

# France national day

## France-Japan: a remarkable sense of closeness

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AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE

July 14, France's National Day, is a time to celebrate together shared values: freedom and democracy.

This year is very special indeed. 2013 marks the 155th anniversary of our Treaty of Friendship. The President of the French Republic François Hollande paid a State Visit to Japan in June, the third of that kind by a French president after François Mitterrand in 1982 and Jacques Chirac in 1996.

This visit opened a new era in our relationship by establishing an enhanced partnership ("partenariat d'exception") to act on common challenges and opportunities of this new century.

President Hollande came with seven ministers, prominent business leaders and representatives of civil society. He enjoyed a very warm welcome and hospitality. The ceremonies, audience and banquet with Their Imperial Majesties, the meetings with the prime minister and the Cabinet, the address to the two chambers of the Diet sitting together at the House of Counselors, the visits and exchanges in the cultural and economic sectors as well as with the youth, were intense highlights. They expressed the remarkable sense of closeness between our two nations.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Hollande set out a road map for our enhanced partnership.

They decided to give a new dimension to our cooperation for peace, stability and sustainable development. The ministers of

foreign affairs and defense will meet regularly to address political and security issues. France and Japan will intensify their joint efforts to address non-proliferation, notably as regards North Korea. They will step up their cooperation to fight terrorism and to protect their citizens. They will deepen their dialogue on cyber-security.

Africa is a new area for cooperation. France and Japan are committed to its development. JICA and its French counterpart, AFD, are working together on concrete projects in the field, for example on food security in West Africa.

France and Japan will step up their cooperation on climate change for an ambitious and comprehensive international agreement in 2015.

Prime Minister Abe and President Hollande put a special emphasis on reinforcing the economic partnership with a shared agenda on growth, competitiveness and jobs. Their discussions were very fruitful for the next G8 and G20 summits. They decided to widen the scope of innovation and business partnerships, based on our complementarities. The Renault-Nissan alliance and the joint venture in nuclear energy between Areva and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries are two well-known success stories. There are many others. France and Japan can expand these successes to new areas like robotics, smart grids, renewable energy, food and agriculture. Cross-investments are steady.

The European Union and Japan are involved in the negotiations of an economic partnership agreement. France wants an ambitious outcome based on reciprocity that will provide new opportunities for our businesses.



Honored guests: French President François Hollande and his partner, Valérie Trierweiler, attend a banquet at the Imperial Palace hosted by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on June 7 during Hollande's State Visit to Japan. PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE

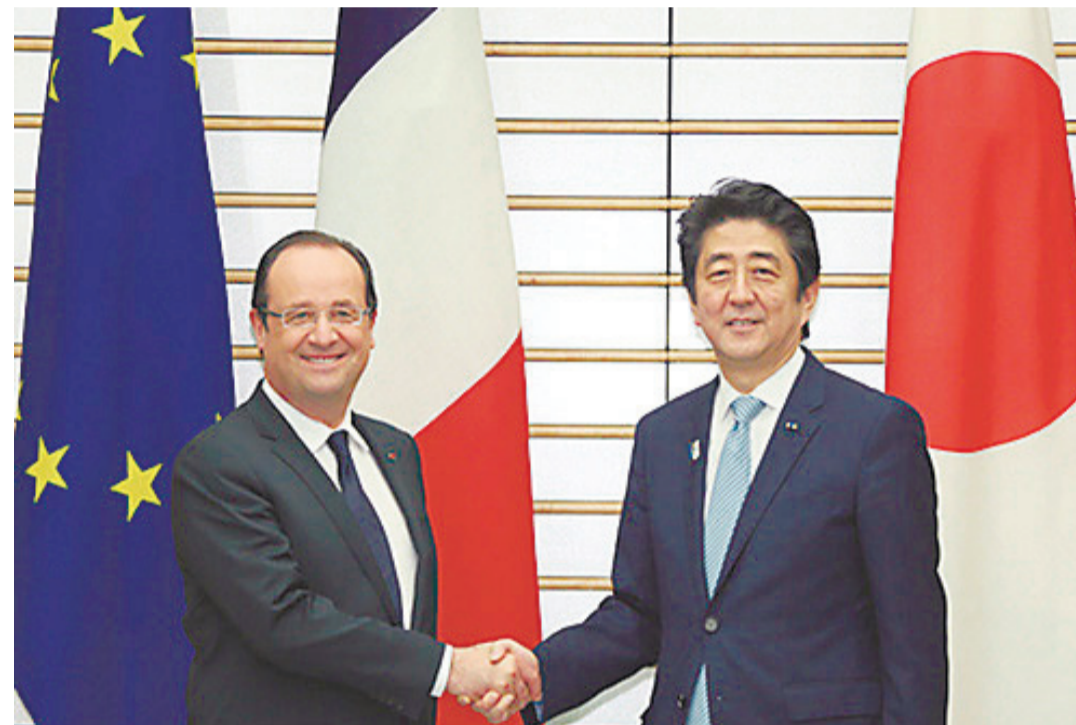
Our new partnership is targeted to the youth.

Student mobility is a key priority. An enhanced cooperation between universities has been framed. We are aiming at mutual recognition of diplomas and will facilitate visas for students. 2014, which marks the 90th anniversary of the creation of the Nichi-Futsu Kaikan (Maison Franco-Japonaise), will offer the opportunity of a special cultural season showing how artists and intellectual exchanges are thriving.

Tourism and cooperation between local authorities are also encouraged.

There is another reason for 2013 to be special: the 50th anniversary of the Elysée Treaty, which sealed the reconciliation between France and Germany. It has been a source of inspiration and progress that has brought peace and prosperity in Europe.

Let's share this moment together!



Strengthening ties: French President François Hollande meets with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on June 7 in Tokyo during his State Visit to Japan. CABINET PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE



Cultural exchanges: French President François Hollande speaks with students at the French Institute Tokyo on June 8 during his State Visit to Japan. EMBASSY OF FRANCE

### President reaches out to students

French President François Hollande interacted with the young generation during a meeting held at the French Institute Tokyo in Shinjuku Ward on June 8 during his State Visit to Japan. The meeting was joined by around 100 students from Japan and France and was also attended by five French ministers, including Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and Minister of Culture Aurelie Filippetti.

During the event, the president listened to the students' opinions and answered their questions. In his speech, he emphasized the importance of culture and encouraged Japanese students to study in France.

**Congratulations**  
on the Occasion of  
the National Day of France



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