

Ghana Independence Day Special

Stronger relations bolster stability and commerce

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ACTING HEAD OF MISSION, EMBASSY OF GHANA



On the special occasion of the 65th Independence Anniversary of Ghana, which fell on March 6, I wish to, on behalf of the government and people of Ghana, convey warm greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, all members of the imperial family, H.E. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and the government and people of Japan for the sincere cordial relations that Ghana and Japan continue to enjoy.

On this happy Independence Day anniversary, I wish to convey special congratulations to all Ghanaians in Japan and friends of Ghana. As we consolidate our gains in 2022, let us stand together and remain united in our quest to develop our dear country.

I also wish to take the opportunity to congratulate the people of Japan for suc-

cessfully hosting the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 65th independence anniversary of Ghana was celebrated under the theme of "Working Together, Bouncing Back Better."

Like many countries, Ghana has experienced the negative impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. What started as a health crisis rapidly degenerated into a developmental and economic crisis, resulting in the reversal of major economic gains recorded prior to the pandemic.

However, the government of President Nana Akufo-Addo acted swiftly and decisively to preserve lives and protect livelihoods by introducing far-reaching intervention programs, such as the Ghana COVID-19 Alleviation and Revitalization of Enterprises and Support, as a direct response to the pandemic.

Two years into the pandemic, Ghana has been recognized as one of the countries that have effectively managed COVID-19. Working with strategic partner countries such as Japan, Ghana collaborated on a wide range of issues at the bilateral and multilateral levels, as well as engaging businesses and social organizations to

restore trust and hope in the fight against the pandemic. In this regard, I wish to applaud the government of Japan for making significant donations of AstraZeneca vaccines to developing countries, including Ghana. This timely act of generosity and leadership from the government of Japan is highly commendable, and a sure way of boosting the capacities of developing countries toward the common objective of achieving herd immunity through vaccination to curb the spread of COVID-19 worldwide.

Aside from COVID-19 regulatory policy measures, Ghana has remained a beacon of peace and democracy within the Economic Community of West Africa States at a time when the world is witnessing a continuous decline in peace and security. This reflected positively on the country's growth, and is in many instances cited as a factor in driving its expansion. Over the same period, Ghana attracted significant foreign direct investment in the technology and automotive sectors. A survey conducted by the Japan External Trade Organization put Ghana in its list of Top 10 Future Investment Destinations. I am pleased to recognize that Japanese companies voted Ghana as the fifth future investment destination because of her stable politics, economy and legislative system, relatively good security, expanding market size and future growth potential, increased middle class and status as one of the best aviation hubs in West Africa, as



The Independence Arch in the Independence Square of Accra, is inscribed with the words "Freedom and Justice, AD 1957" and commemorates the independence of Ghana, a first for sub-Saharan Africa.

GETTY IMAGES



Left: President Nana Akufo-Addo (center) attends the launch of the Toyota-Tsusho Vehicle Assembly Plant in Accra on June 29. Right: President Nana Akufo-Addo (center) poses with Minister of Trade and Industry Alan Kyeremanten (second from right) at the opening of the JETRO office in Accra on Nov. 5.

EMBASSY OF GHANA



well as its progressive automotive policy, among others.

In our quest to build a resilient, self-reliant and inclusive economy through public-private cooperation, the government has over the years strengthened bilateral relations between Ghana and Japan, which culminated in the commissioning of the Toyota Tsusho Vehicle Assembly Plant in Accra on June 29, with the first "Made in Ghana" Toyota vehicle. The successful commissioning of the plant, coupled with the opening of the JETRO office in Accra on Nov. 5, is expected to facilitate more trade and investment and also boost private-sector participation between our countries.

The special relations between Ghana

and Japan, nurtured by Dr. Hideyo Noguchi when he visited the then-Gold Coast (of modern-day Ghana) in 1927 to embark on his research into yellow fever, continue to blossom even in these challenging times and have proven to be resilient, something for which Ghana is eternally grateful to the government and people of Japan, and to all partners for their continuous collaboration and support. Special thanks to the friendly people of Inawashiro, Fukushima Prefecture, for hosting the Ghanaian Olympic and Paralympic teams during the 2020 Games. The excellent and warm traditional Japanese hospitality extended to the Ghanaian teams during their stay in Japan will forever be remembered.

While remaining optimistic about the continued support of the government of Japan in the area of universal health coverage, agriculture and key infrastructure projects, the people of Ghana are hopeful that relations between our countries will continue to grow stronger in the years ahead.

To our loyal sponsors and The Japan Times, I thank you for your continued support. Let us all work together to rebuild our economies.

Long live Ghana-Japan relations!

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

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to the People of
the Republic of Ghana
on the Anniversary of
Their Independence



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We will continue our endeavors to contribute to the sustainable development of the Republic of Ghana to further strengthen cooperation between Ghana and Japan!



Congratulations to the Republic of Ghana

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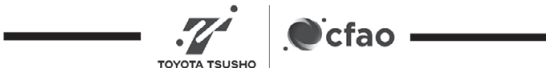
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Republic of Ghana



Population: 32,103,000

Capital: Accra

President: Nana Akufo-Addo

Official language: English

Size: 239,567 km²

Currency: Cedi

Main exports: Gold, cocoa products, petroleum, oil, timber products, diamonds and other minerals



JETRO chairman Nobuhiko Sasaki (left) and President Nana Akufo-Addo cut the ribbon to open the new JETRO office in Accra with the Minister of Trade and Industry Alan Kyeremanten, and former ambassador Tsutomu Himeno (right) on Nov. 5. EMBASSY OF GHANA



Bungalows line the beach in Keta. GETTY IMAGES



Fishing boats wait while fishermen sell the catch of the day on the market in Accra. GETTY IMAGES



Boti Falls is a 30-meter waterfall within the Boti Forest Reserve in Ghana's Eastern Region. GETTY IMAGES



Ecobank HQ in downtown Accra GETTY IMAGES

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