

# Cuba national day

## New economic development strategy will benefit all

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AMBASSADOR OF CUBA

On Jan. 1, Cuba's National Day, when the triumph of the Cuban Revolution 52 years ago is marked, it is my great pleasure to extend, on behalf of the Cuban people and government, our best wishes for peace, prosperity and friendship to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and to the government and people of Japan. My greetings also go to all the readers of The Japan Times.



The coming year will be transcendental for Cuban national life because it will define the outcome of a profound process of updating and transforming the economy and the social system that will be fully established by the Congress of the Cuban Communist Party scheduled to take place in the spring. The congress will be the culmination of a very wide and democratic debate already under way, and open to the participation of all citizens.

The decisions and measures that the Cuban government have started to implement, and those that will be adopted by the Party Congress, will update through a five-year plan the economic system with the aim of overcoming the enormous challenges and difficulties that in recent years have affected the country, and ensuring the continuation of the socialist system.

Cuba will preserve and perfect its conquests in the fields of health, education and social justice while pursuing a new strategy for the

economic development of the country for the benefit of all. For those purposes, new laws, decisions and programs to optimize and increase agriculture production are being put in place through the distribution of land under different tenure schemes while providing financial assistance and scientific technological support that will make it possible to attain alimentary sovereignty.

New projects being implemented in the oil industry and its byproducts have received very high priority for the expansion of industrial capacity, and the construction of new refineries and petrochemical complexes to achieve increasing production levels for internal requirements and export. The exploration and extraction of hydrocarbons from land oil fields are being enlarged, as well as exploration with foreign participation of offshore resources in Cuba's exclusive maritime economic zone. The mining and nickel industries continue to receive financial resources for their progressive expansion and modernization. Large water resource complexes are being constructed for the supply of the precious liquid to



Cuba President Raul Castro

the population, agriculture and industry through more abundant and efficient use.

Tourism constitutes one of the most dynamic pillars of the national economy, and a detonator of industrial development and complementary services. Significant investments are being allocated for the continuous expansion of this sector, including its diversification. The excellent environmental conditions prevailing in the country, and its stability and public safety, make it a most attractive destination where visitors

can find beautiful beaches; rich cultural heritage; large tracts of remarkable, untouched rain forest; unspoiled reefs and intact wetlands; large populations of migratory birds and 22 species endemic to the island, which includes the zunzun, the world's smallest bird; and a lively and hospitable people while enjoying multiple expressions of a robust and diverse culture.

The traditional Cuban exports to the Japanese market, such as internationally recognized rum, premium Havana cigars, coffee and seafood products, enjoy wide preference among consumers, and Cuba strives to maintain and enhance its presence. Cuba is actively promoting the export of technical services packages, mainly in the health sector. Presently, 39,000 physicians and other specialists are serving in 69 countries.

During the last decades, Japanese companies have had a very positive and important relationship with Cuba, supplying equipment and

high-quality technology. Cuba welcomes the participation of Japanese firms in different investment and development schemes in the sectors of oil and gas exploration and extraction, mining, tourism and the pharmaceutical industry, particularly biotechnology.

On such a special day as

this, I would like to express the high appreciation and profound esteem of the people and government of Cuba for the renewed and consistent expressions of solidarity and friendship received from organizations, distinguished members of parliament, political parties and Japanese society in general.



Natural beauty: The Cordillera de Guaniguanico, in Cuba's westernmost province of Pinar de Rio, is one of the country's three major mountain ranges.



Capital: A view of Havana CUBAN EMBASSY

**Congratulations  
on the National Liberation Day  
of the Republic of Cuba**



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of the Republic of Cuba**



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