

Mongolia National Day Special

Friendly, historical ties continue to grow

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AMBASSADOR OF MONGOLIA



I would like to extend my celebratory greetings to all the Japanese people and the venerable readers of The Japan Times on the occasion of the 2,229th Anniversary of Mongolia's First

Statehood, the 814th Anniversary of the Great Mongol Empire, the 109th Anniversary of the Liberation of People and Independence and the 99th Anniversary of the People's Revolution.

We Mongolians have revealed and progressed along the great path of our history and culture through the Naadam national festival, inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list, in which strong wrestlers have contended with beautiful techniques and all their strength, knowledgeable trainers have run fleet Mongolian horses and wise archers have competed for the excellence of the strength of their thumb and keen

eyesight. Thanks to this festival, we have created a great history, advanced culture, which is our asset, constructed the nation and boast the tradition of filling people with pleasure.

Mongolia is taking extra note of shoring up the strategic partnership relations built with our "third neighbor" country Japan, and also deepening political dialogue and mutual understanding. Our country has successfully implemented the second mid-term action plan (from 2017 to 2021) for the strategic partnership with Japan.

Last year, the bilateral friendly ties based on mutual trust further expanded and the frequency of summits, high-ranking visits and dialogues has been maintained. President Khaltmaa Battulga and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe have held talks at the Eastern Economic Forum in September in Russia's Vladivostok for three years in a row. The Chairman of the State Great Khural Gombojav Zandanshatar paid a working visit to Japan in May. Additionally, Mongolian Prime Minister Ukhnaa Khurelsukh visited the country with his spouse in October to participate in the emperor's enthronement ceremony, and met the Japanese prime minister discussing matters for cooperation in

politics, economy and regional issues.

This year, the coronavirus pandemic has created difficult situations in international relations. But I'm pleased to see the maintenance and expansion in the continuity of the bilateral and trusting relations in all aspects. It was highly significant that the regular trilateral meeting between Mongolia, the United States and Japan was conducted in Washington, D.C. in January. Furthermore, foreign ministers and defense ministers from the two countries have had remote conferences respectively in May and July.

In our economic cooperation sphere, most of the projects to date have been based on the official development assistance of the Japanese government, but moving forward, we need to create mutually beneficial relations and cooperation based on the private sector, the good environment of which is assured by the trusting ties in politics.

Efforts for Mongolia's self-sustained economic development have intensified in recent years. Works are dedicated especially to the infrastructure sector to promote industrialization so that it can be an industrial country. On this front, major projects have started in 2019, some of which include



the building of a 414.6-kilometer railway between Tavan Tolgoi and Zuunbayan in the Gobi region and construction of a refinery in Altanshiree, Dornogovi province.

The operation of New Ulaanbaatar International Airport in the Khoshig Valley, Tuv province, is expected to start soon, the construction of which was completed thanks to yen loans. I'm sure this airport will make a valuable contribution to the development of the country's social, economic and tourism sectors.

Our diplomatic relations will celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2022. To this end, we are striving to promote our country and our traditional culture, and to further deepen the mutual understanding among the public.

I wish everyone the best of luck and continued good health.

New Ulaanbaatar International Airport in the Khoshig Valley, Mongolia EMBASSY OF MONGOLIA

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**