

Guinea National Day Special

Honoring partnership, 60 years of independence

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AMBASSADOR OF GUINEA



I wish to seize this unique opportunity to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Guinea and to renew to their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family, the government and the Japanese people all the gratitude and the recognition

of the Guinean people, their government and the President of the republic, H.E. Alpha Conde, for the invaluable contributions and substantial support brought to Guinea as part of its process of political, economic and social development.

I would also like to sincerely thank the Japanese government for our excellent, friendly relations and several decades of quality cooperation between our two countries.

The many results achieved since the consecration of our partnership reflect the com-

mon political will of our governments — to build a strong cooperation respectful of the new vision shared by our two states.

The independence of Guinea marks a decisive turning point in the country's political history, which brings me on this happy occasion to pay a heartfelt tribute to all the men, women and children who fought for the defense of republican values, as well as the preservation of our common heritage.

This tribute also goes to the communities of our two countries, whose efforts constantly contribute to promoting excellent relations of cooperation between us.

Guinea celebrates today its 60th anniversary of independence, won at the price of many sacrifices and struggles, for which cooperation with Japan plays a very decisive role.

In this regard, the past year has given a new impetus to the cooperation between Guinea and Japan, crystallized by the opening of a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) office in Conakry.

JICA, which specializes in the fields of fishery, agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, water and sanitation, can not only boost actions on the ground, but also ensure the

transfer of transformative knowledge.

JICA's activities in Guinea will revolve around the PNDES (National Plan for Economic and Social Development), which targets the sectors of food security, the strengthening of the economic development base, as well as human capital development.

Another highlight of cooperation between Guinea and Japan is the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), an initiative launched in 1993 by the government of Japan to promote a high-level political dialogue between African leaders and their partners. Through this initiative, the government of Japan is promoting the dialogue as well as helping mobilize support for development initiatives that are designed by Africans themselves.

Today, TICAD represents one of the most favorable global frameworks to facilitate the implementation of measures to promote the development of Africa according to the dual principle of "ownership" by Africa and "international partnership."

Also in the framework of the cooperation between Guinea and Japan, it is necessary to stress the current dynamics of development



West Africa's major rivers originate in Guinea's mountains, signifying the country's potential for hydroelectric power generation.

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initiated by the government under our president's initiative, which aims to encourage the promotion of innovative financing such as foreign direct investment to share the fruit of growth and further develop sectors with high economic potential. Thus, Guinea, which has significant mining and hydroelectric potential, wishes to count on the valuable support of both the Japanese public and private sector to enable the realization of its vast development project.

With their combined efforts and the sharing of knowledge and successful development experiences, Guinea and Japan will succeed in turning their partnership into an instrument for local development and support for international cooperation.

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

Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Guinea on Their Independence Day

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