

# Gabon independence day

## Positive developments in ecology, industry, services

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THE GABONESE REPUBLIC IN JAPAN

On the occasion of the coming  
Independence anniversary of

the Gabonese Republic on  
Aug. 17, it is an honor for Pres-  
ident of the Republic H.E. Ali  
Bongo Ondimba, Prime Min-  
ister H.E.



Daniel Ona Ondo, the Gabo-  
nese senate, parliament and  
for the people of Gabon to ex-  
tend respectful greetings to  
Their Imperial Majesties Em-  
peror Akihito, Empress  
Michiko, Crown Prince Na-  
ruhito and Crown Princess  
Masako, as well as to the whole  
Imperial family.

We hope the Japanese gov-  
ernment, its leader Prime Min-  
ister Shinzo Abe, the Diet,  
other enterprises and the peo-  
ple find here the expression of  
our gratitude.

To the Gabonese commu-  
nity in Japan, I am also thank-  
ful for the continuously re-  
newed support to our ac-  
tions.

The 54th anniversary of the  
independence of the Gabo-  
nese Republic is particularly  
meaningful, because the year  
2014 marks changes at several  
levels. For the government and  
our new prime minister, it will  
be an economic, political and  
social turning point, as this  
year is also the middle of our  
president's term.

In 2009, the "Emerging  
Gabon" project came into ef-  
fect with an ambitious pro-

gram of economic reforms for  
future prosperity, as it was nec-  
essary to not only depend on  
oil and gas resources, but also  
to boost economic growth.

Now it is time to take stock  
of the policy of emergence and  
its three main pillars: green,  
industrial and services.

### Green Gabon

Green Gabon has pioneered  
global environment-protecting  
efforts and the fight against cli-  
mate change.

In fact, located in the Congo  
Basin, Gabon's forest is the  
second largest in the world  
after the Amazon and covers 22  
million hectares, contributing  
greatly to the fight against  
global warming.

To this end, Gabon has ful-  
filled several commitments in  
designating three million hect-

ares as national parks and a  
further nine million hectares  
as forest licensed under sus-  
tainable management, which  
realized a reduction of 20 mil-  
lion tons of annual CO2 emis-  
sions.

Green Gabon is based on the  
sustainability of natural re-  
sources and application of the  
best international environ-  
mental standards for develop-  
ment projects. National parks,  
forestry, ecotourism and agri-  
culture are part of this green  
program based on a virtuous  
cycle marked by:

- Sustainable forest man-  
agement
- Maximizing the valoriza-  
tion of forest-related products,  
especially biomass and non-  
timber products
- Development of geotour-  
ism to take advantage of Ga-  
bon's exceptional fauna & flora  
diversity
- Valorization of the poten-  
tial held by the 800 kilometers  
of coastline and fresh water  
sources
- Wider use of carbon cred-  
its

For an obvious example of  
the "valorization of forest-re-  
lated products," Gabon bet on  
raw timber processing, which  
has successfully created jobs  
and helped nature conserva-  
tion.

Because of this, since 2010,  
no logs leave Gabon anymore.  
This transition was hard for the  
country as its production de-  
creased export-related revenue  
disappeared.

But today, the Gabonese  
government has won its bet be-  
cause alternative forest prod-  
ucts, the country's second



Clockwise from above, Gabon  
is proud of having the highest  
enrollment ratio in Sub-  
Sahara Africa; nationwide  
access to broadband Internet  
will give rise to the IT sector;  
an iron ore processing site,  
part of Belinga Project in the  
northeast; transport of  
manganese from Moanda.

EMBASSY OF GABON



biggest resource after oil, now  
see higher value than raw tim-  
ber.

### Industrial Gabon

The second tool of the emer-  
gence policy, Industrial Gabon  
falls under the National Indus-  
try Forum to formulate indus-

trialization strategy.

Industrial Gabon is a mirror  
of the country's new develop-  
ment model represented by a  
significant increase of locally  
added value and employment  
creation.

This model will guarantee a  
revival of value chains by tran-

sition of agriculture and fishing  
into agro-industry, forestry  
into wood, mining to metal-  
lurgy and oil exploitation into  
petro-chemistry to build a  
bridge from being a raw-mate-  
rial-based economy to being  
an industrialized country.

Also, research has identified  
four main sectors which will  
bring growth: mining, forest/  
wood, agro-industry and fish-  
ing and aquaculture.

For that purpose, the nation-  
al industrialization strategy  
sets out ambitions, stakes and  
goals related to this sector's  
growth: multiply tenfold by  
2025 the added value in the  
mining sector, while placing  
priority on forest growth and  
the development of manga-  
nese, precious metals, gold  
and construction materials  
sectors.

### Gabon of service

With the forthcoming nation-  
wide optical fiber telecommu-  
nication coverage, the new  
communication technologies  
are progressing within the es-  
tablished time frame, clearly  
showing an improvement in  
public services.

### Bilateral cooperation

Since the participation of Pres-  
ident Ondimba at the fifth  
Tokyo International Confer-  
ence on African Development  
(TICAD V) held on June 1 to 3,  
2013, in Yokohama, the ties  
between Gabon and Japan  
have been further strength-  
ened. Already in strong coop-  
eration in primary education,

the two countries are working  
together toward partnerships  
between public and private  
enterprises.

One part of this was an im-  
portant delegation of Japanese  
businessmen visiting Gabon in  
November 2013.

In Japan-Gabon relations,  
fishing is the most dynamic  
sector: the bilateral coopera-  
tion in fisheries is under-  
pinned by an agreement  
covering assistance, profes-  
sional training for small-scale  
Gabonese fishermen, research  
and protection of fishery re-  
sources, support to the compi-  
lation of statistical data and  
other assistance signed by  
Gabon, the Japan Tuna Fisher-  
ies Cooperative Association  
and the Japanese Fisheries  
Agency in 2008.

Internationally, Gabon and  
Japan have constantly affirmed  
their common point of view  
and interest for peace and  
world stability in international  
organizations.

From the current stage  
where Japan and Gabon are al-  
ready in a strong relationship,  
their cooperation will be able  
to develop further if both par-  
ties dare to take more respon-  
sibilities.

Gabon might benefit greatly  
from a stronger determination  
in negotiations with Japan  
which, for her part, should  
consider more than just the  
GDP to reinforce its position as  
world's economic powerhouse  
by direct - without intermedi-  
ary - investment and sales to  
Gabon.

## Congratulations to the People of the Gabonese Republic on the Occasion of the 54th Anniversary of Their Independence

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