

Angola National Day Special

Bonds strenghten through mutual cooperation

RUI ORLANDO FERREIRA DE CEITA DA SILVA XAVIER
AMBASSADOR OF ANGOLA



It is a privilege for me to address the esteemed readers of The Japan Times on the auspicious occasion of the 46th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Angola.

On behalf of the government and the people of the Republic of Angola and myself, it is my great honor to extend warmest greetings to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako and the government and friendly people of Japan. I also would like to take this opportunity to convey warm congratulations to all my fellow Angolans on this joyous occasion of our Independence Day.

Nov. 11, 1975, is forever engraved in the memories and thoughts of every Angolan citizen as the date when our motherland was born as a sovereign and independent country. On this solemn day, we wholeheartedly pay tribute to our country's founding father, His Excellency Antonio Agostinho Neto, and to our compatriots from many different walks of life who made incalculable sacrifices and laid down their lives selflessly during the long and arduous struggle for self-determination. It is thanks

to their success that the nationhood aspirations of millions of Angolans became a reality and today we celebrate with joy our Independence Day.

This year we also commemorate the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Angola and Japan. Japan is one of Angola's most reliable and time-tested strategic partners, and I am confident that these bilateral ties hold the promise of prosperity for both our nations and people.

The year 2021 is a particularly significant one in the history of the Angola-Japan relations. In May, it witnessed the opening of the first honorary consulate of the Republic of Angola in Japan. The honorary consulate, which was inaugurated in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, has jurisdiction over the Chubu Consular District covering the prefectures of Yamanashi, Niigata, Toyama, Gifu, Nagano, Shizuoka, Aichi, Ishikawa and Fukui. I

strongly believe that Ichiro Kashitani, president and CEO of Toyota Tsusho Corp., will undoubtedly play an important role in steering the bilateral ties to new heights as honorary consul.

Similarly, a groundbreaking ceremony in Angola was held in June in Namibe province for the Namibe Bay Integrated Development Project, a \$600 million infrastructure project that includes the rehabilitation of the Saco Mar iron ore export terminal and the expansion of the Sogester Namibe Container Terminal. The project, which is being implemented by Toyota Tsusho Corp. and Toa Corp., will, among other things, accelerate the economic revitalization of the southern region, as well as contribute to the economic diversification process of Angola.

To conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt grati-

tude to the local authorities and people of Tamana, Kumamoto Prefecture, for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to the Angola women's national handball team during its pre-Olympic training camp. I also would like to congratulate the government and people of Japan for their remarkable achievement in successfully hosting the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games despite the many challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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



Angola President Joao Lourenco

Strong relations continue growth

YOSHITAKA SAKURADA
CHAIRPERSON, JAPAN-ANGOLA
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP
ASSOCIATION, MEMBER OF HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, FORMER OLYMPIC
MINISTER

It is a great honor to convey my deepest congratulations to the Republic of Angola on the occasion of its 46th anniversary of independence. I am confident that the excellent relations and friendship between Japan and the Republic of Angola will get stronger and deepen further in the years to come.

Friendship thrives in many areas

ICHIRO KASHITANI
HONORARY CONSUL OF THE REPUBLIC
OF ANGOLA IN NAGOYA, PRESIDENT &
CEO, TOYOTA TSUSHO CORP.

On the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Angola, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the country's government and its people. I

would also like to express my sincere wishes for the further development and bright future of such a beautiful and rich country. This year also marks the 45th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the Republic of Angola and Japan. I trust that the everlasting relationship between our two countries will further deepen through cultural, business, educational and many other exchanges.

Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Angola
on the Occasion of
Their Independence Day



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