

# Guinea national day

## Democratic reforms, economic development to serve Guineans

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AMBASSADOR OF GUINEA

On this happy opportunity of the celebration of the 54th anniversary of the independence of my country, the Republic of Guinea, it is a great pleasure for me to express thankfulness to the management and personnel of The Japan Times to have allowed me to get in touch with the newspaper's numerous and faithful readers.



This is also a great pleasure to transfer, by way of this esteemed newspaper, to His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito and Her Imperial Majesty Empress Michiko, and to the government and people of Japan our friendly greetings of the Guinean people and the government, together with our deep expression of thankfulness for the assistance brought

to Guinea by Japan.

### On the political phase

Readers may remember that since elected by the Guinean people on Nov. 7, 2010, professor Alpha Conde, president of the Republic of Guinea, the head of state, works every day for democratic change in favor of the happiness of Guineans. This change, which is so requested by Guinean citizens, has been sustained and put into operation by the republic president, and has demanded republic institutions, state structures and civil society the execution of public and individual liberty, deemed to be indispensable benchmarks for democracy

It is from this perspective that he appealed to Guineans for the organization of legislative elections by respecting just and transparent voting, which is indispensable for our democratic transition, for reinforcement of the republic institutions and for the consolidation of our reform capacity. These elections will be



**Mining industry: A conveyor belt helps carry bauxite to barges. Guinea has over 7 billion tons of bauxite, almost a third of the world's reserves.** EMBASSY OF GUINEA

a major test for our young democracy.

In this opportunity, I send an appeal to the Japanese government and to the international communities in order to attend and accompany Guinea for the

organization of the coming legislative elections.

### On the economic phase

By opening the first Economic Forum of Guinea on Sept. 14, 2012, organized by the govern-

ment, the head of state, professor Conde, declared, by quoting: "Guinea proceed, change is on the march and numerous obstacles will be overcome one by one."

The hold of this forum proves the commitment of the government, with the help of financial partners, to take Guinea out of the non-appreciable economic situation. We have to, in this opportunity, remember the efforts the government gave us in terms of reforms, and especially the macroeconomic stability and control of inflation.

The Sept. 14 and 15 forum gathered at the people's palace several representatives of African countries and financial institutions.

This is also for me an opportunity to hope at the same time an increase in Japanese public aid for development in favor of Guinea and direct private investment promotion from Japan to Guinea, which is the prerequisite condition of successful and mutually advantageous partnership.

### On the bilateral phase

The Republic of Guinea and Japan are two people proud and respectful of peace, independence and democratic values. We have to, therefore, reinforce the exchanges between our populations. These were among the topics taken up at the time of the visit by H.E. Toshiyuki Kato, parliamentary vice minister of foreign affairs of Japan, to Guinea from July 23 to 25, who was received by President Conde in the Sekhoutourea Palace.

This is the place to thank once again the people and government of Japan for the contribution to the promotion of efforts destined to the economic and social development of the Republic of Guinea, by granting budgets under donation through international institutions in the purchasing of products, in the fight against alimentary insecurity and for the sanitary life, and protection of sectors vulnerable in the frame of national strategy for the reduction of poverty.

## Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Guinea on Their Independence Day

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