

# Kyrgyzstan national day

## Adding impetus to friendly bilateral relations

Rysbek Moldogaziev  
AMBASSADOR OF THE KYRGYZ  
REPUBLIC

I have the honor to welcome the readers of The Japan Times on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of independence of the Kyrgyz Republic. Today, my compatriots celebrate a significant day in the history of Kyrgyzstan that provides them with an opportunity to realize the values of freedom and open society. This day plays an important role in strengthening the ties between citizens of Kyrgyzstan and their homeland.

I am pleased to note that the transparent presidential election in 2011 accorded with the people's hopes and added one more solid stone to the foundation of the new Kyrgyzstan. The international community witnessed that the Kyrgyz Republic was able to overcome the critical period of transition and prove its readiness to develop mutually beneficial relations with foreign partners.

Nowadays the authorities of



Kyrgyzstan are implementing socioeconomic reforms aimed at improving social welfare, developing industry, trade and tourist sectors of the country as well as promoting foreign investments in the Kyrgyz Republic. We already have a favorable environment and various attractive incentives for foreign investments such as a liberal visa regime for foreigners (July 2012 Kyrgyzstan introduced a visa-free regime for citizens of 44 countries who travel up to 60 days), liberal government policy, World Trade Organization (WTO) membership, liberal trade regime, free repatriation of dividends and other forms of income, protection of property rights, equal treatment policy for foreign investors, protection from expropriation, and facilitated process of registration for enterprises.

I would like to take this opportunity to call for Japanese investments in Kyrgyzstan. This spring, Toyota Motor Corp. opened a sales office in Bishkek, which will contribute to the development of bilateral trade and economic ties. We are interested in a wide presence of Japanese businesses in Kyrgyzstan, especially in mutually beneficial

projects in the fields of transport and communications, mining and industry, energy, agriculture and tourism. To add to the list of above-mentioned foreign-investments-friendly attractions, Kyrgyzstan offers visa-free entry for citizens of Japan.

This January marked the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kyrgyzstan and Japan. For the years past the relations between our countries have been making good headway in the spirit of friendship and cooperation, on bilateral and multilateral levels. I am pleased to note that cooperation between members of the parliaments of Kyrgyzstan and Japan has been successfully developing and promoting the strengthening of fruitful cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Japan. In April 2012 a parliamentary delegation from Kyrgyzstan paid an official visit to Japan and signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation with the Japan-Kyrgyz Republic Parliamentary Friendship League of the Diet.

At the governmental level our countries maintain close and friendly cooperation. In January, Parliamentary Vice

Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Kazuyuki Hamada paid a visit to Kyrgyzstan that became a good impetus for further development and deepening of the Kyrgyz-Japanese cooperation. As a result of the visit, the Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic and the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) signed a letter of intent on May 4 in Bishkek to establish a cooperative relationship in the energy conservation and energy efficiency improvement fields. Besides, the Institute of Geology of the National Academy of Sciences of Kyrgyzstan and the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp. (JOGMEC) signed a memorandum on cooperation in the mining industry. I hope that the mutually beneficial cooperation will further strengthen the political, economic and cultural bonds between our countries for the benefit of our people.

Finally, I am pleased to convey to my dear friends and compatriots living in Japan congratulations and warmest wishes on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the independence of the Kyrgyz Republic.