## **Burkina Faso** National Day Special

## Key reforms progress in vital sectors

**BIBATA NEBIE OUEDRAOGO** AMBASSADOR OF BURKINA FASO



Konichiwa (hello)! On Dec. 11, Burkina Faso commemorates the 64th anniversary of its accession to independence and national and international sovereignty. This date is therefore

a historic one for the Burkinabe people and its commemoration provides an opportunity to remember the sacrifice made by our predecessors to make Burkina Faso an independent and prosperous nation.

This reminder takes on particular significance in the current national context that sees Burkina Faso facing enormous challenges stemming from the security and humanitarian crisis caused by the terrorist attacks it has been a victim of since 2016. On this historic day, my thoughts are with the victims of these attacks. I express my solidarity and my encouragement to the Burkinabe who are courageously fighting on all fronts to recover the territorial integrity of Burkina Faso, for their survival and for their true independence.

Since coming to power, His Excellency President Ibrahim Traore has engaged the Burkinabe nation in a dynamic oriented toward the consolidation of national sovereignty and inclusive and sustainable development.

To this end, five major structuring initiatives have been launched under the leadership of the National Office of Major



Projects, a structure attached to the presidency of Faso, to drive major reforms in key sectors. These include food sovereignty and self-sufficiency; social and educational infrastructure; universal access to health care; and modern sports infrastructure. The results are visible, with 14,000 hectares sown to increase agricultural production and investments of 78 billion West African CFA francs (\$125 million) to acquire modern agricultural equipment. There has also been the introduction of innovative techniques in fish production, such as floating huts, the construction of community roads, the launch of an educational reform adapted to the strategic needs of Burkina Faso, and the establishment of mobile clinics to guarantee quality care for all, even in the most remote areas.

Under the leadership of the president, Burkina Faso is redefining its future by mobilizing all vital forces, including our valiant diaspora. In 2024, the mobilization of the people, following the call of the pres**President Ibrahim** Traore DIRECTOR-ATE OF COMMUNICA-TION AND PRESS RELATIONS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF FASO

ident, to take charge of its development and defend its interests was remarkable.

This is an opportunity for me to add my voice to that of the highest authorities of the country to salute the patriotic commitment of the Burkinabe living outside Burkina Faso in general, and in particular those living in Japan and in the countries within the jurisdiction of the Embassy of Burkina Faso in Japan. This mobilization is proof that the Burkinabe have become aware of their primary responsibility in the fight for the true independence of their country.

As in previous years, Burkina Faso's friendly allies have supported the country in its efforts to develop, build lasting peace and achieve genuine independence. The cooperation with Japan and other countries within our embassy's jurisdiction has had significant benefits, in terms of supporting irrigation and improving the incomes of small farmers, contributing to the construction of education infrastructure and skill-building, and financing proj-

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ects such as the Gounghin-Fada N'Gourma Road Improvement Project.

I take the opportunity of celebrating our country's independence to express, on behalf of the people and the government of Burkina Faso and on my own behalf, all our recognition and thanks to Burkina Faso's bilateral and multilateral partners in general, and to Japan in particular, for their friendship toward the Burkinabe people and their constant support. For our part, we will make the necessary efforts to strengthen cooperation between our country and Japan and with other countries within our embassy's jurisdiction.

To my compatriots living in Japan and in other countries within our embassy's jurisdiction, you are key players in the work of building a better future for our country. I therefore urge you to be more committed to a united, resilient and prosperous Burkina Faso.

Happy Independence Day to all! Long live Burkina Faso!

Long live national and international solidarity!

Long live cooperation between Burkina Faso, Japan and other countries under the

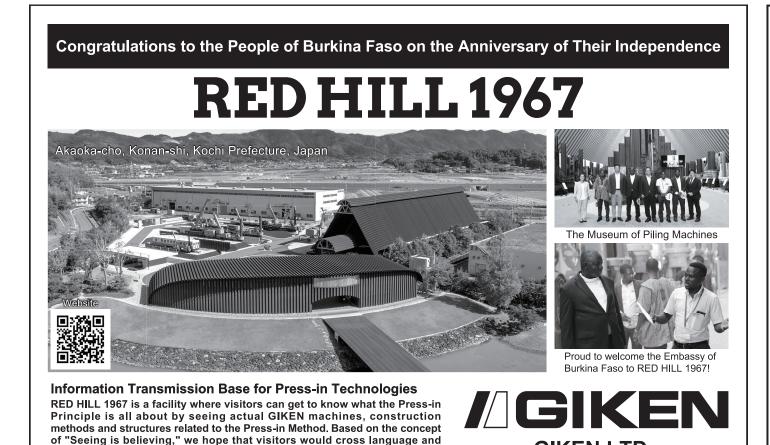
jurisdiction of our embassy! Arigatō gozaimasu (thank you).

Tiebele is a traditional architectural complex that was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in July. SITHO

newspaper.

The Royal Court of

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cultural barriers to learn about the Press-in experience and its advantages.

## Congratulations to the People of Burkina Faso on the Anniversary of Their Independence



Zama Inter is a Burkinabe-owned company that exports used bicycles from Japan to Burkina Faso, the largest market for used Japanese bicycles in Africa. Japanese products are sought after in Burkina Faso. Long live relations between Burkina Faso and Japan!

## Zama Inter Co., Ltd.

3-75-1 Mifuku, Tobishima-mura, Ama-gun, Aichi-ken 490-1432 TEL: 0567-97-3266 https://zamainter.com/



Artist Kaye Tintama is known for her contributions to the murals on the **Tiebele** painted houses. SITHO

