

Cote d'Ivoire Independence Day Special

Strongly pursuing structural, sectoral reform

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AMBASSADOR OF COTE D'IVOIRE



On the occasion of the celebration of the National Day of Cote d'Ivoire on Aug. 7, I would like, on behalf of the President of the Republic His Excellency Alassane Ouattara, the people and the government,

as well as on my own behalf, to extend my respectful greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako. I would also like to express to the imperial family my fervent wishes for their health and happiness.

I also wish to convey my warmest greetings to His Excellency Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, the government and the friendly people of Japan.

This commemoration takes place in a context of sustained peace, political stability and economic growth in Cote d'Ivoire, which offers greater investment opportunities for all our partners, including Japan, a friendly country whose relations with Cote d'Ivoire are long-standing and excellent.

In terms of internal policy, Cote d'Ivoire is continuing its development in many areas,

despite the difficult international and sub-regional situation. These achievements are the result of the president's strong commitment to democracy and good governance, as well as the support of the Ivorian population for government policies.

As a result of the political and social dialogues promoted since 2011, institutional normalization is now effective, with peace, social cohesion, living together and solidarity, which have helped to implement viable and successful socioeconomic policies.

On the diplomatic level, Cote d'Ivoire remains faithful to its policy of openness and tolerance, i.e., to be "the friend of all and the enemy of none." In this regard, Cote d'Ivoire enjoys a long-standing friendship and fruitful cooperative relations with Japan, as 2025 will mark the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries.

This excellent relationship is being further reinforced, as illustrated by the recent visit to Cote d'Ivoire by Japan's Foreign Affairs Minister Yoko Kamikawa, who focused on strengthening economic cooperation during the occasion.

The dynamism of the cooperation is also reflected in the entry into force on March 26, 2021, of the Agreement on the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments between Japan and Cote d'Ivoire, as well as in the renewed interest expressed by the Japanese public and private sectors in our country.

In February, several Japanese delegations visited Cote d'Ivoire, including the vice minister of finance, a business mission of 26 Japanese company directors led by the executive vice president of the Japan External Trade Organization, a delegation from the Finance Ministry and a delegation from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

To consolidate this positive momentum, Japan is supporting the Ivorian government's efforts to ensure a more favorable investment environment. Therefore, Cote d'Ivoire is creating incentives for the private sector and Japanese investments within the Ivorian economy, one of the most efficient in Africa.

The Ivorian authorities, under the leadership of the president, are firmly pursuing structural and sectoral reforms to improve governance, sound management of public



Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa meets with President Alasane Ouattara during her visit to Cote d'Ivoire on April 29.
FOREIGN MINISTRY

finances and the fight against corruption.

Moreover, we very much welcome the decision of Japan to organize the Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum in Cote d'Ivoire in December and the second Conference on Quality Infrastructure in January 2025. Indeed, the holding of these two major economic events is a tangible demonstration of the importance of Japanese private-sector investment for the inclusive and sustainable economic growth and



The Gyneco-Obstetric and Pediatric Unit of the Cocody University Hospital was built with a donation from the Japanese government.

EMBASSY OF COTE D'IVOIRE

development of Africa in general, but also of the interest in Cote d'Ivoire as a business destination in particular.

In this perspective and in line with the Tunis Declaration, Cote d'Ivoire is honored to take an active role in the activities of the ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, namely the ministerial meeting on Aug. 24 and 25 the summit in August 2025.

Cote d'Ivoire will also attend the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, for which the participation contract was signed on June 25, on the sidelines of the fourth International Planning Meeting of the Expo 2025 Organization, held from June 24 to 28 in Nara.

I sincerely hope that the continuation of exchanges at various levels and the TICAD process will enable Cote d'Ivoire and Japan

to strengthen relations between our public and private sectors and raise our ties of friendship and cooperation to the highest level.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my thanks to the Japanese companies and associations that kindly supported the publication of this article in The Japan Times: Marubeni Corp, Sakai Heavy Industries Ltd., NS Semicon Co., Toyota Tsusho Corp. and the Japan-Cote d'Ivoire Friendship Association.

Long live Japan, long live Cote d'Ivoire and long live Ivorian-Japanese friendship and cooperation.

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 Cote d'Ivoire
on the Anniversary of Their Independence*

Japan Cote d'Ivoire Friendship Association (JCIFA)

<https://jcifa.org/>

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On Cote d'Ivoire's Independence Day*



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Worlds must be connected.*

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