

Kyrgyzstan national day

Great potential exists in business ties for both nations

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I have the honor to welcome you in such a momentous day for my country and to present you with the information about Kyrgyzstan and its cooperation with Japan.



According to a course of building an open and free society with a developed economy, the government of Kyrgyzstan has been implementing reforms

to strengthen parliamentary democracy, to improve the judicial system and to develop strategic sectors of the economy, and to settle social problems.

Kyrgyzstan is a country still unfamiliar to most people in Japan. But I would like to note that in Kyrgyzstan there are a lot of friends of Japan who wish to strengthen friendship, economic and cultural relationship with Japanese people.

In 2001, my government unilaterally introduced to Japanese citizens a visa-free regime; now citizens of Japan who travel to Kyrgyzstan for up to 60 days do not need a visa. In the difficult days of March 2011, when Japan

was suffering the devastating natural disaster consequences, the people of Kyrgyzstan strongly empathized with the people of Japan. Humanitarian aid, which was provided from Kyrgyzstan rapidly, has been positively assessed by our Japanese friends.

Today, Japan has an important position in the foreign policy of the Kyrgyz Republic. Japan is a strategic partner of Kyrgyzstan in building democracy and the free market economy. Kyrgyzstan and Japan share the universal values of democracy as it was clearly stated in the joint declaration signed by leaders of two countries during the official visit of the President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambaev to Japan in February. In the course of this visit Kyrgyzstan and Japan achieved important agreements that brought bilateral cooperation to a new level.

The people of Kyrgyzstan are grateful to the people of Japan for the large-scale and effective support extended from the first days of Kyrgyzstan's independence.

In view of the transfer of the Kyrgyz Republic to the parliamentary system of governance, the experience of Japan is of particular value to us. In this regard, delegations of the parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic paid several visits to Tokyo. The Parliamentary League of Friendship with Kyr-



Bright future: President of the Kyrgyz Republic Almazbek Atambaev meets with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Feb. 27 in Tokyo during his visit to Japan. EMBASSY OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

gystan, headed by Gen Nakatani, makes significant efforts in promoting bilateral cooperation.

Kyrgyzstan is interested in attracting Japanese advanced technologies contributing to the harmonious coexistence of humans and nature. My country has limited reserves of oil and natural gas, but has a strong potential to generate clean electricity. In the future, I am convinced that Kyrgyzstan would be a large "eco-country."

Kyrgyzstan and Japan, sharing common views on many global issues, actively cooperate in the international arena and in the re-

gional institutions. With the active cooperation of Japan, the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty has been developed and signed. Depository of the treaty is the Kyrgyz Republic. As chairman of the Dialogue "Central Asia plus Japan," Kyrgyzstan is preparing to hold the fifth Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Dialogue in 2014.

I am very pleased to highlight the intensification of the cultural and humanitarian cooperation. Academic partnerships between institutions of Kyrgyzstan and Japan are expanding, while the

number of young people from Kyrgyzstan studying in Japan is increasing.

Trade, economic and investment cooperation between the two countries has a great potential. Since 2012 Kyrgyzstan has been promoting cooperation with Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp. (JOGMEC) and the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO). Through the collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the project One-Village One-Product has been successfully implemented.

The number of Japanese companies in Kyrgyzstan is increasing year by year. For more than 10 years, Japan Tobacco Inc. has been working in Kyrgyzstan. I am pleased to note the active efforts of Toru Date, the honorary consul of the Kyrgyz Republic in Osaka, and Masaharu Mizusako, the head of the Japanese Association Kagoshima-Kyrgyzstan, to expand business contacts between the two countries.

In order to promote cooperation with Japan, the Kyrgyz-Japanese Business Council has been established in Kyrgyzstan. I am sure that Japanese entrepreneurs will find the business council a worthy partner in the elaboration and implementation of mutually beneficial business projects.

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in Tokyo welcomes all Japanese companies that are interested in cooperation with

Kyrgyzstan, and is ready to fully support them. We hope that many Japanese people will visit our green and beautiful country with sky-high mountains.

Finally, I am pleased to congratulate my compatriots and all Japanese friends of Kyrgyzstan on the Independence Day of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Congratulations
to the People
of
the Kyrgyz Republic
on the Occasion
of
the 22nd Anniversary
of
Their Independence



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Natural beauty: Sunset lights up a carpet of poppies against a backdrop of mountains. SERGEY KALACHOV