

Mauritania National Day Special

Countries celebrate long-standing friendship

EL HACEN ELEYATT
AMBASSADOR OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC
OF MAURITANIA



Let me share with you this special article about my country Mauritania which today, Nov. 28, celebrates its 60th Independence Day anniversary. I thank the editors of The Japan Times for

giving me this wonderful opportunity to address its readers.

On this auspicious occasion of the anniversary of independence of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, I would like to express on behalf of President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania H.E. Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani, the people and the government of Mauritania, as well as on my behalf, our respectful and profound greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako and the members of the imperial family.

It is also a great honor to convey my sincere greetings to Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, the government and friendly people of Japan.

This year, Mauritians celebrate their 60th Independence Day anniversary with an even stronger determination to further consolidate the values of democracy, social development, human rights and social cohesion as the main pillars for steady, sustainable development. This determination has been highlighted, on multiple occasions, by the leadership of Cheikh El Ghazouani.

The president has reiterated his unwavering engagement to reinforce the rule of law and good governance to boost the economy and encourage investors to explore the potential of Mauritanian markets.

Like many countries, Mauritania has been negatively affected by the coronavirus pandemic. As a quick response, the government has set up an extensive social program and measures to protect the most vulnerable citizens whose jobs, businesses and livelihoods have been threatened. This emergency program has included, among other initiatives, a cash handout plan for more than 200,000 of Mauritania's most vulnerable households. These successful measures have enabled limiting the spread of the pandemic and mitigating its effects on the population, and minimizing social and economic disruption.

A comprehensive post-coronavirus economic recovery plan has been launched by the government to prioritize short-term actions and investment in key sectors such as agriculture and tourism to reduce the impact of the coronavirus and provide the basis for economic recovery.

The government's remarkable success in curbing the pandemic's effects could not be achievable without the solidarity of all partners, and the strong support Mauritania has received to cope with and alleviate coronavirus-related challenges.

Therefore, I would like to seize this opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude to Japan's government for the valuable assistance package it generously extended to Mauritania's government to help mitigate the coronavirus pandemic's adverse effects. Mauritania highly appreciates the Japanese government's and its



President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania H.E. Mohamed Ould CHEIKH EL GHAZOUANI

EMBASSY OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

people's unwavering support, both having contributed substantially to the country's economic development. This timely support speaks volumes of the excellent bilateral cooperation that characterizes Japan and Mauritania's strategic partnership.

This year, the two countries celebrate the 60th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations. These relations are characterized by a mutual commitment to further enhance the bonds of cooperation to include multiple economic sectors. The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7) was an opportunity for both countries to express willingness to further develop such cooperation. Mauritania offers the Japanese private sector many investment opportunities, not only in fisheries and iron ore, but also in energy potential, including natural gas and renewables and agriculture. I



Wall decorations in Oualata, an ancient city in Mauritania, that was an important axis for caravans. EMBASSY OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

would also like to emphasize the Mauritanian government is looking forward to welcoming Japanese private investors to explore the multiple opportunities the Mauritanian markets offer. In line with the recommendations of TICAD 7, I invite Japanese companies to visit Mauritania at a time when both countries are aspiring for a stronger partnership.

Before I conclude this short article, I would like to emphasize that my country, Mauritania, is considered a favorite destination for many tourists, especially those from European countries. This is because of its unique landscapes, its ancient cities that are among the World Heritage sites, as well as thousands of rare historic manuscripts. I invite all Japanese to visit Mauritania and enjoy its beautiful scenery, as well as the hospitality and generosity of its people.

Finally, I would like to express, on behalf of the people and government of Islamic Republic of Mauritania, our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the support Mauritania has been receiving from the friendly people and government of the Land of the Rising Sun.

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 Islamic Republic of Mauritania
on the 60th Anniversary of Their Independence



JAPAN TUNA FISHERIES
CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION
31-1 Eitai 2-chome, Koto-ku, Tokyo

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