

Ghana Independence Day Special

Forging a brighter and more prosperous partnership

GENEVIEVE E. APALOO
AMBASSADOR OF GHANA



As Ghana celebrates its 68th independence anniversary, the occasion serves as a profound moment to reflect on the enduring relationship between Ghana and Japan.

This year is especially significant, as it follows a peaceful general election and a seamless transition of power, reinforcing Ghana's reputation as a pillar of democracy in Africa. This milestone is, therefore, an opportunity to commemorate the shared values and mutual respect that underpin the Ghana-Japan partnership.

The roots of Ghana-Japan relations

date back nearly a century, to the late 1920s, when Japanese bacteriologist Dr. Hideyo Noguchi conducted groundbreaking research on what was then known as the Gold Coast. These early interactions paved the way for the establishment of formal diplomatic relations when Ghana achieved independence on March 6, 1957. Over the decades, these ties have evolved into a robust partnership spanning cooperation on development, trade and investment and cultural exchanges.

Japan's overseas development assistance has played a pivotal role in Ghana's socioeconomic progress. Through initiatives spearheaded by the Embassy of Japan in Accra, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Japan Development Service, Ghana has benefited from significant assistance in agriculture, health, infrastructure and education.

Notably, Ghana is among three African

nations chosen for Japan's pilot program for universal health coverage, reflecting the trust in Ghana's developmental trajectory.

People-to-people connections have also flourished through programs such as the Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, which has been active in Ghana for almost 50 years. These efforts have fostered cultural understanding and capacity-building, further strengthening the bonds between the citizens of both nations.

Economic ties between Ghana and Japan have deepened in recent years.

In 2020, the Japan External Trade Organization established its ninth African office in Accra, underscoring Japan's commitment to economic collaboration. In 2023, a 30-member Japanese trade delegation explored Ghana's investment potential, emphasizing opportunities linked to

the African Continental Free Trade Area. Headquartered in Accra, AfCFTA positions Ghana as a gateway to a market of over 1.3 billion people, making it an attractive destination for Japanese businesses. Japan's auto industry has also seized the opportunity to establish assembly plants in Ghana.

Ghana and Japan's cooperation extends to multilateral engagements, particularly through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development framework. Both nations, as nonpermanent members of the United Nations Security Council in 2023, collaborated to address global challenges, from terrorism in West Africa to upholding international law. These shared priorities demonstrate a united vision for peace and prosperity.

In his inaugural speech, Ghana's newly elected President His Excellency John Mahama reaffirmed the nation's commitment to democracy, good governance and

inclusive development. Highlighting the peaceful transfer of power as a testament to Ghana's democratic maturity, the president emphasized collective action as the driving force for national progress.

On international relations, Mahama reiterated Ghana's dedication to promoting regional integration and contributing to global peace and security. He stressed the importance of collaboration with international partners to drive economic growth, strengthen trade relations and address pressing global challenges such as climate change, security threats and public health crises. "Ghana will continue to be a beacon of stability and a reliable partner in the international community," he declared.

On this 68th independence anniversary, the message is clear: Together, Ghana and Japan can forge a brighter and more prosperous future, building on a foundation



President John Mahama

of trust, innovation and shared purpose. From expanding trade opportunities under AfCFTA to enhancing people-to-people connections and addressing global challenges, the Ghana-Japan relationship stands as a beacon of mutual respect and shared aspirations.

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

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the Republic of Ghana
on the Anniversary of
Their Independence*

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