

Kyrgyzstan national day

Central Asia's first parliamentary democracy's 20th anniversary

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I am greatly honored to inform readers of The Japan Times that, today, the Kyrgyz Republic celebrates the 20th anniversary of its independence. During these years my country has advanced significantly in the promotion of democratic development and fundamental economic reforms aimed at the transition to a free market.



Twice, in 2005 and 2010, the people of Kyrgyzstan have demonstrated that they would not tolerate an authoritarian regime, which violates the rights of its citizens under the pretext of maintaining stability in the country. Today, despite various difficulties in the development process, Kyrgyzstan has an inflexible determination to build up a society where great importance is attached to universal

democratic values, parliamentarianism, the rule of law, and social and economic stability.

Such direction for development was backed by the people of Kyrgyzstan at the recent referendum on the adoption of the new constitution in 2010. The constitution secures the transition to a parliamentarian form of governance where presidential powers will be delineated and well-balanced with others. Taking up such a difficult mission, we fully realize our particular role in Central Asia and feel strong support from the government of Japan, which brings a spirit of freedom and prosperity to our region.

This autumn, the election of the president of the Kyrgyz Republic will be held. For the first time in the history of our country, the acting president will not participate in the election campaign. I hope that a successful election will add one more solid stone to the foundation of the new Kyrgyzstan.

I am particularly pleased to note that next January marks the 20th anniversary of the es-



Friendly ties: First Deputy Prime Minister Omurbek Babanov of the Kyrgyz Republic meets with Foreign Minister Takeaki Matsumoto on Aug. 1 in Tokyo. KYRGYZSTAN EMBASSY

tablishment of diplomatic relations between Kyrgyzstan and Japan. For the years past, the relations between our countries have been making good headway in the spirit of friendship and cooperation, at both bilateral and multilateral levels.

At present, the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic has been set a challenge to push relations between our countries to a new

level of mutually beneficial partnership. We have already achieved some progress here. First Deputy Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Omurbek Babanov paid a working visit to Japan from July 29 to Aug. 3 to have constructive talks with the representatives of the government of Japan.

The development of rare metals mines and further expansion

of Japanese power-intensive production in Kyrgyzstan are believed to be among the most promising fields of cooperation between our countries. In this regard, the embassy currently promotes the conduction of an investment seminar in Japan and a business forum in Kyrgyzstan. These events should provide an opportunity for business communities of both countries to deepen the mutually beneficial cooperation.

I would like to note that the Kyrgyzstani side is interested in the extension of contacts between members of the parliaments of Kyrgyzstan and Japan, and the study of the Japanese parliamentary system. Last autumn, members of the Diet Nobuhiko Suto and Naoto Sakaguchi participated actively as observers at the parliamentary elections in the Kyrgyz Republic. We believe that the development of links between our parliaments will promote the strengthening of fruitful cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Japan.

The embassy pays a great

deal of attention to encouraging tourist connections between the two countries. Special conditions exist for Japanese people visiting Kyrgyzstan, such as a visa-free regime for an unlimited term for citizens of Japan. In September, several Kyrgyzstani tourism agencies are scheduled to take an active part in the Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA) Tourism Forum and Travel Showcase in order to introduce tourist resources of the republic to a Japanese audience. Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country with beautiful nature and numerous lakes and rivers; it is a potentially vast area for recreational activities. We sincerely hope that many Japanese people and foreigners will visit our country and make a true discovery for themselves.

Japan has been supporting the Kyrgyz Republic since its independence. The people of Kyrgyzstan have always remembered it.

The natural disaster of March 11 in the eastern part of Japan has become a hard test for people of the country. Japanese

people have demonstrated to the whole world their strong spirit, self-sacrificing attitude and a high level of culture. People of the Kyrgyz Republic feel deeply sorrowful about the difficulties and losses of Japanese victims. They have made voluntary donations and sent their collections to share a common tragedy with our Japanese friends. The government of the Kyrgyz Republic also immediately sent humanitarian aid to disaster-hit prefectures, clearly signaling that Kyrgyzstanis never leave their friends in the midst of trouble.

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic is highly interested in having more Japanese friends

for Kyrgyzstan. We are ready to fully cooperate for the benefit of the development and deepening of political, economic and cultural bonds between our countries. We will continue to conduct events for introducing the Kyrgyz Republic to the people of Japan and promoting contacts between the business communities of both countries.

My dear friends and compatriots living in Japan, let me convey to you my congratulations and warmest wishes on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the independence of the Kyrgyz Republic. I hope that our successes made by this moment will be multiplied and fortified by our future endeavors.

**Congratulations
to the People of the Kyrgyz Republic
on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary of
Their Independence Day**



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