

Angola National Day

Key player in regional, international affairs

Joao Miguel Vahekeni
AMBASSADOR OF ANGOLA

The occasion of the National Day celebration of the Republic of Angola comes every year as a reminder to all Angolans of the invaluable efforts and sacrifices made by our forefathers that led to the birth of our beloved fatherland on Nov. 11, 1975.

On this auspicious day, I avail myself of this opportunity to, on behalf of His Excellency President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the government and the people of the Republic of Angola, convey our heartfelt greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family, the government



and people of Japan. Today, as we celebrate the 41st anniversary of independence, our nation looks back to its proud achievements. Angola is a founding member of the Southern African Development Community and the Gulf of Guinea Commission, hosting its secretariat in Luanda.

Angola is also a key member of the 12 member states International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and has been playing an important role in regional and international efforts to solve and prevent

conflicts in the region, hosting recently in Luanda a summit of heads of state and government of the Great Lakes region.

In its 41 years history, Angola has been elected twice as a nonpermanent member of the U.N. Security Council (2003-2004 and 2015-2016), where it is currently serving with Japan.

This year's independence anniversary is a particularly significant one as we also celebrate a milestone in our bilateral ties, the 40th anniversary of Angola-Japan diplomatic relations. At the invitation of the Hon. Tadamori Oshima, speaker of the House of Representatives, H.E. Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos, speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Angola, visited Japan in March.

To further mark the occasion, a group of boys and girls

from the Angolan Kaposoka Symphony Orchestra, toured Japan in May for a series of concerts in Matsumoto, Nagano Prefecture, Soma, Fukushima Prefecture, Sendai, Hiroshima and Tokyo. The two countries maintain excellent bilateral relations, but there is still room to infuse a new breath to the friendly ties and tap into each other's enormous potentials.

Angola has untapped possibilities in various fields such as agriculture, agro-industry, food processing, transport, logistics, mining, tourism, services and areas where Japanese investment and technology transfer can play an important role. I would like to take this opportunity to call upon Japanese companies to invest in Angola and enjoy the wide range of state support available for investors.



Kaposoka Symphony Orchestra performs in Sendai in May. EMBASSY OF ANGOLA



Top: Aerial view of a new residential area in Luanda; Above: Moon-like landscape in Luanda province EMBASSY OF ANGOLA

**Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Angola
on the Occasion of
the 41st Anniversary of
Their Independence**

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