

Togo national day

Togo maintains position as crucial player for access to Africa

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On April 27, 2014, we celebrate the 54th anniversary of Togo's Independence Day and for the fourth time since the opening of the Embassy of the Republic of Togo in Japan in October 2010, we are happy to share the feelings of joy and satisfaction of the Togolese people as well as the government with our friends and brothers and sisters, the Japanese people, over the excellent relations that exist between Togo and Japan.

It is also the occasion for us to share with you the new vision, which is led by the President of the Republic, H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe and will direct the destinies of Togo for the coming years.

In fact, there are no more

doubts today. My country has confirmed what everyone agrees on about its excellent geographical situation. Togo remains the principal gateway to the West African region thanks to three main reasons.

Togo's proximity to the Atlantic Ocean offers the only natural deepwater port in the region. The receiving and stocking capacities of the port are expected to double in the next months with the construction of the third quay, which will be 450 meters long and offer 15 meters of draft. This will make the Autonomous Port of Lome one of the most efficient ports in Africa.

Allow me also to highlight the importance of Lome, which is home to the headquarters of the sub-regional company Askyl. Since the beginning of the operation of this company, it has become easier to connect African capital cities from Togo. Also, to meet time requirements, the



The Independence Monument created by the late Togolese artist Paul Ahyi stands in the capital Lome. EMBASSY OF TOGO

government is committed to the modernization process of the airport infrastructure, especially with the construction of a new terminal, which should increase fourfold the capacity of the Gnassingbe Eyadema International Airport of Lome by the end of this year.

My country is not satisfied only with the improvement of

its air and maritime infrastructure. In fact, everyone who has visited Togo in the last few years should have seen the rapid transformation of the country with the significant improvements in the road network and the increased number of locations with electricity and telecommunications in the capital Lome and in the inland of the country.

With the realization of the master plan of the logistic corridor of Togo, thanks to the kind support of the Japanese government through its Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), new perspectives are offered to Togo in terms of development as well as to the private sector in terms of investment.

Finally, Togo increasingly asserts itself as an international financial player. In fact, in addition to the headquarters of regional institutions such as the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (BIDC), my country is home to the headquarters of the Pan-African bank (Ecobank), which has a presence in 33 African countries as well as Europe and Asia and facilitates transactions in the international market.

To assure the harmonious development of my country with the spirit of cohesion and mutual understanding, the Togolese government has started

the initiative "Togo vision 2030." This initiative aims to define the common vision that the Togolese have about their country in the next 15 years in a participatory and inclusive manner. Each person is destined to bring a stone for the construction of a national building, and all the social representatives will be invited to share their ideas about the future of Togo and it is from their opinions that the strategic plan of the development of Togo will emerge by 2030. All these will reinforce the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Employment Promotion (SCAPE), whose field of action extends to 2017.

This is to say that the development and economic growth is going so smoothly that the Japanese private sector as well as Asian investors should not miss this opportunity to be a part of those who will be happy in the future to have invested at the right time in this beautiful country.

Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Togo
on the 54th Anniversary
of Their Independence



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