

## Laos national day

## Bright future ahead for Laos-Japan relationship

Khenthong Nuanthasing  
AMBASSADOR OF LAOS

On the occasion of the 39th Anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) on Dec. 2, 2014, I would like to, on behalf of the president, the government and people of the Lao PDR as well as on my own behalf, express our heartfelt, warm respectful greetings and best wishes for good health, happiness and prosperity to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and members of the Imperial family.

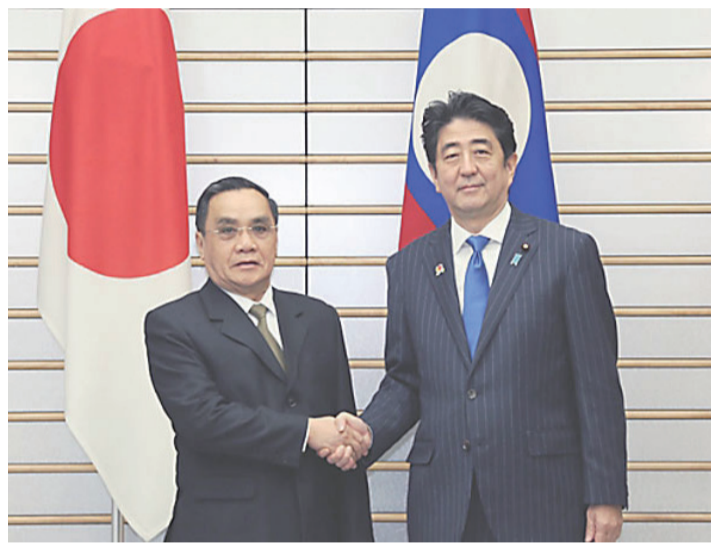
The Lao People's Democratic Republic's proclamation of establishment on Dec. 2, 1975, opened a new era that provided genuine independence, sovereignty and freedom for the Lao people's 49 ethnic groups. The proclamation has helped usher in a new phase in Laos' history, a phase of building a new country, engaging in development and raising the living standards of the Lao people. In 1986, the Lao government began a comprehensive renovation policy, shifting from a centralized economy to a market-oriented economy, implementing new market mechanisms and inviting cooperation and investment from foreign countries, including Japan, international development partners and international non-governmental organizations, for the socioeconomic development of the Lao PDR.

The Constitution of the Lao PDR was adopted in 1991,

which marked the significant achievements of over sixty years of struggles for national liberation and reconstruction. It laid down the legal foundation of the country that guaranteed all rights for Lao people. Today, with a full legal system in place, the Lao PDR has been able to maintain peace and political stability for 39 years, while also progressing and maintaining its economic growth at an average rate of over 7 percent for the past five years. The achievements of the high economic growth are the results of favorable foreign and domestic government policies creating favorable conditions for both domestic and foreign investment.

In the 2012-2013 fiscal year, GDP grew by 8 percent, one of the highest growths in the region. Per capita GDP reached \$1,534, an increase of more than 13 percent from the previous fiscal year. One of the key factors that remained a driving force for economic growth was investment and official development assistance. The energy and mining sectors have continuously attracted large inflows of foreign investment, particularly the construction of mega-projects.

On bilateral relations, Laos and Japan have been enjoying cordial relations, which have been strengthened and expanded since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1955, through frequent high-level exchanges between leaders of the two countries. The historic visit to Japan in 1989 by H.E. Kaisone Phommivhane, former prime minister and late president of the Lao PDR, laid the foundation for the Laos-Japan relations in



the new era. Since then, Lao presidents and prime ministers have paid periodic visits to Japan, with the most recent being the visit of H.E. Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong in December 2013.

On Japanese side, His Imperial Highness Prince Akishino and Princess Akiko paid their first visit to Laos in 1999, paving the way for further strengthening ties of

friendship and cooperation between our two countries. In 2000, former Prime Minister of Japan Keizo Obuchi paid an official visit to Laos. The Laos-Japan relations have been nurtured and developed gradually and reached the level of Comprehensive Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in 2010 on the occasion of the official visit to Japan by H.E. Choummaly Sayasone, presi-



Clockwise from top left, a symbol of Laos in Vientiane, the That Luang Stupa was built over an ancient stupa in the 16th century by King Setthathirath; The Plain of Jars, prehistoric stone megaliths, attracts thousands of tourists to the northern Xieng Khouang province of Laos; Prime Minister Shinzo Abe welcomes H.E. Thongsing Thammavong, prime minister of the Lao PDR in Tokyo on Dec. 15, 2013. EMBASSY OF LAOS

dent of the Lao PDR.

Regular visits between Lao and Japanese leaders in recent years have demonstrated that both sides highly value our bilateral relationship. In December 2013 Prime Minister Thammavong paid an official visit to Japan and attended the 40th ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in Tokyo. Prior to that H.E.

Shinzo Abe, prime minister of Japan paid an official visit to the Lao PDR in November 2013. Other consultations at ministerial and expert levels include a meeting between H.E. Thongloun Sisoulith, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Lao PDR and Minister for Foreign Affairs Fumio Kishida, at the OECD headquarters

in Paris, France; visits to Japan by former Minister for Public Works and Transportation Somad Pholsena in February; Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Boviengkham Vongdara in March; Minister for Planning and Investment Somdy Douangdy in October; and Minister for Public Works and Transportation Bounchan Sinthavong in October.

As Laos is located in the center of the Mekong Subregion and serves as a land link between five ASEAN countries as well as between

ASEAN and the southern part of China. Therefore, the Lao PDR has become a new attractive destination for Japanese investment, particularly in Special Economic Zones in Savannakhet province and in the capital Vientiane. Japanese investment in Laos was increased 15 times in 2013 compared with the previous year. In 2012 there were 20 projects valued at \$27 million and in 2013 the number of investment projects increased by 15 and their total

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

# Congratulations

## to the Lao People's Democratic Republic

### on the 39th Anniversary

# of Their National Day

OJI HOLDINGS

LPFL  
OJI LAO PLANTATION FOREST  
COMPANY LIMITED

SLPFL  
OJI SOUTH LAO PLANTATION FOREST  
COMPANY LIMITED

## Congratulations

to the Lao People's Democratic Republic  
on the 39th Anniversary  
of Their National Day

### ITALIAN TOMATO

<http://www.italiantomato.co.jp/>

#### ITALIAN TOMATO LIMITED HEAD OFFICE

Shinagawa seaside forest oval garden 2F  
4-12-4, Higashi shinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN  
Phone : +81-3-6712-9263

#### ITALIAN TOMATO ASEAN SOLE Co.,LTD

No.134 Ban Mixay, Unit 9, Chanthaboury District,  
Vientiane Capital, Lao P.D.R.  
Phone : 021-255150



## Congratulations

to the  
Lao People's Democratic Republic  
on the 39th Anniversary of  
Their National Day



MITSUI & CO.

## Congratulations

to the Lao People's Democratic Republic  
on the 39th Anniversary of Their National Day



The International  
Friendship Exchange Council (FEC)

Landic Toranamom Bldg. No. 2, 3F 3-7-8, Toranamom, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001  
TEL: (03) 3433-1122 <http://www.fec-ais.com>

## Congratulations

to the Lao People's Democratic Republic  
on the 39th Anniversary of  
Their National Day



Lao Airlines

For reservations, please visit our HP:

<http://www.lao-airlines.jp/>  
3F Hihara Bldg., 1-5-2 Nihonbashi Kayaba-cho,  
Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan 103-0025  
Phone: 03-5623-3858

## Congratulations

to the Lao People's  
Democratic Republic  
on the 39th Anniversary of  
Their National Day



NITTETSU MINING

Nittetsu Mining Co., Ltd.

Yusen Building, 3-2, Marunouchi 2-chome, Chiyoda-ku,

Tokyo 100-8377, Japan

Tel: +81-3-3284-0516 (main), FAX: +81-3-3215-8480

<http://www.nittetsukou.co.jp/eng/>

# Laos national day



The Khone Phapheng Waterfall on the Mekong River is the largest waterfall by volume in Southeast Asia, located in southern Champasak province of Laos. The waterfall is called Tad in the Lao language. EMBASSY OF LAOS

## Growing Japanese presence

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6  
value reached \$405 million.

As of September 2014, Japanese companies continue to have a strong presence in Laos with investment registration of more than 200 companies. Japanese investment in Laos is mainly in the following projects and sectors: three hydroelectric projects valued at \$401 million, 23 agricultural projects valued at \$99 million, 20 projects in industry and handicraft, 5 projects in wood processing and 12 projects in services.

Due to growing interest of Japanese companies in Laos in recent years, an office of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) was open in April in Vientiane to further facilitate inroads for Japanese companies into the Lao PDR in the near future.

As Laos moves toward the 40th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the 60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the Lao PDR and Japan next year, I am confident both countries will have high-level dialogues and achieve greater heights together. I would like to take this opportunity to note some upcoming joint activities between Laos and Japan to celebrate their commemorative year in 2015 such as Japan's hosting of a welcoming ceremony for four young Lao elephants as commemorative gifts to Japan at the Kyoto zoo and the Embassy of the Lao PDR of holding a Lao Festival in Tokyo at Yoyogi Park at the end of May.

On this auspicious occasion, I would like to extend my whole-hearted thanks and appreciation to the government and people of Japan, particularly all friends of Laos in Japan, for the unwav-

ering support and assistance rendered to the Lao PDR as well as the Embassy of the Lao PDR in Tokyo, and wish them all happiness and prosperity on the National Day of Laos.



Top, since 2007, the annual Elephant Festival, celebrates Laos' history as "The Land of Million Elephants" in mid-February in the northern province of Sayabouly, attracting more than 80,000 elephant fans to the ceremonies, parades and performances. Bottom, Wat Xiengthong or Xiengthong Temple, a major attraction in the northern province of Luang Prabang, has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1995. EMBASSY OF LAOS

### CONGRATULATIONS

to the Lao People's Democratic Republic  
on the 39th Anniversary of  
Their National Day

#### JAPAN-LAOS ASSOCIATION

President: Itsuo Hashimoto  
Former Ambassador to Lao PDR



HAZAMA ANDO  
CORPORATION

### Congratulations

to the Lao People's Democratic Republic  
on the 39th Anniversary of Their National Day

**Marubeni**

<http://www.marubeni.com>