industry clusters in the longer run.



Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina (left) greets Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi at the eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development on Aug. 27, 2022, in Tunis.

JAPAN MINISTRY OF
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In closing, 2023 is a turning point for the safeguarding of democracy, both as a practice and as a process. It is a time for the international community to support global stability via a multilateral resolu-

tion of the Ukraine crisis.

While celebrating this day together, let us aim to uphold and safeguard a stable global environment that is conducive to prosperity for all.

Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Madagascar on the Anniversary of Their Independence



Mangoro Bridge under construction by Daiho Corporation



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