

Mauritania National Day Special

Building toward a new beginning

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AMBASSADOR OF MAURITANIA



Mauritania and Japan have consistently maintained excellent relations of friendship and cooperation over the long term.

Despite the vast distance separating them (approx-

mately 13,000 kilometers), our countries are very close, bound by shared principles and values, mutual interests and the convergence of their positions on the international stage.

Initially built around the fishing sector, particularly the octopus trade, our relations have diversified and deepened considerably. This positive momentum was further strengthened by the recent visit of President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani to Japan to participate in the ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Yokohama on Aug. 20. During the talks between Ghazouani and then-Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, our leaders outlined a new deal for our bilateral relations.

Mauritania occupies a pivotal space between several regions: the Arab Maghreb (North Africa), West Africa and the Sahel (the country was a founding member of the former G5 Sahel group of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger).

Belonging in these three worlds and endowed with a large and fertile Atlantic coastline, home to the most abundant fishing waters in the world, Mauritania provides its partners, Japan in particular,

with access to a wide range of economic opportunities.

Mauritania stands out for its stability in its particularly volatile regional environment. Located in the Sahel and bordering the Atlantic Ocean, Mauritania acts as a buffer, the last remaining bulwark still containing a particularly complex situation that poses threats to regional and global peace.

Mauritania is also a proven and consolidated democracy where individual and collective freedoms are guaranteed, the rule of law is respected and free and pluralistic elections are regularly held.

Mauritania boasts a high-performing economy, with an average growth rate of 6% in recent years, and recent gas discoveries promise a future as a prosperous and emerging nation.

Seeking a foothold in Africa, Japan would benefit from favorably considering Mauritania as one of the strongest pillars of its African policy. Building on our shared heritage of trusting and harmonious relations, our countries also stand to gain greatly by envisioning and then realizing a new era together, in line with the idea of co-creation promoted by the last TICAD.

Mauritania considers Japan a reliable partner we can count on. Our political will and interest in partnering with Japan are evident.

From our perspective, there is ample substance in fishing, energy, agriculture and other areas to give mutually beneficial content to our exchanges.

We must continue to work together to further strengthen political exchanges and practical cooperation between our governments.

Beyond that, there is boundless potential



President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani EMBASSY OF MAURITANIA

for partnership between our private sectors, which is destined to be the true driving force of this new Mauritanian-Japanese era. There is no shortage of areas for mutually beneficial partnerships.

Fishing, particularly the local processing of products in Mauritania, is a field open to Japanese investment with immense potential for profitable ventures.

Energy is another rapidly growing sector in Mauritania with considerable export potential. In addition to becoming a gas-exporting country by 2025, Mauritania boasts one of the best potentials for green hydrogen. With its long coastline on the Atlantic Ocean (over 700 km), Mauritania has all the right elements — sun, wind and sea — to produce green hydrogen that can be easily exported to nearby, high-demand



Camels are led across the sand near the Tanouchert Oasis. EMBASSY OF MAURITANIA

and solvent European markets.

Investors are flocking here from all over the world to position themselves advantageously at the forefront of this energy of the future. It's a bit like the discovery of oil in Arabia in the last century.


This is the perfect time for Japan to join this promising adventure as well.

With the abundance of such low-cost energy, industrial prospects are significantly enhanced. Mauritania is currently a major exporter of raw iron ore. Tomorrow, it can be transformed into steel, and the growth of the local steel industry will greatly boost national wealth.

Japanese investors have everything to gain by generating an additional portion of their growth in Mauritania. They will have access to excellent brand capital, a reputation for efficiency and a strong track record. They will also benefit from advantageous preferential conditions, since Mauritania has access to numerous attractive markets with favorable customs and tariffs (including markets in the Economic Community of West African States region, Maghreb, Europe and North and South America).


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 Islamic Republic of Mauritania
on the Anniversary of Their Independence



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