

Kazakhstan National Day Special

Aiming for strong ties and a 'New Kazakhstan'

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AMBASSADOR OF KAZAKHSTAN



Starting this year, Kazakhstan will celebrate its Republic Day on Oct. 25. Thirty-two years ago, the State Sovereignty Declaration of Kazakhstan was adopted. The rescheduling of

Republic Day symbolizes recognition of the country's origins and continuity by the generation of "New Kazakhstan." Independence Day, which will continue to be celebrated on Dec. 16, will be observed as a day of remembrance for national heroes who contributed to achieving our independence.

Under the New Kazakhstan concept, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev announced structural reforms aimed at modernizing public consciousness, the public administration and political systems, economic liberalization, demopolization and improvement of the investment climate.

Amendments to the Kazakhstan Constitution to ensure transition to the new state model and a new format for interaction between the state and society indicate a complete reset. These changes form a foundation for New Kazakhstan. By changing the main law, Kazakhstan transitioned from a superpresidential form of public administration to a presidential

republic with an influential parliament and an accountable executive branch.

In addition, as a result of a number of amendments adopted by the parliament, Kazakhstan has moved to a new democratic political model where the president is elected for one term without the right of re-election. The presidential election scheduled for Nov. 20 will be held in accordance with the new constitutional norms.

Kazakhstan highly values and cherishes friendly relations with Japan, as we have much in common. There is the similarity of our cultures, stances on international issues and an expanded strategic partnership based on mutual respect and trust.

Over the 30 years of diplomatic relations, we have established beneficial multifaceted cooperation and expanded our strategic partnership with Japan. We are close allies in the field of nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation, as well as the peaceful use of atomic energy.

For the past several years, our annual mutual trade turnover has exceeded the billion dollar mark, and the total in the first seven months of this year has already exceeded \$1 billion.

Japan is one of Kazakhstan's 10 top foreign investors, contributing more than \$7.8 billion since 1993. According to the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in the 2019-2021 period, foreign direct investment from Japan exceeded \$1 billion.

Today, 60 Japanese companies are registered in Kazakhstan in such areas as trade, transport, information technology, com-

munications, health care and real estate.

This year, cooperation between our foreign ministries has intensified. In April, Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi visited Kazakhstan, and in September, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Mukhtar Tleuberdi attended the state funeral of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. During a bilateral meeting, the ministers agreed to hold the ninth ministerial meeting of the Central Asia + Japan Dialogue in December and the eighth meeting of the Joint Commission of the Government and Private Sectors of Kazakhstan and Japan on Economic Cooperation in February in Tokyo.

Our multilateral cooperation within various international organizations is also actively developing. Japan and Kazakhstan regularly co-sponsor many U.N. resolutions and mutually support initiatives aimed at establishing peace, prosperity and stability.

Kazakhstan aims to deepen multidimensional cooperation, including trade, investment and technological partnerships with Japan. Given the risk of a global economic slowdown and supply chain disruptions amid sanctions and increased geopolitical tensions, we welcome the decision of a number of large Japanese companies to relocate their offices and manufacturing facilities to Kazakhstan and are ready to support them.

We expect the volume of cargo transportation through Kazakhstan will increase significantly in the coming years. As an international transit hub, Kazakh-

stan intends to promote sustainable global supply chains.

Kazakhstan aims to persistently follow the path of building an economically strong, socially secure, democratic and rule-of-law state, cultivating progressive values that strengthen our solidarity and unity.

In conclusion, I would like to note that the comprehensive development of relations with Japan is one of the most important priorities of Kazakhstan, and I will make every effort to further strengthen them.

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



President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev (center) poses with volunteers attending a forum in Kostanay in May 2019. AKORDA



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