

Myanmar National Day Special

Furthering bilateral relations, development

MYINT THU
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR



It is a great honor and privilege for me to express, on this auspicious occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, our heartfelt appreci-

ations to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, and the people and the government of Japan for their continued support in consolidating the long-lasting and time-tested friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

I also wish to express my warmest greetings to and congratulate the Myanmar society living in Japan on this special occasion in celebrating our independence day together with our Japanese friends.

Japan has played a pivotal role in our independence struggle, where it assisted the formation of the Burma Independence Army that fought against British colonial power. With the Panglong spirit of leaders of the national races at the Panglong Conference on Feb. 12, 1947, Myanmar regained her independence on Jan. 4, 1948.

Myanmar and Japan have cherished and enjoyed cordial relations and mutual beneficial cooperation since the establishment of diplomatic relations in November 1954. We celebrated the 60th anniversary of the



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar His Excellency Win Myint

establishment of diplomatic relations in 2014, with commemorative events in both countries.

Additionally, we have been consolidating and further strengthening the existing friendship and cordial ties through the exchange of high-level visits between Myanmar and Japan. Recently, Her Excellency State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi visited Japan to attend the enthronement ceremony of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito at the Imperial Palace on Oct. 22.

During her visit, she met with Prime Minister His Excellency Shinzo Abe and deliberated on further strengthening the bilateral relations and mutual beneficial cooperation to the benefit of the people. The official visit of Suu Kyi to Japan further consolidates both the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and Japan as well as the tradition of high-level interaction

between leaders of the two countries.

Through the Japan-Myanmar Cooperation Program, the government of Japan has been rendering all-out private and public support and enhanced cooperation for our nation-building endeavors in line with the present government's policies and strategies.

I am pleased to inform our distinguished readers that Myanmar has, over the years, dedicated to become a member of the international community and has also embarked on liberal economic principles.

In a nutshell, Myanmar ranks among ASEAN's fastest-growing economies. The country's gross domestic product amounted to over \$71 billion in 2018. According to recent forecasts by the Asian Development Bank, Myanmar's economy is expected to grow by 6.6 percent in 2019 and 6.8 percent in 2020.

The present government has been pursuing broad-based and inclusive growth strategies, reinforced with a major investment promotion drive taken by the government in collaboration with the private sector and friendly partners including Japan.

We have put in place a new Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP), which is a comprehensive, forward-looking, responsible, equitable, sustainable, and an inclusive growth strategy. It also comprises social, economic and environmental reform agendas. Most importantly, the MSDP is fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We believe the MSDP will enable us to embark upon a new and exciting phase in our country's sustainable economic devel-

opment while providing a coherent and all-inclusive road map for our future reform endeavors. Based on the MSDP, we have introduced a wide range of holistic and inclusive policies and regulations in order to promote best business practices, accelerate comprehensive and inclusive reform measures, and incorporate good governance in our development strategies.

We are therefore confident that Myanmar can play a catalyst role in promoting our region as the global center of economic gravity since Asia today accounts for 50 percent of global investment and is forecast to exceed 50 percent of global GDP by 2040.

I wish to take this opportunity to introduce the Thilawa Special Economic Zone to our readers in Japan. It is indeed one of the most promising special economic zones in Myanmar, which is attracting an ever-increasing number of Japanese business communities to do business in Myanmar.

Most importantly, Myanmar is transforming its noncompetitive and once cen-



Her Excellency State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi meets Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on Oct. 22.

EMBASSY OF MYANMAR

trally planned economy into a transparent, all-inclusive, competitive and rules-based economy.

We are also promoting responsible investment, which creates job opportunities, supports local entrepreneurs, renders sustained economic growth and shares prosperity and well-being among the Myanmar people.

We look forward to receiving the continued support and understanding of our Japanese friends and our partners around

the world on our journey toward a democratic federal union.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate my firm commitment to further strengthen the existing friendly ties, mutual understanding and Myanmar-Japan partnership to the benefit of our people.

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 the Union of Myanmar on the Anniversary of Their Independence

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<http://www.nskre.co.jp/english/>

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