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# Guinea National Day Special

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## Saluting 63 years of friendship, solidarity

**SENKOUN SYLLA**  
AMBASSADOR OF GUINEA



On the occasion of this historic date of Oct. 2, marking the 63rd anniversary of Guinea's accession to independence, I would first like to convey my warm greetings, as well as those of the people

of Guinea, its government and president, to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, the imperial family, the government and the Japanese people.

This solemn moment offers me the opportunity to celebrate and magnify the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation that fortunately exist between Guinea and Japan in light of the invaluable support the latter continues to provide to our country since the advent of indepen-

dence. It also gives me the opportunity to recall a historical fact concerning the leading role that Japan has played in the modern history of my country — that of having been among the very first partners of the Republic of Guinea. Thus, the history of our relations continues, always centered on shared values such as democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law and good governance, values that significantly contribute to mutual advantageous development for our states.

This continuity is clearly visible this year, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, from the financial and technical support Japan provided in a spirit of solidarity aimed at bolstering our solid ties of friendship. This included an agreement to build the National Public Health Institute, which will strengthen our health care system and our capacity to prevent and manage epidemics; the Faranah Bridge project, which will promote development by easing the movement of people and goods; and a ¥300 million

(25 billion Guinean francs) donation that enabled the purchase of equipment to fight the pandemic.

Furthermore, I would like to extend my congratulations to Japan for its excellent organization of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, which were held in an unprecedented context to the point that they are henceforth presented, honorably, as the “Pandemic Games.” This success is a testament not only to Japan's organizational capacity but also and above all to its resilience in overcoming tough times. Finally, I would like to extend my deep gratitude and sincere thanks to The Japan Times for the opportunity offered each year to the Embassy of Guinea in Tokyo to share with its many readers the progress made by the Republic of Guinea.

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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.*