

Djibouti National Day Special

Friendship continues to expand

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AMBASSADOR OF DJIBOUTI



This year, the Republic of Djibouti will celebrate the 42nd anniversary of the Proclamation of its Independence on June 27.

I want to convey warm greetings of the president of the

Republic of Djibouti, Ismail Omar Guelleh, and his best wishes for the health and happiness to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako on their ascension to the throne. I also would like to express my best wishes to the members of the imperial family, and peace and prosperity to the Japanese people and government during the Reiwa Era.

Last year, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation of Djibouti, paid a working visit to Japan upon the invitation from Taro Kono, Japan's minister of foreign affairs, in the context following up to the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Djibouti and Japan.

TICAD VII

For more than 25 years, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) has proved to be an excellent forum for dialogue. President Guelleh will take part in the TICAD VII Summit that will occur from Aug. 28 to 30 in Yokohama.

Djibouti continues to consolidate its place within geopolitics at regional and international levels and has established



President Ismail Omar Guelleh
EMBASSY OF DJIBOUTI

itself as a respected listener for its moderation and its efforts to stabilize the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea's eastern shore.

Expanding economy

Djibouti's economy is continuing its acceleration. After growing by 6 percent in 2018, its gross domestic product is expecting to increase by 7 percent in 2019.

I want to thank Japan for its friendship and constant cooperation. Since Djibouti's independence, bilateral relations between Djibouti and Japan have evolved into a strategic partnership based on mutual trust, peacemaking in the region and several initiatives to improve economic development and the living conditions of Djiboutians.

Minamisoma and Djibouti

In February, the city of Minamisoma authorities in Fukushima Prefecture unveiled a monument to celebrate the friendship between the city of Minamisoma and Dji-

bouti, and to commemorate the solidarity and support of President Guelleh and the people of Djibouti during the Great East Japan Earthquake.

I want to highlight a new trend in our bilateral relations for the development of scientific and technological cooperation that started this year under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development project.

Trade and tourism

Tourism is another critical component of Vision 2035, Djibouti's National Development Strategy to ensure diversifying its economy and maintaining the growth momentum.

Since the opening of Djibouti's free trade zone, many Japanese companies and investors have been looking to position themselves in this growing and promising market in East Africa. Launched in 2017 by Youssouf Dawaleh, president of the Chamber of Commerce of Djibouti as well as the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry from



Monument celebrating the friendship between the city of Minamisoma and Djibouti
CITY OF MINAMISOMA



Taro Kono shakes hands with Mahmoud Ali Youssouf in Japan in August 2018. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN

this year, the International Trade Fair of Djibouti had been an instant success and has attracted dozens of Japanese companies and investors. The third edition of the International Trade Fair of Djibouti will occur during the first week of December.

Finally, let me extend an invitation to all the readers of The Japan Times to visit Djibouti and enjoy a peaceful African country with high regards for Japan and its population.

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 Djibouti
on the 42nd Anniversary of Their Independence



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