Gabon independence day

Positive developments in ecology, industry, services

François Pendjet Bombila CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I., EMBASSY OF THE GABONESE REPUBLIC IN JAPAN

On the occasion of the coming Independence anniversary of

the Gabonese Republic on Aug. 17, it is an honor for President of the Republic H.E. Ali Bongo Ondimba, Prime Min-



Daniel Ona Ondo, the Gabonese senate, parliament and for the people of Gabon to extend respectful greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Em-Akihito, **Empress** Michiko, Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako, as well as to the whole Imperial family.

We hope the Japanese government, its leader Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the Diet, other enterprises and the people find here the expression of our gratitude.

To the Gabonese community in Japan, I am also thankful for the continuously renewed support to our ac-

The 54th anniversary of the independence of the Gabonese Republic is particularly meaningful, because the year 2014 marks changes at several levels. For the government and our new prime minister, it will be an economic, political and social turning point, as this year is also the middle of our president's term.

In 2009, the "Emerging Gabon" project came into effect with an ambitious pro-

Congratulations

to the People of the Gabonese Republic

on the Occasion of the 54th Anniversary of

Their Independence

MPDC GABON CO., LTD.

a subsidiary of A Mitsubishi Corporation

Head Office:

2-3-1, Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0005, Japan

Tel: (03) 3210-3133 Fax: (03) 3210-5076

gram of economic reforms for future prosperity, as it was necessary to not only depend on oil and gas resources, but also to boost economic growth.

Now it is time to take stock of the policy of emergence and $\,$ its three main pillars: green, industrial and services.

Green Gabon

Green Gabon has pioneered global environment-protecting efforts and the fight against climate change.

In fact, located in the Congo Basin, Gabon's forest is the second largest in the world after the Amazon and covers 22 million hectares, contributing greatly to the fight against

global warming.
To this end, Gabon has fulfilled several commitments in designating three million hectares as national parks and a further nine million hectares as forest licensed under sustainable management, which realized a reduction of 20 million tons of annual CO2 emis-

Green Gabon is based on the sustainability of natural resources and application of the best international environmental standards for develop-ment projects. National parks, forestry, ecotourism and agriculture are part of this green program based on a virtuous cycle marked by:
• Sustainable forest man-

- agement
- Maximizing the valorization of forest-related products, especially biomass and nontimber products
- Development of geotourism to take advantage of Gabon's exceptional fauna & flora
- Valorization of the potential held by the 800 kilometers of coastline and fresh water
- Wider use of carbon cred-

For an obvious example of the "valorization of forest-related products," Gabon bet on raw timber processing, which has successfully created jobs and helped nature conserva-

Because of this, since 2010, no logs leave Gabon anymore. This transition was hard for the country as its production decreased export-related revenue disappeared.

But today, the Gabonese government has won its bet because alternative forest products, the country's second



Clockwise from above, Gabon is proud of having the highest enrollment ratio in Sub-Sahara Africa; nationwide access to broadband Internet will give rise to the IT sector; an iron ore processing site, part of Belinga Project in the northeast; transport of manganese from Moanda. **EMBASSY OF GABON**

biggest resource after oil, now see higher value than raw tim-

Industrial Gabon

The second tool of the emergence policy, Industrial Gabon falls under the National Industry Forum to formulate indus-

Industrial Gabon is a mirror of the country's new development model represented by a significant increase of locally added value and employment creation.

This model will guarantee a revival of value chains by tran-

sition of agriculture and fishing into agro-industry, forestry into wood, mining to metallurgy and oil exploitation into petro-chemistry to build a bridge from being a raw-material-based economy to being an industrialized country.

Also, research has identified

ing and aquaculture.
For that purpose, the national industrialization strategy sets out ambitions, stakes and goals related to this sector's growth: multiply tenfold by 2025 the added value in the mining sector, while placing priority on forest growth and the development of manganese, precious metals, gold and construction materials

Gabon of service

With the forthcoming nationwide optical fiber telecommunication coverage, the new communication technologies are progressing within the established time frame, clearly

Since the participation of Pres-

the two countries are working together toward partnerships between public and private enterprises.

One part of this was an important delegation of Japanese businessmen visiting Gabon in

November 2013. In Japan-Gabon relations, fishing is the most dynamic sector: the bilateral cooperation in fisheries is underpinned by an agreement covering assistance, professional training for small-scale Gabonese fishermen, research and protection of fishery resources, support to the compilation of statistical data and other assistance signed by Gabon, the Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Association and the Japanese Fisheries

Agency in 2008. Internationally, Gabon and Japan have constantly affirmed their common point of view and interest for peace and world stability in international organizations.

From the current stage where Japan and Gabon are already in a strong relationship. showing an improvement in their cooperation will be able to develop further if both parties dare to take more responsibilities.

Gabon might benefit greatly from a stronger determination in negotiations with Japan which, for her part, should consider more than just the GDP to reinforce its position as world's economic powerhouse by direct - without intermediary - investment and sales to



Congratulations

to the People of the Gabonese Republic on the Occasion of the 54th Anniversary of Their Independence



ERAMET INTERNATIONAL TOKYO BRANCH

JIMBOCHO NK BLDG. 9F, 2-7, KANDA JIMBOCHO, CHIYODA-KU, TOKYO 101-0051, JAPAN

TEL: (81-3) 3265-3931

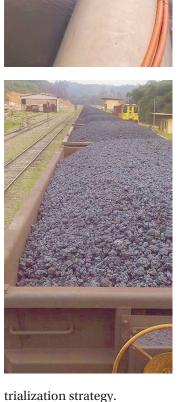
Congratulations

to the People of the Gabonese Republic on the Occasion of the 54th Anniversary of Their Independence









four main sectors which will bring growth: mining, forest/ wood, agro-industry and fish-

sectors.

public services.

Bilateral cooperation

ident Ondimba at the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) held on June 1 to 3, 2013, in Yokohama, the ties between Gabon and Japan have been further strengthened. Already in strong cooperation in primary education, Gabon.