

France national day

France already has an eye on a successful hosting of COP 21

Thierry Dana
AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE

Despite the geographic distance, France and Japan have developed a real cultural proximity over time. Paul Claudel, poet and ambassador of France to Japan in the early twentieth century, referred to an “instinctive sympathy” that united our two peoples. The feeling of sharing a common destiny has never been stronger than today between our countries, which are shaped by the same democratic values. In a world in turmoil, France and Japan are facing similar challenges.

Most of these challenges have a global dimension. Thus they require us to join forces more than ever. This is the meaning given to the exceptional partnership launched during the state visit of President Francois Hollande to Japan in 2013, and enriched with the visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Paris in 2014. This comprehensive partner-

ship comprises an important dialogue on security policy and expanded cooperation in economic, scientific, technological, cultural and human exchanges.

The next step is to further strengthen our ties in the field of innovation. Japan and France are both highly innovative and creative countries and are already privileged partners in an impressive number of areas such as energy, automotive, health, sustainable development and robotics. This is why we decided to launch a French Year of Innovation in Japan during the visit of Prime Minister Manuel Valls to Tokyo this fall.

Today, on the 14th of July, we celebrate the French National Day, also called Bastille Day. This is an opportunity to come together and honor the founding principles of the Republic, contained in our motto: Liberty, Equality, Fraternity.

We also want to highlight the issue of the fight against climate change, which is a priority of the French government. This year, France will host 21st Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Framework



France will host the 21st Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, also known as COP 21, from Nov. 30 to Dec. 11 in Paris. EMBASSY OF FRANCE

Convention on Climate Change, also known as COP 21, which will take place in Paris from Nov. 30 to Dec. 11. This will be the largest diplomatic conference ever held in our territory.

Climate change poses a tremendous threat to our environment and our future. The aim of COP 21 is to achieve an international agreement to reduce emissions of greenhouse gas at a level sufficient to preserve our planet.

To achieve this ambitious goal, it is essential to nurture interest in climate change and showcase opportunity where too often we see constraints. Based on this observation, France — together with its European partners — is holding steady on the path of energy transition. In preparation for COP 21, the European Union has set the ambitious goal of reducing its emissions of greenhouse gas by 40 percent by 2030 compared to 1990, through the development of renewable energy sources and the implementation of energy-saving measures.

Given the incredible challenge posed by the progression of our economies toward low carbon models, France and Japan have all the more reasons to join forces. Innovation is the key to all energy and ecological transition strategies, and we are confident that the development of new Franco-Japanese partnerships in innovative areas could lead to a successful outcome for COP 21. The use of hydrogen storage energy, smart grids and smart cities,

nuclear power and renewable energy such as floating wind turbines have proven, time and time again, that a low-carbon society is achievable.

Our two countries, through their ever-strengthening ties, are paramount in bringing about that reality.

I wish you all a great July 14!



From left, French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Defense Minister Gen Nakatani at bilateral “two-plus-two” talks on security in March in Tokyo EMBASSY OF FRANCE



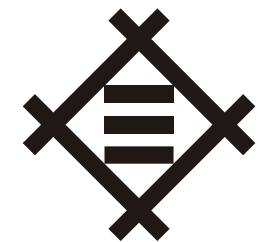
French Minister of Urban Affairs, Youth and Sport, Patrick Kanner (left) meets Vahid Halilhodzic, head coach of the Japanese national football team, during his visit to Japan in April. Bosnian-born French citizen Halilhodzic’s football career includes spells playing for and managing French clubs.

EMBASSY OF FRANCE

Congratulations

on the Occasion of

the National Day of France



MITSUI & CO.