

Congo national day

Transforming into an emerging country by 2025

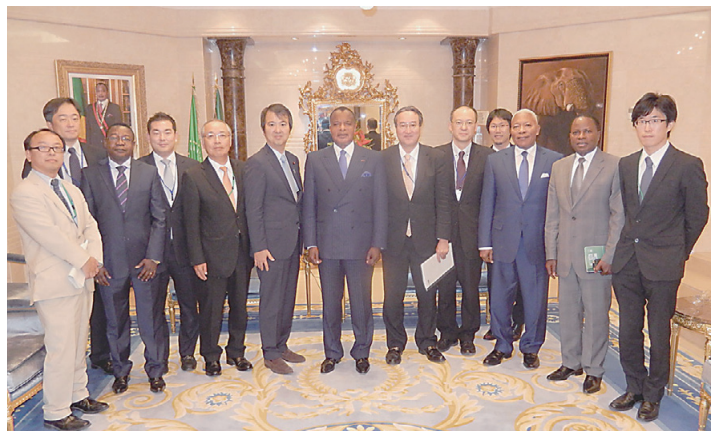
Boniface Lézona
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I., EMBASSY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO

On Aug. 15, the people of the Republic of the Congo celebrate the 54th anniversary of their Independence Day. It is a great day and also a specific moment for the Congolese nation, which has to experience and evaluate, once again, the "Accelerated Municipalization," a strategy of development introduced by the government in 2004.



On behalf of the President of the Republic of the Congo, H.E. Denis Sassou Nguesso, the government, the Congolese people and the staff of the Congolese Embassy in Japan, I would like to express my best wishes of health and happiness to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and to the other distinguished members of the Imperial family.

My congratulations and continued support go to the Japanese government and people for their loving, kindness, humility and perseverance to rebuilding a charming country, which is often hit by



Left, President of the Republic of Congo Denis Sassou Nguesso (center) welcomes a delegation of Japanese investors led by Hirokata Ishihara, vice minister of foreign affairs (6th from left), in Brazzaville, Congo in November. Right, construction on the "African Olympics" City in a suburb of Brazzaville. EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO



natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunami, typhoons and floods.

My warmest thanks to all our Japanese partners and other countries and organizations, particularly those who give us their strong support, not only on Independence Day, but also, in the continued reinforcement of our bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

Today, the celebration of the 54th anniversary of the Independence Day doubled with the festivities of the accelerated municipalization takes place in Sibiti City, the main district of the Department of Lekoumou, in the southwest of our country.

It is interesting to notice this double celebration of the Independence Day and accelerated municipalization has proven successful over the past 10 years. Analysts can describe the deep and positive transformation of the Republic of the Congo landscapes:

- Peace and stability now stand in Congo, creating a momentum of social satisfaction and solidarity of all the political players around the president

- A big move toward the industrialization of each Department can now be seen throughout the country, bringing change and hope. A miracle has now occurred with the

emergence of new and quality infrastructure

To Japanese Investors

The Republic of Congo and Japan established their diplomatic relations in 1968. Since the December 2012 opening of the Congolese Embassy in Japan, a new era and level of cooperation has begun, boosting the relationship between Japan and Congo-Brazzaville, as illustrated by a few key steps:

- A visit to Congo, in February 2013, by a Japanese delegation led by H.E. Toshiko Abe, the parliamentary vice minister of foreign affairs

- The participation of the

of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation H.E. Basile Ikouebe

- The Japanese Joint Mission of public-private investors to Congo, in November 2013, led by H.E. Hirokata Ishihara, the parliamentary vice minister of foreign affairs

I would like to encourage, once again, Japanese investors to go and see this country that is full of business opportunities, for instance, the massive offshore oil fields, natural gas and substantial mineral reserves; the wonderful landscapes; the Congo River; the natural parks of the hinterland, which are home to varied species of wild animals. Also, our forests, which are home to a large array of species of trees, including a few well-known such as kambala, ebony, sapele, okoumé; and the fertile soil of Congo which needs to be further promoted, in terms of large-scale industrialization of agriculture and

livestock activities.

The "path of the future" is the development program of the president, which, of course, emphasizes on reform in the Congolese administration and the country's indus-

trialization. These two pillars of the path of the future require a new way of thinking and new methods of working to achieve the goal of making Congo-Brazzaville an "emerging country by 2025."

*Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Congo
on the 54th Anniversary
of Their Independence*

Marubeni

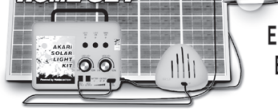
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Congratulations

To the people of the Republic of Congo
on the 54th Anniversary
of their Independence

NEW

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