

# Uzbekistan Independence Day Special

## Bilateral business ties growing stronger

**MUKHSINKHUJA ABDURAKHMONOV**  
AMBASSADOR OF UZBEKISTAN



On Aug. 31, 1991, Uzbekistan achieved its national independence amid a challenging and complex historical context. Today, our multiethnic nation is united by the vision of building a New

Uzbekistan, driving us toward new achievements and goals.

This year marks the 33rd anniversary of Uzbekistan's independence, celebrated under the slogan "United we stand — one nation, one Motherland!" Thanks to our independence, Uzbekistan has emerged as a sovereign, democratic, legal, social and secular state, recognized as a full-fledged member of the international community. Our global relations are growing stronger, and our country's position and prestige on the international stage are steadily increasing.

In recent years, under President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's leadership, Uzbekistan has undertaken significant democratic reforms. These changes underscore the great honor and responsibility of being an independent nation, striving for modern development while maintaining an open and global outlook.

Our fundamental domestic and foreign policy changes, aimed at safeguarding the national interests of our people, are gaining international recognition and support. For instance, the International Monetary Fund reported that Uzbekistan's economy is

actively growing. In fiscal 2023, the country's gross domestic product reached \$90.9 billion, with a growth rate consistently above 5% per year. Uzbekistan also topped the Safety Perception Index 2023, ranking first among 121 countries as the safest, enhancing its appeal to foreign tourists.

We take pride in our victories along the path of building a new society where human dignity is paramount. These achievements reflect the hard work, intelligence, and creative spirit of our resilient people, loyal to the ideals of independent development. We are immensely proud to be part of such a noble nation.

At the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, Uzbek athletes achieved a historic milestone by winning eight gold, two silver and three bronze medals, for a total of 13. This impressive performance secured 13th place for Uzbekistan in the global rankings and top spot among the Commonwealth of Independent States and Muslim and Turkic countries.

In October, Uzbekistan will hold another significant political event — elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis (parliament) and the Councils of People's Deputies. For the first time, these elections will use a mixed electoral system combining majoritarian and proportional representation. This move reflects Uzbekistan's commitment to embracing technological innovation and inclusiveness, paving the way for a more prosperous and democratic future.

New Uzbekistan is open to all countries and eager to build equal and friendly relations with every country.

Uzbekistan has historically enjoyed close cooperation with Japan, which was among

the first to recognize our independence on Dec. 28, 1991. Diplomatic relations began on Jan. 26, 1992, and Japan has significantly contributed to Uzbekistan's modernization efforts, including infrastructure and personnel training.

The visit of our head of state to Japan in December 2019 greatly enhanced business exchanges between our countries. Japanese companies have since implemented numerous projects in telecommunications, information technology, energy, chemicals, petrochemicals, health care and education.

Economic cooperation remains a priority in Uzbek-Japanese relations, with mutual trade turnover reaching about \$230 million in 2023. More than 70 joint enterprises are actively operating in Uzbekistan, boosting investment and trade.

A dialogue mechanism between our business communities has been established, including two Uzbek-Japanese business forums this year — one in Tashkent and one in Tokyo. This marks the first time such meetings have been held twice in a single year.

Since gaining independence, Uzbekistan has received over \$7 billion in technical assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation for socio-economic and infrastructure projects.

Regular political consultations between our foreign ministries have created an effective framework for discussing mutual relations. The most recent consultation took place in Tokyo on July 10, focusing on enhancing political dialogue, trade, investment and cultural cooperation.

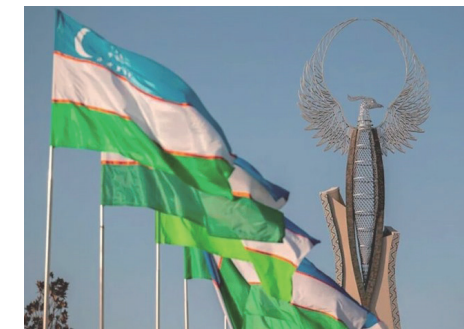
On July 11, Tokyo hosted the first Uzbeki-

stan-Japan Expert Dialogue: Strategic Partnership in New Conditions conference. This event, involving analysts from both countries, explored the role of our bilateral relations in Central Asia's sustainable development and future cooperation opportunities.

Additionally, cooperation between specific regions has been established, including Tashkent-Nagoya, Samarkand-Nara, and Rish-ton-Maizuru ties. Notably, a delegation from Gifu Prefecture visited Uzbekistan in July for discussions and contract signings, with a visit from Nara's governor anticipated this fall.

The deep historical and cultural ties between Uzbekistan and Japan, coupled with the current level of relations, are crucial for elevating our strategic partnership and strengthening our friendly connections.

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



**Top: The three madrasas that flank Registan Square in Samarkand are prime examples of Persian architecture. Top right: Uzbek flags fly in front of the Independence Monument in Tashkent.**

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to the People of  
the Republic of Uzbekistan  
on the Occasion of  
the Anniversary of  
Their Independence



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Seifun Kaikan, 15-6, Nihonbashi Kabuto-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0026  
Tel: 03-3669-5186 Fax: 03-3669-8875 E-mail: pmd.jp@omicnet.com

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