

# Kyrgyz independence day

## A reservoir of opportunity in Central Eurasia

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On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Kyrgyz Republic, I would like to convey through the columns of The Japan Times my sincerest greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and the government and people of Japan. I also welcome this opportunity to congratulate my countrymen on this happy occasion.

I express my embassy's appreciation to our friends in Japan for their marvelous support and assistance in promoting the good relations between our two friendly peoples.

We represent a beautiful country — Kyrgyzstan, located in the heart of Central Eurasia. Imagine that in the midst of the world-class Tien



Shan mountains, there exists a democracy with great opportunities for diverse cooperation between our country and other nations. The tolerant and educated Kyrgyz people are known for their generosity, friendliness and hospitality.

For investors who are looking to maximize profits and minimize risk, there are good reasons to select the Kyrgyz Republic — a liberal trade regime, full protection of investments and unlimited repatriation of profits, currency exchange freedom, low business costs, an educated workforce and direct access to state authorities. It should be added that the government of the Kyrgyz Republic exempted Japanese citizens from needing an entry visa.

The Kyrgyz-Japan Business Forum, with the participation of 20 Japan firms, and 50 Kyrgyz business companies and associations, took place in Bishkek in February this year.

It is hoped that such events

will establish an effective basis for cooperation and business. The Japanese side was represented by Sumitomo, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Yanmar and other companies. Kyrgyzstan was represented by JSC Electrical stations, Kara-Balta mining plant, Bishkek machinery plant and other organizations.

Kyrgyz businessmen believe that the most profitable spheres for investment and trade-economic cooperation with Japan are light industry, small and midscale energetics, mining and information technology sectors.

Relations between our countries developed very successfully after the Kyrgyz Republic became independent in 1991. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established Jan. 26, 1992. I must emphasize that Kyrgyzstan has always distinguished Japan in its foreign policy priorities, and is committed to strengthening cooperation on the basis of mutual confidence, strategic partnership

and support.

The last official visit of H.E. Kurmanbek Bakiyev, president of the Kyrgyz Republic, in November 2007, was a clear token of how much importance the government attaches to the relationship with Japan, and it has given a boost to enhancing cooperation in all spheres of bilateral relations.

A presidential election was held in our country July 23 this year and President Bakiyev was re-elected with some 76 percent of the vote.

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic to Japan welcomes tourists, students and others who wish to visit our country. We provide complete information and useful contacts at various levels.

In my capacity as ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Japan, I would like to reiterate my commitment to contribute to the further strengthening and development of the ties of friendship and cooperation between the Kyrgyz Republic and Japan.