

Mauritania national day

Nation's future is bright on 50th Independence Day

Yahya Ngam
AMBASSADOR OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC
OF MAURITANIA

On the 50th anniversary of our national independence, I would like to convey, on behalf of H.E. President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania-Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, my deepest respects to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, as well as to all members of the distinguished Imperial Family of Japan.



It is also for me a welcome opportunity to express to the government and people of Japan the friendship and profound gratitude of the government and people of Mauritania.

I further wish to convey my sincere gratitude to the editors of The Japan Times for giving me the opportunity to address their readers.

After the successful presidential election of July 18, 2009, that allowed Mauritania to recover its political stability and to focus its efforts on development issues, the country is moving progressively toward a bright future.

Today, our constitutional institutions are functioning normally and the role of the opposition is guaranteed within the traditional democratic process.

Since the inauguration of

H.E. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz as president of the republic on Aug. 5, 2009, Mauritania has achieved resolute progress toward good governance by fighting relentlessly against the chaos and nepotism that has long been affecting the efficiency of our administration. Furthermore, the president has stated firmly his determination to fight against terrorism and the drug trafficking phenomenon that have been recurrent here and there recently in the Sahel region.

On the economic level and within the context of the international economic crisis, the improvement of our people's living conditions is a central priority that has already led to the implementation of important programs to fight poverty by providing universal access to essential services.

In this regard, the Mauritanian government has launched many infrastructure projects to build paved roads, hospitals, schools, etc. Furthermore, tremendous efforts have been made to bring clean water and electricity to every single household.

The accelerated repatriation of our fellow citizens who had taken refuge in Senegal and Mali, combined with a consensual resolution of the humanitarian issues, contribute to the further strengthening of national unity and social cohesion.



H.E. President of Mauritania
Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz

Given its highly strategic geographical position at the crossroads of North and sub-Saharan Africa, as well as its important potential in terms of mining and fishing resources, Mauritania offers nowadays expanding investment opportunities thanks to the launch of oil exploitation in 2006, which added to many other prospects that are going on in the Taoudeni Bas, but also some huge discoveries in rare metals such as gold.

The Doing Business program recently adopted in conjunction with the World Bank shall lead to a better business environment and enhance the visibility of investment opportunities in our country.

In the tourism area, four cities (Chinguetti, Ouadane, Oualata and Tichitt) are registered as UNESCO World Heritage sites, and the Banc

d'Arguin National Park is another registered site and Africa's largest protected maritime zone. Mauritania offers tourists a rich and diverse panorama that can be enjoyed in absolute tranquillity.

By joining the Barcelona process and becoming a founding member of the Mediterranean Union, Mauritania's involvement in the Mediterranean sphere is strengthening its presence in an era of prosperity that favors both growth and investment.

Our country stands resolutely committed toward economic liberalism and the realization, within the given time, of the Millennium Development Goals through the implementation of an appropriate strategy to combat poverty and illiteracy.

Its action in this field is stimulated by the assistance of friendly nations such as Japan, which remains one of the main contributors to public development aid in Mauritania, as well as its main commercial partner in the fishing sector.

The recent successful organization in June of the Round Table at Brussels between Mauritania's government and its development partners resulted in the decision to mobilize about \$3.2 billion to the country's development program in the coming three years. This has been a priceless push toward more political, social and econom-

ic stability as well.

The opening of the Japanese Embassy in Nouakchott at the end of 2009 has been greatly saluted by both the Mauritanian government and the people. This has worked tremendously to further the reinforcement of our

bilateral relations.

Known for its commitment to the virtues of peace and tolerance, Mauritania greatly appreciates the values of peace, consensus, friendship and human prosperity that constitute the basis of Japan's international role.



Seafood factory: One of the major domains of Japan's cooperation, the fishery is a key sector of Mauritanian economy. AKEMI SHIGA

Congratulations
to the People of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
on the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of
Their Independence Day



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Among other things, our country welcomes Japan's global leadership for over a decade in favor of African development through the TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) process, whose fourth summit held in 2008 in Yokohama resulted in important measures that will greatly enhance the development level of African countries.

I would not finish without extending my heartfelt congratulations to Japan and the Japanese government for their bright success in leading the historical international agreement on biodiversity at the recently ended MOP5-COP10 Nagoya conference. I am convinced that Mauritania can count on Japan's continued support and friendship as we continue our nation-building effort.

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