

# Cuba national day

## Island offers many chances in investment, tourism

Marcos Rodriguez Costa  
AMBASSADOR OF CUBA

On Jan. 1, the Republic of Cuba celebrates the 56th anniversary of its National Day, marking the triumph of the Revolution, a historical process in which the Cuban people, after more than 100 years of struggle, finally won their independence.



On this remarkable date, I am honored to express, on behalf of the Cuban people and government, our best wishes for peace, prosperity and friendship to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and other members of the Imperial family, as well as to the government and friendly people of Japan, who are so close to Cuban's hearts. Cuba is pleased to see the progress of the Japanese people in their efforts to reverse the huge losses caused by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami as they continue in faithful solidarity in this enormous task.

There is a natural sympathy between Cubans and Japanese, a kind of mutual fascination that makes us enjoy our respective cultures in a very special way.

The Japanese business community continues to focus on Cuba, supplying equipment and high-quality technology. We aspire to having further participation of Japanese companies in the packaging, automotive and transportation equipment industries, as well

as in the development of alternative energy, pharmaceuticals and other major investments in Cuba.

Cuba also wants to significantly increase the number of Japanese tourists visiting the beautiful Caribbean island, where abundant nature, a long and beautiful architectural history and world famous Cuban beaches await the friends of our beautiful land. Visitors will find in Cuba straightforward, brave and extremely friendly people, who receive guests with open arms.

The year 2014 has been invaluable in the development of bilateral relations between Cuba and Japan. The year marked the 400th anniversary of the visit to Cuba of the first Japanese, Hasekura Tsunenaga, a samurai from Sendai. Celebrations and commemorations were extensive and diverse, allowing for a broad exchange between our peoples in politics, business, culture, tourism, sports and many other areas.

The main Cuban economic indicators continue to advance. This demonstrates the willingness and ability of our people and government to overcome the adversities of the current international situation such as the tensions of the world economy, the negative effects of climate change and the harmful consequences of the U.S. government's more than 50-year economic, commercial and financial blockade, which must end.

These results are supported by the implementation of important steps put into practice by the Cuban government in

recent years to update the economic model to achieve prosperous and sustainable socialism. The state apparatus is successfully consolidating management of the basic means of production in the country, while companies are acquiring greater autonomy and a growing number of people are engaged in economic activities on their own.

The tourism, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, as well as the export of medical services, have continued to be major sources of income.

The enactment last year of a modern and efficient investment law, and the publication, for the first time, of a portfolio of investment opportunities containing more than 250 projects, ready to be used by foreign investors, opened a new path in the development of the Cuban economy, which requires significant resources from abroad investing in our country and we are confident it will be of extreme interest to Japanese companies.

The Special Development Zone of Mariel, strategically located next to Havana, is the largest project currently underway and will play a decisive role in the future development of Cuba. It is also a unique opportunity for foreign investors, who can enjoy significant tax benefits in this area. The conclusion, last year of its first stage indicates a resounding success of this great investment that is essential to our economy.

Dialogue with society, especially the direct participation of the entire Cuban population in the decision-making process,



Above, Cuban health care workers are working in Sierra Leone, a country that is severely affected by Ebola; right, El Capitolio, or the National Capitol Building in Havana was the seat of government until the Cuban Revolution triumphed in 1959, now houses a museum. EMBASSY OF CUBA

has ensured a broad consensus, which is important in contributing to the welfare and unity of the people in achieving their highest objectives.

Thousands of Cuban doctors save lives in Latin America, Africa and the Pacific region under the banner of solidarity. Nearly 300 Cuban health care workers are currently working in the three countries most heavily affected by the tragedy of Ebola in Africa, and Cuba was recognized by the World Health Organization for its rapid response to this tragedy.

Cuba defends the right to a world free of nuclear weapons and strongly condemns the practice of terrorism in all its forms in key international forums.

Recently, the governments of Cuba and the U.S. decided to

move forward in solving some issues of interest to both nations, having agreed to work for the restoration of diplomatic relations between our two countries. Cuba has proposed that the U.S. government take mutual steps to improve the bilateral climate and move toward normalization of our relations.

In this context, the three Cuban compatriots unjustly sentenced to U.S. prisons, arrived to Cuba on Dec. 17, a moment that caused the greatest joy of their families and all the Cuban people.

Cuba considers the progress in recent exchanges with the government of the United States shows it is possible to find solutions for many problems.

Finally, I want to express my esteem, respect and special



consideration of the Cuban people and its government for the consistent and renewed expressions of solidarity and friendship received from friendship organizations, Diet members, political parties and Japanese society as a whole over the years.

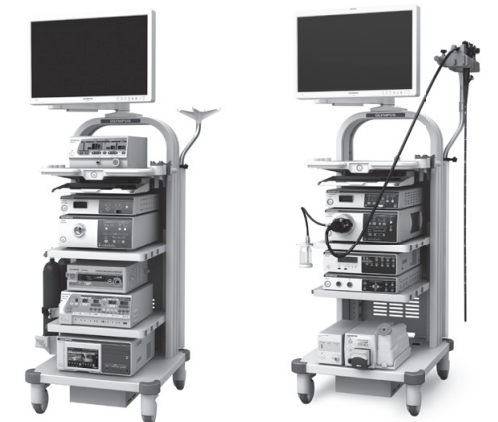
We are confident that this year, which happily starts today, will witness the continued strengthening of relations between Cuba and Japan in all fields and that the future of these relations will be as bright as the sun that shines on our lands as distant and nearby at once, and the love and friendship between our people continues to be infinite.

**OLYMPUS**

Your Vision, Our Future

**Congratulations  
on the 56th National Day of the  
Republic of Cuba**

Superior Endoscopic Video Imaging Technology



OLYMPUS MEDICAL SYSTEMS CORP.  
Shinjuku Monolith, 2-3-1 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 163-0914, Japan

**Congratulations**  
*on the 56th National Day of the  
Republic of Cuba*

**AIMNEXT Inc.**  
consulting & training

1-10-11 Hamamatsu-cho, Minato-ku, Tokyo  
Tel: +81-3-3433-0709 Fax: +81-3-3433-8220  
URL: <http://www.aimnext.co.jp>



**Congratulations**  
*on the 56th National Day of the  
Republic of Cuba*

**Global Investment Asia Inc.**

Room 804, AIOS Hiroo Bldg., 1-11-2, Hiroo, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0012  
Tel. 81-3-5791-4637 Fax. 81-3-5791-4638

**Congratulations**  
*on the 56th National Day of the  
Republic of Cuba*



**NIPPON CARIBBEAN SHIPPING CO., LTD.**



**SENWA MARITIME AGENCY, LTD.**



**THE SUMITOMO WAREHOUSE CO., LTD.**