

# Turkmenistan Independence Day Special

## Strong performance seen in various sectors

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AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE OF  
TURKMENISTAN

On Sept. 27 we celebrate the 31st anniversary of the independence of Turkmenistan. This year, proclaimed as the year of "The Era of the People with Arkadag," has added new glorious pages to the historical record of independent neutral Turkmenistan.

Being an open and fast-growing country, Turkmenistan is actively developing its multifaceted cooperation in the global arena. Under the wise leadership of Arkadag, as former President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov is known, and President Serdar Berdimuhamedov, our independent state is building and strengthening partnerships with other countries and international organizations. Since obtaining its independence in 1991, Turkmenistan has been bolstering its relations with all countries in the political, economic, educational, scientific and cultural fields, as well as other areas.

These relations are solely based on the principle of our permanent neutrality status, which was unanimously approved through a U.N. resolution on Dec. 12, 1995. It may also be noted, that in June 2015, a new U.N. resolution confirming the status of neutral-

ity was adopted, thus cementing the unshakable character of our neutrality, which is engraved in Turkmenistan's constitution.

Complete independence and positive neutrality constitute the two main pillars of our policy. Time has proven that these principles provide excellent opportunities for Turkmenistan to flourish. Outstanding achievements have been made in the political, economic, social and other sectors since independence.

Our neutral status has also allowed us to put forward new global initiatives to create universal mechanisms for the solution of global geopolitical issues. The unanimous support of the initiatives of our country to address the most important issues of our time by international structures testifies to the growing authority of both the Turkmen state and the president in the world.

Another strategic direction of the foreign policy of Turkmenistan is to establish productive relations with Asia-Pacific countries. The Asia-Pacific region today acts as one of the most powerful areas of global development and progress. Therefore, Japan, which is the only G7 country in the region, is one of Turkmenistan's most important partners.

Taking this opportunity to look back over the diplomatic history of Turkmenistan, I



**Chairman of the National Assembly People's Council H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov**  
EMBASSY OF TURKMENISTAN

would like to introduce the history of how our countries developed friendly ties.

An important impetus for the development of bilateral relations was the opening of the Japanese Embassy in Ashgabat in January 2005 and the Turkmenistan Embassy in Tokyo in May 2013.

A powerful wave of bilateral cooperation has nurtured high-level relations. In December 2009, September 2013 and October 2019, the president paid special visits to Japan, during which he held talks with the country's leadership and business groups on expanding bilateral cooperation.

The visit of then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Turkmenistan in October 2015



**President Serdar Berdimuhamedov**  
EMBASSY OF TURKMENISTAN

became an important event in the history of interstate relations when 37 bilateral agreements were signed between the countries, including the construction of modern gas processing and chemical complexes worth more than \$18 billion, and other projects.

The current president led a prominent Turkmen delegation to attend the opening ceremony of the 2020 Summer Olympics in Japan in July last year. It was during this visit that he met with His Majesty Emperor Naruhito.

During a telephone conversation on April 13 between Berdimuhamedov and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, the parties defined the new content of a friendly, confidential Turkmen-Japanese dialogue.



The Abadanchylyk monument in Ashgabat is built from Turkmenistan's abundant white marble and symbolizes prosperity.  
EMBASSY OF  
TURKMENISTAN

Today Turkmen-Japanese cooperation is successfully developing in different fields. The parliamentary friendship groups of both countries are actively communicating with each other, and exchanges between members of both parliaments are expanding.

Our country's enterprises work in cooperation with dozens of major Japanese corporations implementing large regional projects, especially in the oil and gas field.

Furthermore, bilateral cooperation is strengthening in the field of education. I am glad that the number of people studying the Japanese language is rapidly increasing in Turkmenistan. Starting from the 2016-2017 academic year, schools in our country have a program for learning Japanese as a second foreign language. In the 140th school of our capital, Japanese is studied in depth.

April 22 marked 30 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between

Turkmenistan and Japan. The government of Turkmenistan intends to make efforts to further deepen cooperation between our countries in many areas, such as politics, economics and culture.

We are confident that the potential of created interaction mechanisms is great, and planned activities in this direction will contribute to the friendly and fraternal relations between Turkmenistan and Japan.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the readers of The Japan Times on the 31st anniversary of the independence of Turkmenistan. I would also like to express my strong confidence that multifaceted and mutually beneficial Turkmen-Japanese cooperation will continue to flourish.

*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  
Turkmenistan  
on the Occasion of  
the Anniversary of  
Their Independence



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