

Angola national day

Building partnership with country boasting bright future

João Miguel Vahekeni
AMBASSADOR OF ANGOLA

On this day of great joy, it is a great pleasure and honor for me to avail myself of this opportunity, on behalf of His Excellency José Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola to convey to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe a warmest greeting and respect and express our appreciation to all countries that supported us during our struggle.



2013-17 development plan
With the objective of modernization and sustainable development, Angola started a new cycle with the establishment of the National Development Plan for the 2013-2017 period. It will be the primary vehicle that, in light of the National Strategy for Long-Term Development 2025, will guide

and enhance the pace and quality of development, which will improve the quality of life of the Angolan people by transforming potentials into real and tangible wealth for Angolans.

With the implementation of the policy, the government awaits among others to achieve the following results: to create and strengthen the national agri-industry, to develop infrastructure for the supply of energy and water, to rehabilitate and modernize the network of roads, rails, ports and airports and to create an appropriate logistics network and work effectively to double the annual average amount of national and external projects, to create a significant number of jobs.

Investment

The government facilitates projects through laws and incentives created for private investors. The law governing private investment applies both to domestic as well as foreign investments with values equal to or greater than \$1 million.

Japanese business

Japan has been an important partner to Angola, as the country provided training to over 1,500 Angolans. The partnership started in 1998 with the emergency relief through UNICEF and the U.N. and later became economic aid for infrastructure.

One of the major companies operating in Angola is Marubeni Corp. The company has completed the first of three Angolan textile plants last August and is currently completing the second and third plants in Benguela and Dondo as part of an \$850 million rebuilding and re-equipment contract. Marubeni and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) are financing the projects. Other companies include Japan Oil, Gas and Metals Corporation (JOGMEC), Sojitz Corp., Sumitomo Corp., Toyota Tsusho Corp., Hitachi Construction Machinery Co., Angola Japan Oil Co., Komatsu Ltd., Mitsubishi Corp., Jasa Corp., Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd. and GS Yuasa International Ltd.



Above, Angola is experiencing a construction boom as the economy grows. Right, located near the city of Lubango, the Serra de Leba mountain range is known for its altitude, beauty and the road over the pass. EMBASSY OF ANGOLA



Projects

1. Railway

The Caminho-de-Ferro de Benguela (CFB) is part of a

transcontinental rail network with a length of 1344 km (fully refurbished by the Angolan government) that provides access to many of the country's provinces.

Another important cross-border project is the Okavango-Zambezi (KAZA), which encompasses five countries: Angola, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana and Zambia.

2. Water

Domestically, despite abundant water resources, only 42.6 percent of Angola's population has access to potable water and only 59.6 percent of the popula-

tion has access to piped water. In order to change the situation, the Angolan government launched a program "Água para Todos," which aims to:

- Expand coverage or access levels to 100 percent in urban zones and 80 percent in rural areas;
- Monitor water quality;
- Construct small water-supply systems;
- Ensure integrated management of water resources for the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity.

For those projects, the government will spend more than \$6 billion, with 96 per-

cent of that being spent during the 2013-2017 period, according to National Development Program.

3. Energy

Another priority sector of industrialization is the power sector.

Achievements in 2014

The Angolan Embassy in Tokyo established the Japan-Angola Parliamentary Friendship Committee this year. Significant visits were made by JBIC to explore possibilities for loan agreements. We welcome companies from any sectors

who are interested in starting business in Angola.

Last, but not least, it is an honor for me to announce that the first ever Japan-Angola Investment Seminar in Luanda will be organized next March. In this context, we sincerely hope that the interest of the Japanese business sector will be raised and many Japanese companies will participate in the seminar to interact with their counterparts. I sincerely hope that entrepreneurs and members of the government of Japan will take advantage of this momentum to find the country as a next partner.

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Their Independence Day

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