

# Haiti National Day Special

## Celebrating seven decades of friendship

**LOUIS HAROLD JOSEPH**  
AMBASSADOR OF HAITI



Jan. 1 marks the 222nd anniversary of the declaration of independence of the Republic of Haiti, a founding event that continues to inspire our nation and all those who cherish freedom.

On this occasion, on behalf of the Embassy of Haiti in Japan, I extend my warmest wishes to the government and people of Japan, who have always stood by the Haitian people in difficult times, as well as to all Haitian nationals residing in Japan and in other Asian countries under the jurisdiction of this mission. I also convey wishes for peace, health and prosperity in the year 2026.

The year ahead will be decisive for Haiti. The Haitian government has dedicated

2026 to the restoration of security, focusing its efforts on the departments of Ouest, Artibonite and Centre. These actions aim to create an environment conducive to a return to stability, the strengthening of institutions and the improvement of the population's living conditions.

At the same time, the organization of general elections will constitute an essential step in the process of restoring democratic governance and the normal functioning of republican institutions.

The year 2026 also holds special significance for relations between Japan and Haiti: It marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. This anniversary symbolizes seven decades of mutual respect, cooperation and friendship. It represents an exceptional opportunity to celebrate the bonds that unite our countries and to explore new prospects for collaboration, particularly in the fields of development, resilience, culture and person-to-person exchanges.



**The Citadelle Laferrière fortress is featured on Haitian currency, stamps and tourism posters.**  
GETTY IMAGES

To all our compatriots and Japanese friends, I wish a wonderful 2026, marked by solidarity, hope and renewal.

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