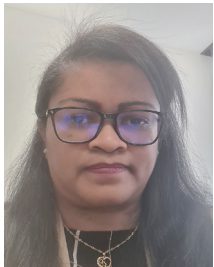


# Madagascar National Day Special

## Land of unlimited potential, opportunities

**HARISOA VERONIQUE TOTOZAFY**  
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.  
OF MADAGASCAR



On June 26, Malagasy people celebrate the 64th anniversary of Madagascar's independence. To all Malagasy fellows living in Japan, happy national day.

Amid this challenging time, the celebration of the 64th Independence Day is a great opportunity to reflect in a positive way our strength and values to move forward and pave the way for the resilient and sustained development of our beloved country: *Madagasikara mandroso, Malagasy miaramiantana amin'ny fitiavan-tanindrazana.* (Madagascar is making progress, Malagasy

people are working together with a sense of national pride). I would like to express my gratitude to our partners for their continued support and I am happy to extend my warmest greetings to readers of The Japan Times.

The bilateral ties between Madagascar and Japan continue to grow since their establishment more than 60 years ago, shortly after Madagascar gained independence in 1960. Since then, our countries have maintained friendly and cooperative ties, marked by high-level exchanges such as the recent visit of H.E. Yoko Kamikawa, minister of foreign affairs of Japan, to Madagascar from April 27 to 28.

The relationship between Madagascar and Japan is a testament to the power of cooperation and friendship between nations, transcending geographical distances and cultural differences. As the two countries continue to build this relationship

upon their common interests, they have the opportunity to create a brighter future for their peoples and contribute to peace, prosperity and stability in the region and beyond. As Madagascar and Japan look to the future, there are opportunities to further deepen their partnership and collaboration across various sectors, such as maritime connectivity under the free and open Indo-Pacific framework.

Due to its location, Madagascar is a valuable partner for Japan's connectivity initiative. Nestled in the Indian Ocean, off the southeastern coast of Africa, lies Madagascar, a "treasure island" due to its unparalleled biodiversity and unique ecosystems. Spanning approximately 587,000 square kilometers, Madagascar is the fourth-largest island in the world, boasting a rich tapestry of landscapes, flora and fauna found nowhere else on Earth.

Its unique blend of landscapes, flora and

fauna has captivated explorers, scientists and nature enthusiasts for centuries. As we strive to protect this ecological treasure, we must recognize the importance of preserving both Madagascar's natural heritage and its rich cultural offerings. Only through collaborative efforts and sustainable practices can we ensure that Madagascar remains an island of diversity for generations to come.

Madagascar is not just a biodiversity hot spot, but a land of untapped potential and opportunities. In addition to natural assets ranging from rich subsoils, arable land and unique fauna and flora, its competitive labor costs and highly skilled workforce make the country an ideal investment for the manufacturing industry. The concept "One District, One Factory" conveys our aim of introducing industries in different regions in Madagascar. The objective of this program is primarily to generate employment and add value to raw resources. An attractive tax and

customs regime for export-processing companies (0% income tax for five years and 0% customs tax and value-added tax for imports of equipment and construction materials) have been set for potential investors.

Furthermore, investing in human capital through education and skills-development programs will empower the Malagasy people to participate in the country's development. By fostering innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainable practices, Madagascar can harness its natural and human resources to create a brighter future for its citizens.



Vanilla is a major crop for the Sava region's Antalaha district.  
EMBASSY OF  
MADAGASCAR

As Madagascar emerges as a beacon of opportunity, investment in key sectors such as infrastructure, energy, agriculture and education is essential for unlocking its full potential. Improving transportation networks including expressways, modernizing ports and enhancing energy infrastructure will facilitate economic growth and attract foreign investment.

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



Mangoro Bridge, completed in January 2024



### Congratulations

To the people of  
the Republic of Madagascar  
on the Anniversary of  
Their Independence



#1 **vanille** in sweets:  
MIKOYA KOSHO CO. LTD.

### Congratulations

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the Republic of Madagascar  
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