

D.R. Congo National Day

Strengthening bilateral bonds for business opportunities

RAPHAEL MWENDA BAMBINGANILA
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



On June 30 of every year, the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo celebrate their Independence Day. This year, we will be celebrating the 57th Anniversary of

Independence.

On behalf of the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and on my own behalf, I extend my congratulations to all my fellow Congolese living in Japan and wish them happiness, health and success during their stay in the beautiful and friendly country of Japan.

On this happy day, I have the honor and pleasure to hereby extend warm greetings and deep respects of the President of the D.R. Congo, H.E. Joseph Kabila Kabange, the government and all Congolese people to their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, as well as to all the distinguished members of the Imperial family, government and all people of Japan.

The celebration of our anniversary of independence is a wonderful moment to assess the progress of development in many fields and on bilateral relations with our partners in general and with Japan particularly.

The celebration of our independence this year will coincide with the end of terms of some political institutions of the country. This is the reason why the country will organize both presidential and legislative elections to implement renewed institutions at local and national levels. But, before the elections, the political parties have organized political dialogue to set up consensus of the agenda.

On bilateral cooperation with Japan, our relations are excellent and strong. We can

remember many realizations such as the supply of medical equipment for Clinic of University of Kinshasa, police training by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and construction of the Road Poids Lourds in Kinshasa. Today, we would like to express our appreciation for the agreement to realize the projects of food assistance, economic and social development program to promote Japanese products, and the rehabilitation of the National Institute of Biomedical Research.

In Haut Katanga province, we are grateful to JICA for the Project for the Enhancement of the National Institute of Professional Preparation (INPP-Katanga/Lubumbashi) this year and for installing a medical waste incinerator at the Clinic of Lubumbashi. We hope that this cooperation will be extended to other hospitals in our country.

Furthermore, JICA is conducting development plans to support the DRC in dealing with traffic congestion, road and railway construction in various provinces, energy issues, a master plan for transport in Kinshasa and others.

The Japanese government scheduled the Japan-Africa Forum in July this year where many African companies from the private

sector will participate to share their experiences of doing business in Africa. This forum will improve mutual understanding between the Japanese government and African partners as follow-up measures of the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) held in Yokohama that focused on infrastructure construction.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo needs a reliable source of energy for its development. We invite Japanese investors to engage in projects for the rehabilitation of hydroelectric Dam Inga I and II and also the construction of Inga III. They can develop other technologies to produce clean energy such as solar panels, natural gas, wind and so forth.

Through empowering young African leaders, we appreciate the TICAD program that welcomes some Congolese youth in Japan to participate in the ABE Initiative for master's degree and internship opportunities. We would like to express our gratitude for this cooperation as this program trains many young leaders in different fields to serve as bridges for the Japanese companies that will invest in Africa.

In March, Kinshasa Gov. Andre Kimbuta

visited Tokyo. During his stay in Japan, he shared his experience with Tokyo's vice governor. He also had exchanges with some officials and members of the Japanese government and JICA.

As mentioned above, we would like to see the Japanese private sector join other partners of D.R. Congo to invest in our country. The mining industry, tourism industry and construction of infrastructure in D.R. Congo present good opportunities. In conclusion, I invite the Japanese private sector to invest in D.R. Congo for the continuity of the cooperation and the benefit of our peoples.



Boulevard du 30 Juin in Kinshasa EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



Inauguration of the construction of INPP-Katanga/Lubumbashi EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Congratulations
to the People of
the Democratic Republic of the Congo
on the 57th Anniversary
of Their Independence



from the president and staff of
AFRICAN HOME TOUCH
RESTAURANT & BAR

【Roppongi】
Yoko Central Roppongi Building 3F
3-15-22 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0032
Tel: 03-6447-0116 Fax: 04-8044-9676

【Kasukabe】
M2 Building 1F Lten, 1-9-13 Chuo
Kasukabe-shi, Saitama 344-0067
Tel: 048-752-6969
URL: africanhometouch.com

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