

# Madagascar National Day Special

## Cooperation builds base for future relations

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CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR



2022 signifies the momentum of the diplomatic relations between Madagascar and Japan. On June 26, Madagascar celebrated the 62nd anniversary of its independence while concurrently, Mada-

gascar and Japan have reached the landmark of 60 years of friendly relations.

On this double anniversary, I wish to honor six decades of cordial relations and recollect with pride the successes and challenges of our common future.

In the 1960s, Japan started early diplomatic relations with then newly independent Madagascar. The first Japanese Ambassador to Madagascar Kazuhiko Furusawa presented his credentials in 1962. In 1964, following the official visit of then-President Tsiranana Philibert, the first Malagasy Ambassador to Japan Louis Rakotomalala presented his credentials on Sept. 18.

Today, our relations are bound by a solid partnership based on mutual respect and solidarity. Through more than 60 years of cooperation, relations between our countries have flourished in a large number of domains, and involved a diverse range of partners including local governments, businesses, civil society and academia.

Together, we have been creating value and complementary benefits, while meet-

ing economic and social goals. Our major success stories include investments and international cooperation projects along the likes of the Ambatovy Project, a Sumitomo Corp. joint venture that is the first mining industrial zone of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa, accounting for a quarter of Japan's total nickel and cobalt production. Another important project is the upgrading of Port Toamasina to a significant regional facility in the southwestern Indian Ocean. With a planned capacity of 1 million containers a day by 2026, the project will incorporate €300 million (¥42.6 billion) in grant aid via the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

On the eve of the eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, Madagascar wishes to highlight the rel-

evance of the conference to deliver for Agenda 2030, and its substantial contribution to economic and social prosperity, human security and peace.

In this regard, I concur with the timely message of Shinichi Kitaoka, special adviser to the president of JICA, for the deepening of our partnership, with the perspective of strengthening our people-to-people ties and revitalizing our parliamentary friendship.

For more than 60 years, Madagascar and Japan have enjoyed peaceful relations. Building on our mutual affinity, we continue to foster deeper mutual understanding to shape our geopolitical interests as island nations within the Indo-Pacific region.

Further, our cultural similarities have been the stepping stones to stronger people-to-people ties, with Madagascar ranked third in

the number of Japanese speakers in Africa.

We have before us opportunities for further cultural and professional exchanges as restrictions are relaxed further in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. With Madagascar's participation in the 2025 World Expo in Osaka our ties should expand with the Kansai region in particular and Japan in general.

As we face common global challenges related to climate change, food security and health crises, cooperation appeals to our solidarity. Both countries can greatly contribute to one another.

While we celebrate this double anniversary, we hope this occasion will further strengthen the amicable relationship between our peoples and governments to meet the aspirations of future generations.



Signature Ceremony of two projects on Water and Sanitation between Chief Representative of JICA Office to Madagascar, Kaori Tanaka (left) and Minister of Economy and Finance Rabarinirinarison Rindra Hasimbelo (right) on June 15.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR

*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 Republic of Madagascar on the Anniversary of Their Independence



The Port of Ehoala constructed by Daiho Corporation



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Randrianjafy Tsilavo Maherizo, charge d'affaires a.i. of the Madagascar Embassy in Japan, poses with Akiko Santo, Speaker of Japan's House of Councilors, in September 2021.

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SPEAKER OF THE  
HOUSE OF  
COUNCILORS