

# French president's visit

## Building a new France-Japan partnership

Christian Masset  
AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE

France-Japan friendship dates back to 1858. We have admired and influenced each other since then. In spite of the geographical distance, we share an extraordinary sense of closeness.

The state visit to Japan of French President François Hollande will be the occasion to establish a new partnership:



A new partnership that will build upon our community of values for peace, stability and sustainable development, that will deepen and widen our economic and innovation partnerships as well as our cross-investments, that will foster cultural and people-to-people exchanges and that will answer the aspirations of the youth of both nations.

We are confident that this new partnership will bring us even closer to each other and will make both France and Japan stronger to embrace the opportunities of this new century.

## President Hollande's agenda on state visit

Since June 6, President François Hollande of the French Republic and his partner, Valérie Trierweiler, have been paying a state visit to Japan.

During their stay in Japan, which ends June 8, the president and his partner will make a State Call on the Imperial Palace, where Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko will host a State Banquet in their honor.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will hold a meeting with President Hollande and host a lunch for the French president.

On Jan. 9, Prime Minister Abe held a telephone conversation with Hollande, when the president congratulated Abe on his inauguration as the prime minister and stated that he would like to make the Japan-France relationship, which is already in a good condition, an even better one.

In response, the Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan and France are important partners who share basic values, such as freedom, democracy, rule of law and the market economy, and said that he would like to invite the president in the near future and to devise a leaders' statement for determining policies on a new cooperative relationship between Japan and France.

This is the first visit to Japan for Hollande since he assumed the position of president of the French Republic in May 2012.

### Foreign policy meetings

Prior to French President François Hollande's state visit to Japan, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius visited Japan on May 7, paving the way for the meeting between the leaders of the two countries.

Below is a summary of the meeting between Fabius and his Japanese counterpart, Minister of Foreign Affairs Fumio Kishida, which took place at the Iikura Guest House in Minato Ward, Tokyo, on May 7.

In an opening statement, Kishida said it is historically in-

evitable that Japan and France will cooperate to achieve a free and stable international community. Also, Kishida said he hoped to build exceptional partner relations between the two countries at the time of Hollande's visit to Japan.

In response, Fabius stated that the Japan-France relationship is extremely amicable and close. He also expressed gratitude that Hollande had been invited to pay a state visit.

Kishida recognized the following three points concerning the outcomes at the time of Hollande's visit to Japan, and Fabius shared Kishida's views.

First, Japan and France will cooperate on the goal of achieving political stability in the international community, as allies sharing values, interests and responsibilities.

Secondly, cooperation between companies and cooperation in the field of advanced technologies will be promoted in order for both countries to secure growth opportunities.

Lastly, Japan and France will cooperate to further enhance the brand strengths of each other's cultures and languages.

Furthermore, the ministers shared the view that Japan and France will enhance exchanges of information concerning the safety of both countries' citizens and companies residing in Asia and Africa, and that specific measures for that will be explored.

In addition, the ministers freely exchanged views on situations in the Asia-Pacific region and in Africa.

On North Korea, the ministers shared the view that the international community must continue sending a strong message that it will absolutely not permit the country to possess nuclear weapons.

The ministers also exchanged information and opinions about maritime-related developments in the Asia-Pacific region. They also discussed cooperation in achieving stability in Africa.



President François Hollande of the French Republic is in Japan on a state visit through June 8. EMBASSY OF FRANCE

### Brief profile, overview of the career of French President François Hollande

President of France François Hollande was born on Aug. 11, 1954, in Rouen, France.

Hollande is a graduate of HEC Paris and Sciences Po, the Paris Institute of Political Studies. He graduated from the French National School of Administration (ENA) in 1980.

He joined the Socialist Party in 1979. After completing his studies at ENA, he became an auditor at the French Court of Auditors in 1980. During this period, he was also a lecturer at the Paris Institute of Political Studies.

In 1981, following the election of François Mitterrand as president of the French Republic, Hollande became a special adviser to the presidency. During the legislative elections of June 1981, he ran for election in the Corrèze Department. In 1983, he was appointed head of the

private office of two successive spokespersons of the Pierre Mauroy government: Max Gallo and Roland Dumas. In 1984, he became an advising magistrate at the Court of Auditors.

In the legislative elections of 1988, following the election of Mitterrand, he was elected deputy in the first constituency of the Corrèze Department. From 1988-1991, he was a professor of economics at the Paris Institute of Political Studies. In 1993, he lost his seat as a deputy in the National Assembly and became president of the Témoin (Witness) club of Jacques Delors, remaining in the position until 1997.

He became national secretary of the Socialist Party with responsibility for economic issues in November 1994, and was named Socialist Party spokesperson by Lionel Jospin in 1995.


In 1997, following the victory of the left-wing coalition, Hollande regained his Corrèze seat in the National Assembly and became first secretary of the Socialist Party.

Hollande served as first secretary of the Socialist Party (1997-2008) and mayor of Tulle (2001-2008). He has been National Assembly deputy for the Corrèze Department (1988-1993 and 1997-2012) and president of the Corrèze general council (2008-2012).




He officially declared his candidacy for the Socialist Party primary contest in March 2011 and was announced the winner in October 2011.

In May 2012, François Hollande became the seventh president of France's Fifth Republic.

He has four children and lives with his partner, journalist Valérie Trierweiler.



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