

Turkmenistan Independence Day

Neutral country leading world forward

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AMBASSADOR OF TURKMENISTAN



This year on Oct. 27, we celebrate the 26th Anniversary of the Independence of Turkmenistan. Being an open and fast-growing country, Turkmenistan is actively developing its multifaceted cooperation in the global arena. Since obtaining its independence in 1991, Turkmenistan has been successfully strengthening its relations with all countries in the political, economic, educational, scientific and cultural fields, as well as other areas.

These relations are solely based on the principle of our Permanent Neutrality status, which was unanimously approved through a U.N. resolution on Dec. 12, 1995. To commemorate this event Turkmenistan solemnly celebrated the 20th anniversary of its neutrality in 2015. It may also be noted, that in June 2015, a new U.N. resolution confirming the status of neutrality was adopted, thus cementing the unshak-

able character of our neutrality, which is engraved in Turkmenistan's Constitution. Complete independence and positive neutrality constitute the two main pillars of our policy. Time has proven that these principles provide excellent opportunities for Turkmenistan to flourish. Outstanding achievements have been made in the political, economic, social and other sectors over the period of independence. Today, Turkmen people are happy to be part of a sovereign nation with absolutely no dependence on other countries nor any political blocs or unions.

Our neutral status has also allowed us to put forward new global initiatives to create universal mechanisms for the solution of global geopolitical issues, including transit and transport.

One such initiative has been reflected in another important Turkmenistan-sponsored U.N. resolution on the "Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development" adopted on Dec. 19, 2014. This resolution came from the Ashgabat declaration on the role of transport and transit corridors adopted during a high-level international conference held in Sep-

tember 2014 in Turkmenistan. Recognizing the fundamental role of sustainable transport in fighting climate change and achieving a sustainable future, former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon convened the first-ever global conference on sustainable transport on Nov. 26 and 27 last year in Ashgabat. U.N. Resolution 70/197, "Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors," dated Dec. 22, 2015, which was proposed by Turkmenistan and co-sponsored by 84 countries, bolstered this initiative.

This year, Turkmenistan successfully held the fifth Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Ashgabat, which can rightfully be called a special contribution of Turkmenistan to the international sports and Olympic movement. The games' competitions brought together about 6,000 representatives of 64 countries in Asia and Oceania, as well as a refugees' team, which took part for the first time in the Asian Games. In fair sports competitions Turkmen athletes won first place in terms of team rating, having demonstrated to the whole world the great attention that is paid to the health of citizens in Turkmenistan, development of

the mass physical training movement and the sport of higher achievements.

Safeguarding the peace, disarmament, energy security and environmental protection are some of the other important initiatives put forward by Turkmenistan. These ideas have been well received, appreciated and supported by other countries, including Japan.

As is widely known, Turkmenistan pays special attention to the social protection of its citizens. As a result, gas, water and electricity are provided free to all citizens of Turkmenistan.

Another strategic direction of the foreign policy of Turkmenistan is to establish productive relations with Asia-Pacific countries. Therefore, Japan, which is the only G7 country in the region, is one of the most important partners of Turkmenistan. As the ambassador of Turkmenistan in Japan, my main duty is to implement agreements reached during the visits of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to Japan in 2013 and 2015.

Today Turkmen-Japanese cooperation is successfully developing in different fields. Our country's enterprises work in cooperation with dozens of major Japanese



President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov

corporations implementing large regional projects, especially in the oil and gas field. The Japanese business community not only knows Turkmenistan as a country that possesses the world's fourth-largest reserves of natural gas, but also as a politically, socially and financially stable, strong and loyal partner. In order to increase economic cooperation between Turkmenistan and Japan, the Turkmen-Japanese and Japanese-Turkmen committee for economic cooperation was established in 1993. This year on June 26, we held the 12th meeting of this committee.

Successful Turkmen-Japan cooperation is also taking place between our parliaments, government organizations and universities. Among the agenda of meetings, it is also

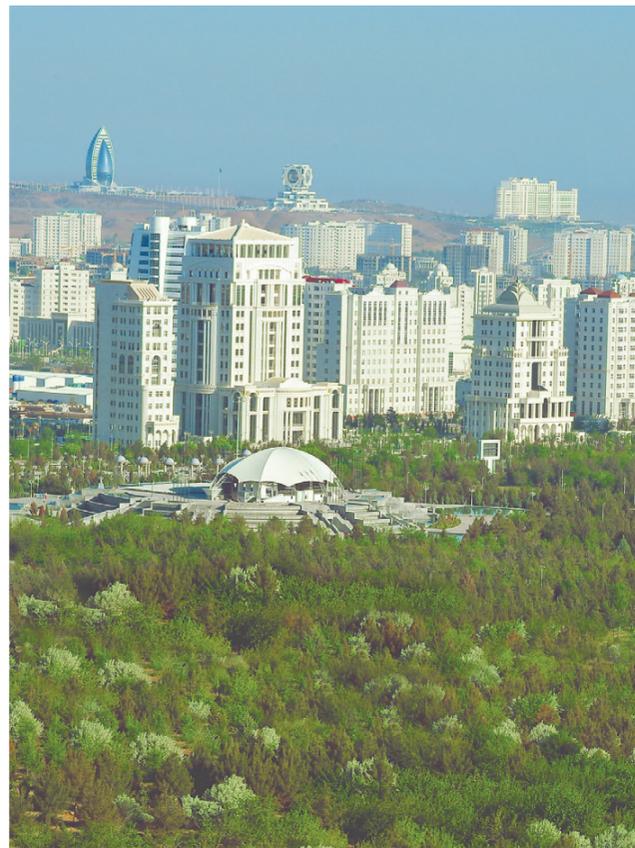


Emblem celebrating independence

remarkable that this year Turkmenistan, as the chairing country of the dialogue Central Asia + Japan for 2015-2016, hosted the sixth meeting of the foreign ministers in its framework. As a result of the sixth meeting of the foreign ministers of the dialogue Central Asia + Japan, the joint statement on long-term cooperation and further strengthening of relations between the countries of Central Asia and Japan was signed.

In October 2015, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe paid an official visit to Turkmenistan. During this extremely successful visit, which brought our cooperation to a new level, dozens of agreements and contracts worth \$18 billion were signed.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the readers of The Japan Times on the 26th anniversary of independence of Turkmenistan and the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkmenistan and Japan. I would also like to express my strong confidence that multifaceted and mutually beneficial Turkmen-Japanese cooperation will continue to flourish.



The outskirts of Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan
EMBASSY OF TURKMENISTAN

Congratulations
to the People of Turkmenistan
on the Occasion of
the 26th Anniversary of
Their Independence

Mitsubishi Corporation

New way, New value

Congratulations
to the People of Turkmenistan
on the Occasion of
the 26th Anniversary of
Their Independence

Sojitz Corporation
<http://www.sojitz.com/en>

Congratulations
to the People of Turkmenistan
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Sumitomo Corporation