

# Burkina Faso National Day Special

## Working to further strengthen cooperation

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AMBASSADOR OF BURKINA FASO



On Dec. 11, the anniversary of Burkina Faso's accession to international sovereignty, I would like to express, on behalf of the people and government of Burkina Faso and on my own behalf, my deep gratitude to Burkina Faso's bilateral and multilateral partners in general, and to Japan in particular, for their friendship and constant support to the Burkinabe people and its leaders.

On this historic day, I offer my prayers for all the victims of the terrorist attacks and express my solidarity and encouragement to their families.

Under the leadership of the President of Burkina Faso His Excellency Ibrahim Traore, the country has made a firm resolution to implement a bold policy of change in its strategy to combat terrorism and its vision for development. Excellent work to restore the country's sovereignty through the reconquest of national territory and the rebuilding of the state, as well as actions on the ground in the area of development, have produced significant results.

As of June 25, about 73% of the territory has been recovered, thousands of internally displaced persons have returned to their places of origin, and hundreds of previously closed schools have reopened, allowing schoolchildren to resume their education.

The development initiatives undertaken are generating a great deal of hope among the population. In the mining sector, for example, measures such as the establishment of the National Precious Substances Company, whose mission is to carry out all commercial, industrial and financial operations related to its purpose, and the setting of the state's stake in mining companies at

15% (in line with West African Economic and Monetary Union standards) are promoting national expertise and helping to combat fraud in the marketing of minerals. They are also allowing state revenues to be optimized so the population can derive substantial benefits from mining.

Burkina Faso is also focusing on agro-industry, infrastructure and innovation to achieve economic development. The country is moving toward reducing its dependence on the primary sector and imports by creating industrial hubs to attract inves-

tors and promote local products, and by processing raw materials locally through the establishment of processing and collection units for valuable substances.

Finally, Burkina Faso is committed to its sovereign choice to diversify its partnerships and is working to strengthen its cooperation with those who respect its sovereignty and are willing to cooperate in a transparent and equitable manner.

In this context, Burkina Faso's cooperation with Japan this year has been particularly active with its participation in the

Osaka Expo, the celebration of its National Day on Aug. 4, visits by high-level delegations, and the signing of a memorandum of understanding on the sidelines of the ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development. The country welcomes this cooperation and will spare no effort to strengthen it.

As we approach the new year, I extend my best wishes for peace, happiness and prosperity to all.

Happy Independence Day!  
*Arigatō gozaimasu* (thank you)!



The Domes of Fabledougou are sandstone and limestone formations that are almost 2 billion years old. JAPAN-BURKINA FASO FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

### Congratulations

*to the People of*

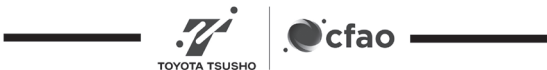
*Burkina Faso*

*on the Anniversary of*

*Their Independence*



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*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 Burkina Faso  
on the Anniversary of the Independence**

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