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# Haiti National Day Special

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## A strong partnership in a variety of areas

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AMBASSADOR OF HAITI



Jan. 1 marks the 218th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Haiti. On this day in 1804, Haiti became the first independent nation in Latin America and the first postcolonial

independent black-led nation in the world. The Haitian Revolution is significant because Haiti is the only country where slave freedom was taken by force, and marks the only successful slave revolt in modern times.

As the ambassador of Haiti in Japan, I would like to highlight the fact that Japan should stay a key partner for us in areas such as economic cooperation, private-sector development and disaster pre-

paredness. My experiences have given me a broad understanding of the diplomatic ties that exist between Haiti and Japan. I have come to fully understand the strategic points of Haiti's bilateral cooperation with Japan, mainly in areas such as education, risk-and-disaster management and agriculture.

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the government and people of Japan for their generous support to Haiti. The Haitian government is aware that Japan has committed to support partner countries in the fight against COVID-19 by, for example, providing financial support for the acquisition of medical equipment. We recognize that only a shared spirit of global solidarity and responsibility will help mitigate the impact of this pandemic on our daily lives. Indeed, to date Haiti has a lower coronavirus death count than many other countries and has only been mildly affected compared with others in its region. But it's still good to reinforce vigi-

lance and protective measures since infections can trend upward at any time.

The government of Haiti is taking different measures to ensure the well-being of the Haitian people. Furthermore, the Haitian authorities also need the support of the international community in their efforts to maintain security, combat impunity and defend human rights in Haiti, as well as to assist in the preparation of free, fair and transparent elections. This is necessary because democracy and economic investment are indispensable conditions for the stability, peace and development of Haiti.

As a citizen, I am very proud of how our nation was established, and I believe we must develop Haiti into an even better country that corresponds to this history.

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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.*