

Mauritania National Day Special

Inclusion and investment for growth

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AMBASSADOR OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC
OF MAURITANIA



Please allow me to express my highest gratitude and sincere appreciation to The Japan Times for giving me the opportunity, on the 61st anniversary of Mauritania National Day, to talk about the

state of bilateral cooperation between Mauritania and Japan and highlight the progress achieved by my country since the elections of 2019.

On this special occasion, I would like to extend my wishes for continued good health and success to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, and all members of the imperial family.

I also express to the government and people of Japan the friendship and profound gratitude of the government and people of Mauritania for their generous and constant support.

Diplomatic ties between Mauritania and Japan are very strong. On the world stage, we share common values and stand shoulder to shoulder on the issues of peace and stability, a world free of weapons of mass destruction and combating nuclear proliferation. We also mutually support each other for international candidatures at the United Nations.

Mauritania is on a path to diversifying its economy and working steadily to attract more investment. The country has rolled out the welcome mat to direct foreign investment. It has been constantly improving the

business environment by enacting new business-friendly rules and procedures, such as investment guides, one-stop shopping, the elimination of double taxation, facilitation of land acquisitions and asset transfers, and more.

It is important to underscore that the country is young and has huge untapped potential in tourism, infrastructure, agriculture, livestock, mining and other areas. Mauritania sits on massive natural resource deposits. It is also home to some of the world's richest and most productive fishing. The country's goal is to develop, with the help of investors, a line of production to improve the chain of transformation and storage for more national added value and export.

Having joined the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI), an organization that aims to improve the sustainability of fisheries, our country has set goals for better management and competitiveness.

The national office for sanitary inspection of fisheries and aquaculture is ISO-certified and plays a vital role in meeting global standards and FiTI requirements, reassuring investors, both foreign and national.

We cannot talk about Mauritania's future without mentioning the prospects for development and a brighter future with the 2015 discovery of a huge offshore gas deposit between Mauritania and Senegal by America's Kosmos Energy. The deposit is estimated at between 25 and 50 trillion square feet and up to 90 kilometers long. It is thought to be, at the time of this discovery, among the most important since the Mozambican and Egyptian deposits.

In 2019, Kosmos Energy made another major offshore gas discovery in Mauritania, in the Bir Allah area.



President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani
EMBASSY OF THE ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

The company believes that the find was the largest deep-water hydrocarbon discovery in the world that year. It is estimated that the deposit holds the equivalent of around 1.3 billion barrels of oil. According to Palzor Shenga, a senior analyst on Rystad Energy's upstream team, "This type of significant discovery, along with the project lineup, could help establish Mauritania as a major player and exporter in the industry."

On the political and social level, thanks to President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani, the country is enjoying tranquility and more inclusiveness. He is credited with having eased the tension between the government and the opposition parties, which were staring each other down, by first banning the international arrest mandate hanging over the heads of some of the former regime's sworn enemies and allowing them to return to the country.

Recently, there have been efforts to organize dialogues among the government,



opposition parties and society to debate issues related to national unity, inclusiveness, political and social reforms, and other topics of national interest.

Moreover, since the elections of 2019, there has been a wave of accountability reforms enacted by the government.

To show its goodwill, the executive did not meddle with a parliamentary investigation regarding high-profile figures close to the regime. This move is unprecedented in Mauritanian history.

On the social level, the government is carrying out the ambitious program of the president, which is to fight against social inequalities. It is implementing the commitment of the president to reduce poverty and assist the most vulnerable segments of the population by creating an agency promoting solitary and project-building, which is without doubt having a positive effect on the livelihoods of these groups.

To conclude, please allow me to say that Mauritania is deeply committed to enhancing its bilateral cooperation with Japan through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process, the Arab-Japan Forum and through private direct investment. Without doubt, Mauritania can count on Japan's unwavering friendship and continued support.

Nouadhibou Port serves fishing vessels, as well as cargo and container ships.

EMBASSY OF THE
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MAURITANIA

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 Anniversary of Their Independence



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