

D.R. Congo National Day Special

At the heart of a new partnership

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AMBASSADOR OF THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



As the Democratic Republic of Congo commemorates the 66th anniversary of its independence, I am honored to extend warm greetings to the people of Japan and to reflect on a journey shaped by resilience, ambition and hope.

Under the leadership of His Excellency President Felix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, the DRC continues to strengthen its role as a constructive actor in Africa and within the international community. Recent peace initiatives and regional dialogue efforts reflect our unwavering commitment to diplomacy, territorial integrity and lasting stability in Africa's Great Lakes region, where we are still mourning many of our peoples by the thousands.

Japan's foreign policy has long been animated by its "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" vision. The DRC embraces this vision. A stable, well-governed Congo is a pillar of the very regional architecture that the FOIP seeks to sustain. Our commitment to transparent governance, sovereign resource management and regional dialogue is a direct contribution to it.

The ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development marked a historic turning point in Japan-Africa relations when then-Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba announced a new policy direction he called, "From Aid to Investment."

Central to this vision was the launch of the Economic Region Initiative of Indian Ocean-Africa. This initiative seeks to promote Africa's integration and industrial development in the Indian Ocean-Africa region by fostering collaboration between Japan and countries across the Indian Ocean. As the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa, commanding the center of the continent and the arteries of the Great Lakes region, Congo is not a peripheral participant in this emerging economic space



Congolese President Felix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo EMBASSY OF DR CONGO

— it is one of its indispensable anchors.

Congo dominates global cobalt production and holds 71% of proven reserves. Its deposits of copper, lithium and coltan position it as a cornerstone of any credible strategy for sustainable technology supply chains.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1960, Japan and the DRC have cultivated a relationship built on mutual respect, friendship and cooperation.

TICAD 9 in Yokohama saw the signing of 300 cooperation agreements between Japanese and African entities, including



The Congo river basin and its rainforest are second in size only to their counterparts in the Amazon. EMBASSY OF DR CONGO

those in infrastructure, health, technology, education and agriculture.

This year also brings a moment of great national pride through sport. The qualification of the Congolese national soccer team, nicknamed the "Leopards," for the World Cup has sparked immense joy across our nation.

I wish to reaffirm the deep gratitude of the Congolese people toward the government and people of Japan for their enduring friendship and solidarity. Long live the Democratic Republic of Congo. Long live the friendship between the DRC and Japan.

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 Democratic
Republic of Congo
on the Anniversary of
Their Independence

Fulfilling
Moments,
Enriching Life **JT**

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