

Mongolia National Day Special

Enjoying a strategic, close relationship

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On the 2,228th Anniversary of Mongolia's First Statehood, the 813th Anniversary of the Great Mongol Empire and the 98th Anniversary of the People's Revolution, all tied

together in the Naadam festival that celebrates the Mongolian National Day, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to the readers of The Japan Times.

Mongolia is a small country in terms of population with just over 3.3 million people, but large in terms of territory and resources. Mongolia's gross domestic product grew about 6.6 times and the average monetary income of households has increased by about sixfold since 2005. At the same time, foreign trade grew by about fivefold and foreign direct investment grew by about eightfold in a little



Foreign Minister of Japan Taro Kono and Foreign Minister of Mongolia Damdin Tsogtbaatar in Ulaanbaatar in June EMBASSY OF MONGOLIA

over a decade. The economy is expected to grow over 6.6 percent in 2019 and 7 percent next year.

Mongolia and Japan are geographically distant, yet strategically close nations that enjoy each other's support on the international stage. Mongolia prioritizes the development of our bilateral relations with Japan as a neighbor and close strategic partner that shares values in respecting democracy, human rights and freedom. In recent years, Mongolia and Japan have been making an enormous

effort to implement a midterm strategic partnership program (2017 to 2021) and economic partnership agreement, while deepening Mongolia-Japan relations in a wide range of sectors such as politics, defense, economy, trade, culture, education and more.

The Mongolian government and people have always been very thankful toward the Japanese government and people for rendering generous support and assistance to the country in strengthening democracy and structuring a market economy system. In the framework of the International Monetary Fund's programs and Japan's official development assistance, the Japanese government has been providing several important forms of aid.

Mongolia-Japan ties have been strengthening not only bilaterally, but also on the regional and international levels. The mutual agreement regarding the importance of strengthening relations makes for an ideal strategic partnership. For instance, Mongolia has been firm in its belief that in any dispute or crisis, there is no solution other than talks and



engagement.

Since the early 2000s, we have been pursuing a policy of engaging and avoiding the isolation of North Korea. The continuation of this policy in the context of failed six-party talks and absence of channels of communication in Northeast Asia led to the Ulaanbaatar Dialogue in 2014.

The dialogue has enjoyed broad support among countries in the region, including Japan. The number of participating countries has increased and its level has upgraded a half step from Track 2. The Ulaanbaatar Dialogue vividly demonstrates that talks are the only option.

May Mother Earth enjoy peace and prosperity. May the eternal blue sky bless us all.

Prime Minister of Mongolia Ukhnaa Khurelsukh and Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe in Tokyo on Dec. 13
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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 Mongolia

on the Occasion of

the Mongolian National Day

 **Mitsubishi Corporation**