

# Djibouti National Day Special

## Partnership, mutual ties ongoing

AHMED ARAITA ALI  
AMBASSADOR OF DJIBOUTI

The Republic of Djibouti celebrates the 43rd anniversary of the June 27, 1977, Proclamation of its Independence.

I want to convey the warm greetings of the President of the Republic of Djibouti Ismail Omar Guelleh as well as his best wishes for the health and happiness to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako. I also would like to express my best wishes to the members of the imperial family, as well as peace and prosperity to the friendly people and government of Japan.



Ambassador of Djibouti Ahmed Arita Ali in front of the new embassy building opened in Shinagawa in June

This year, we are facing a global health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which is affecting countries around the world and has changed the lives of everyone. The COVID-19 pandemic is already having a substantial impact on the global economy.

It's a human crisis that calls on our solidarity, cooperation and multilateral assistance to defeat coronavirus. I believe that we will develop a vaccine against COVID-19, and we will overcome this crisis.

Even though the world is still in the middle of COVID-19's influence, Djibouti and Japan work hand in hand to allow the Maritime Self-Defense Force to fully play its role and maintain its anti-piracy mission.

Japan continues to support my country by providing medical equipment and supplies as needed, and we are very grateful.

Over the past years, Djibouti and Japan have regularly exchanged high-level visits and meetings at the parliamentary and cabinet levels that comprehensively tighten the relationship between our two countries. Progress is happening following the vision of President Guelleh.

Japan is the largest official development assistance donor for Djibouti. This year, some strategic infrastructure projects such as national roads and ferries are underway to improve the efficiency and capacity of the transportation system and support the Republic of Djibouti's socioeconomic development.

Djibouti and Japan enjoy an excellent partnership. Last year, the city of Minamisoma

authorities unveiled a monument to celebrate the friendship between Minamisoma and the Republic of Djibouti and to commemorate the solidarity and support of our president and the people of Djibouti during the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Djibouti's latest initiative to consolidate peacemaking in the region appears to be on track for real success. On June 14 and 15, the prime minister of Ethiopia, the president of Somalia and the president of Somaliland responded positively to the invitation of the president of Djibouti to participate in the creation of technical committees to establish mechanisms for collaboration between Somalia and Somaliland in several areas of common interest. Members of the two technical committees already displayed their enthusiasm and a constructive spirit. They distinguished themselves from the traditional immobility, under which the two parties remained entrenched, by opposing a categorical refusal vis-a-vis the claims of the other. "What is necessary for the framework of this dialogue is to show openness and consensus," the president stressed, reiterating "Djibouti's determination to always work for peace and the brotherhood of all Somali people." The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation has praised Djibouti for its leadership and its latest efforts to reinforce peace in the region.

Among many other goals, the acquisition of the new chancellery situated in the heart of Tokyo is the concretization of the vision of the president of the Republic of Djibouti.



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President of Djibouti Ismail Omar Guelleh shake hands at the seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development on Aug. 29. THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN AND HIS CABINET



In the joy of celebrating the 43rd anniversary of the National Day of Djibouti, I would like to once more extend my sincerest gratitude to the Japanese government and people for their valuable support and cooperation over the years.

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

Prime Minister of Djibouti Abdoukkader Kamil Mohamed at the Defense Ministry in Tokyo during his visit to Japan in October

THE OFFICIAL WEBPAGE OF JAPAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

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



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