

Djibouti National Day Special

Strong bonds built on shared values

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AMBASSADOR OF DJIBOUTI



This year, the Republic of Djibouti will celebrate the 41st Anniversary of the Proclamation of its Independence on June 27, 1977, and 40 years of diplomatic relations with Japan.

I would like to respectfully extend my warm greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and the members of the Imperial family, and peace and prosperity to the friendly people and government of Japan.

As we commemorate our country's independence, we also reflect on the cordial and fraternal ties that characterize relations between Djibouti and Japan. We cherish the fact that since our independence in 1977, the Japanese government and people have always stood by Djibouti.

2018 marks the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Djibouti and Japan. Indeed, Japan was among the first to recognize the proclamation of independence of the Republic of Djibouti on June 27, 1977. Since then, bilateral relations between Djibouti and Japan have evolved into a strategic partnership based on mutual trust.

Djibouti and Japan enjoy an excellent partnership built on shared values, including freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law and a market economy. This mutual friendship was firmly established with the opening of the Djibouti embassy in Japan in 1989 and the Japanese embassy

in Djibouti in 2009.

Japan is among our most trusted development partners. Bilateral high-level consultations and exchanges are increasing. Progress is being made in accordance with the vision of President of the Republic of Djibouti, H.E. Ismail Omar Guelleh and the road map of Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf. As a result, there have been a steady flow of Japanese investors and businesspeople coming to Djibouti in recent years.

The strengthening of bilateral relations was reaffirmed during the consultation meeting on economic cooperation held on June 11 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Djibouti. The discussions helped reinforce the high level of cooperation already existing between the two countries and offered ways to strengthen it further.

The political vision of our president, supported by patriotism and the political maturity of all stakeholders, puts Djibouti at the forefront in moving toward its dream to become a continental maritime cargo hub. The recent inauguration of the Doraleh Multipurpose Port, our newest and largest, is the first of four new ports being developed in Djibouti as part of a strategic series of megaprojects.

The ports will increase the East African country's capacity and support the enlargement and diversification of the port activities in the region. Djibouti wishes to bolster its advantages over its neighbors by transforming into a regional platform and hub for logistics, trade and financial services.

Our country continues its focus to diversify its sources of power toward the use of more renewable and green energy, including solar, wind and geothermal. It has already adopted a wide range of resilience

measures to ensure energy efficiency such as rehabilitating the dike protecting people from its most flood-prone, dry riverbed and updating emergency plans.

Djibouti maintained its visibility on the international stage with its involvement and contribution to various international organizations to which it belongs. Our country is engaged in peacekeeping operations under the African Union Mission to Somalia.

Since 2010, Djibouti is pleased to accommodate Japan's Self-Defense Forces facilities, as they aim to combat sea piracy off the East African coast. The country's motivation is mainly to provide assistance to friendly countries like Japan to protect their interests.

Both Djibouti and Japan have been committed partners to peace promotion around the world. Being the closest country to Yemen, Djibouti has accepted over 35,000 refugees since March 2015, providing them with needed food and shelter. Djibouti is striving to support the influx of refugees, despite its limited national resources. Japan has actively been involved in various U.N. peacekeeping operations, working closely with trusted partners, including Djibouti.

For more than 20 years, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process has proved to be an excellent forum for dialogue between Japan and its chief co-organizers, namely the African Union, the African countries and the international organizations in charge of development. Djibouti has always been an active participant in this forum, having even hosted preparatory meetings leading to this international event.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.



Top: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Ismail Omar Guelleh shake hands in Djibouti City on Aug. 27, 2013. Above: Doraleh Container Terminal is a major facility in Djibouti's ports. CABINET PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE / EMBASSY OF DJIBOUTI

Congratulations

to the People of the Republic of Djibouti
on the 41st Anniversary of Their Independence



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