

Rwanda National Day Special

Strong socioeconomic progress marks 60 years of bilateral ties

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AMBASSADOR OF RWANDA



Rwanda is celebrating 28 years of liberation that led to the stopping of the horrendous 1994 genocide against the Tutsi and marked the beginning of the process of rebuilding and transformation.

This year also commemorates 60 years of Rwandan independence, which coincides with the celebration of 60 years of bilateral relations between Rwanda and Japan. It is therefore a milestone year for Rwanda and our partnership with Japan.

In the 28 years since liberation, Rwanda has made strong social, economic and governance progress. Like the proverbial phoenix, Rwanda has risen from its ashes, and a country that was a failed state over two decades ago has become a model for successful post-conflict nation-building.

Rwanda has invested heavily in its population to improve its health, skills, wealth and productivity. Primary school enrollment has expanded to cover 96% of children of school age. Our free education system covers the cycle for the first nine years of basic education. Literacy

rates have subsequently grown to over 70% of the population. About 95% of the Rwandan people are covered by the community health insurance scheme, guaranteeing access to health care by the majority of population. This has led to a drastic decline in infant, child and maternal mortality, with a significant rise in life expectancy for the general population.

Visionary leadership has been critical in steering Rwanda from a tragic past to a stable and prospering country. President Paul Kagame has provided the inspiration, leadership and vision that have drastically

transformed the country.

This year, Rwanda and Japan celebrate 60 years of bilateral relations. Over that time, our countries have built an unbreakable bond of friendship. Since bilateral relations were established in July 1962, when Rwanda gained independence and became a member of the United Nations, our two countries have had a convergence of interests exemplified by a long history of strong bilateral cooperation, a mutual belief in multilateralism and demonstrated collaboration on key multilateral issues, including climate change, green

growth, global peace and security, the U.N. sustainable development goals and most recently, global action on the coronavirus pandemic and equitable access to vaccines.

Ties between Rwanda and Japan grew even stronger in the immediate aftermath of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. This started when Japan sent a humanitarian assistance mission to Rwanda in 1994, and was firmly cemented in January 2005 when Japan and Rwanda concluded an agreement on technical cooperation, which remains in effect today. The agree-

ment paved the way for the Japan International Cooperation Agency to open an office in Kigali in 2006 and for the Japanese government to open an embassy in the city in 2010. Since then, our relationship has grown to even greater heights.

Our two countries have worked very closely in the global fight against the coronavirus pandemic, especially when it comes to ensuring equitable access to vaccines. Japan is a key contributor to COVAX, a facility that was set up to do just that.

This is a friendship that will flourish for many years to come.



This year marks the 60th anniversary of bilateral relations between Rwanda and Japan. EMBASSY OF RWANDA

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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with the People of
the Republic of Rwanda.
We wish them well on
their Independence
and Liberation Day Anniversaries.



Graduate School of Information Technology

KIC is fully supporting the return of TICAD to Japan in 2025

and believes it is opportune to suggest that
TICAD 9 be invited to Kobe.

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on the Anniversaries of
Their Independence and
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