

# Afghanistan national day



**Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani (right) and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah**  
EMBASSY OF AFGHANISTAN

## Moving forward toward peace and prosperity

Sayed M. Amin Fatimie  
AMBASSADOR OF AFGHANISTAN

Today, on the 96th anniversary of the National Day of Afghanistan, it is a great pleasure for me to convey on behalf of the people and the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan sincerest greetings and deepest respects to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and



the people and the government of the noble nation of Japan for their firm friendship and partnership.

Afghanistan has made significant progress in its political system and institutions. Afghanistan's 2014 presidential elections marked historic voter turnout, with the highest female turnout for the first democratic transfer of power in the country's history. The government of National Unity was established last September under the strong leadership of President of the Islamic Republic

of Afghanistan H.E. Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive H.E. Abdullah Abdullah.

Although there are still challenges to overcome, Afghanistan has certainly been improving politically, socially and economically in recent years, receiving great support from the international community. Japan's contributions, especially to our nation's peace building, development and reconstruction have been remarkable. Japan has been playing a key role in support of our nation, reaching a wide range of sectors and creating real improvements in the lives of Afghan children, women and men.

I would also like to mention that exhibitions of Afghan cultural heritage are scheduled to take place at the Kyushu National Museum from Jan. 1 to Feb. 14, 2016, and at the Tokyo National Museum from April 12 to June 19, 2016. The joint effort that made these exhibitions possible truly marks the friendship and cooperation between Japan and Afghanistan. Japanese visitors may remember that, centuries ago, Afghanistan was connected to Japan via the Silk Road. Afghan culture is once again welcomed into Japan, and the exhibitions are a wonderful opportunity for

Afghanistan to share its historical treasures with the Japanese people.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again express

deep gratitude to our friends worldwide and the great people of Japan in particular for their selfless and generous support of Afghanistan.

## Enjoying significant social, economic development

Sadako Ogata  
DISTINGUISHED FELLOW AND FORMER PRESIDENT,  
JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY



It is my pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the people of Afghanistan on the 96th anniversary of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

I am grateful for all Afghan efforts to achieve steady social and economic development over the last fourteen years. Japan has been a leading supporter of Afghanistan on its endeavors to promote peace building and

reconstruction. Currently, Afghanistan faces diverse challenges as it shifts to the transformation decade between 2015 and 2024. I firmly believe that Japan, together with the international community, will continue to make all efforts with the Afghan people to build a peaceful country.

Through my long experience in support of Afghanistan as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as the special representative of the prime minister of Japan on reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan and later the president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), I offer my warmest wishes to the Afghan people in achieving sustainable peace, stability and prosperity.



**Afghanistan Ambassador Sayed M. Amin Fatimie (left) is welcomed by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who hosted an *iftar* (evening meal) reception on June 30.** EMBASSY OF AFGHANISTAN

## CONGRATULATIONS

on the 96th Anniversary of  
the Islamic Republic of  
Afghanistan's  
Independence



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