

Liberia independence day

First Liberia-Japan business investment dialogue a big step

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AMBASSADOR OF LIBERIA

Today Liberia commemorates 167 years of Independence. Liberia-Japan diplomatic relations have further deepened with renewed commitment following the successful hosting of the First Liberia-Japan Business Investment Dialogue on July 3 and 4 in Monrovia, under the theme of “Harnessing Bilateral Partnership for Robust Private Sector Development in Liberia.”



The dialogue came out of an official visit President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf made to Japan from June 1 to 3, 2013, when she and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met on the sidelines of the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) and agreed to further strengthen Japanese-Liberian economic and political ties. Both governments agreed that dialogue was critical to the restoration of direct trade and investment between Japan and Liberia. Such dialogue will serve as a critical mechanism for mutual cooperation in key areas of trade and investment.

The dialogue marks a milestone and a major turning point in Liberia’s drive for economic and development diplomacy. It is indeed a response to the call for a plan of action, including Abe’s initiatives at TICAD V, by all sides to promote the economic growth of Africa through encouraging business activities between Japan and Africa. The dialogue also underscored Liberia’s relentless efforts to attract Japanese investors to Liberia and saw the encouraging participation

by the following Japanese companies: Mitsubishi Corporation, Itochu Corporation, Marubeni Corporation, Sumitomo Corporation, Sojitz Corporation, Nitsui & Co., Ltd, Toy Factory International Co., Yoshiken Travel and Tours and Nihon Keizai Shimbun Inc.

The two-day conference afforded the two sides the opportunity to share views between the Japanese business delegations and executives and officials from relevant Liberian government institutions, along with members of the Liberian private sector and lay the platform for future engagement.

It is encouraging to note this engagement to strengthen Japan-Liberia economic and trade relations provided the foundation for the promotion of public-private partnerships (PPP), which is consistent with our president’s vision for building a vibrant private sector viable as an engine of economic growth and development.

At the conclusion of the dialogue the two countries agreed on a number of issues, including enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries; strengthening Liberia-Japan economic and trade relations; expanding broad-based economic growth, helping to reduce some of the structural weakness of the Liberian economy; enhancing food security through sustainable agriculture; and improving critical infrastructure with particular emphasis on roads, bridges, seaports, energy, health facilities, schools and others.

They also agreed to promote public-private partnerships; increase people-to-people exchanges; and increase access to market information. Additionally,

they agreed to improve Liberia’s competitiveness, create employment opportunities, expand exports, and transfer relevant technology and management know-how.

The dialogue has raised hopes for the return of more Japanese companies to Liberia.

As we are now witnessing the unfolding of positive signs and the window of opportunity opening for a robust business atmosphere, we are repeating our message to the Japanese private sector that Liberia is ready, open for business and the country welcomes Japanese investors to join.



Pygmy hippos EMBASSY OF LIBERIA

Home to unique flora, fauna

The Sapo National Park, which lies in Sinoe County, southwestern Liberia, was established in 1983 and is home to leopards, forest elephants, pygmy hippos and chimpanzees. At some 700 square miles, it is one of the largest blocks of protected forests in the sub-region.

The park is an international

focal point in Liberia. In 2002, seven new plants which are not found elsewhere in the world were discovered in Liberia and scientists are now conducting several laboratory tests to establish their values. The Sapo National Park is a major place of pride for Liberia’s tourism industry and a well-run area in this post war-torn country.

Blue Lake: A hidden treasure in the mountains of Liberia

The Blue Lake is a natural wonder of Liberia and an ideal place for tourism investment.

The lake is about 300 feet deep and is situated between the peaks of the surrounding mountains, which with the reflection of the sun, give the lake its blue hue.

One thing is certain about the lake, whether rain or shine, it never rises above its banks, nor does it dry. The water level is absolutely stable. It is a wonderful sight and a haven for hotel and casino development and water sports.

Information provided by the
Embassy of Liberia



The Blue Lake is a natural wonder of Liberia. EMBASSY OF LIBERIA


Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Liberia
on the 167th Anniversary
of Their Independence

from the president and staff of


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