

# Mauritania National Day

## Ongoing stability, development and economic growth

Yahya Ngam  
AMBASSADOR OF THE ISLAMIC  
REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

First, allow me to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt and respectful wishes to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, as well as to the distinguished Imperial family. I would also like, on behalf of the people and the government of Mauritania, to express my admiration for H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, his government and the Japanese people for their resilience, patience and commitment to international peace and their dedication to a better world.

I further wish to convey my sincere gratitude to the editors of The Japan Times for kindly giving me the opportunity to address their readers.



Today, Mauritania, under the wise leadership of H.E. President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, is witnessing major progress in infrastructure realization. The achievement of such infrastructure in the country worked as an engine to our economic growth, having a huge positive impact in Mauritanians' living conditions through universal access to basic services, job creation and effective programs to fight against disparities and poverty. This has contributed to preserving the social peace and political stability that are both pivotal to a steady democracy.

Given its highly strategic geographic position at the crossroads of North and sub-Saharan Africa, Mauritania offers nowadays expanding investment opportunities in the fisheries and oil and gas sectors, as well as mining with the iron ore potential of the Taoudeni Basin adding to the existing iron and gold deposits.

The Nouadhibou Free Zone,



**H.E. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.**

created three years ago, demonstrates the efforts of the president to bring the economy of the country to a level that guarantees investors — either foreign or domestic — secure activities.

At the political level, after inclusive general elections in 2013 and presidential elections in 2014, Mauritania is experiencing real democracy in a peaceful

and secure atmosphere.

Under the leadership of President Abdel Aziz, the G5 SAHEL organization is totally committed to fight terrorism and all forms of trafficking, take measures for employment, encourage investment and fight poverty. This sub-regional organization counts Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad and Burkina Faso as its five members.

As a leader of the African Union in 2014, President Abdel Aziz has taken many actions and initiatives to assure the key role of Africa around the world.

His devotion to African stability was shown also by his engagement on inclusive discussions between all Malian parties, leading to a May, 2014 peace agreement being accepted by all.

He also took constructive actions to resolve the political situation in Burkina Faso after the departure of the president of the country.

The commitment of Mauri-

tanian troops to the peace-keeping operations in Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan and Central Africa is another sign of the commitment of Mauritania to the necessity of global diplomacy for peace and stability in Africa.

Mauritania stands resolutely committed toward economic liberalism and the focus on the realization of efficient infrastructure is a clear indicator of our determination to achieve the U.N. Millennium Development Goals. Mauritania's bid to achieve these goals is stimulated by the generous assistance of friendly nations like Japan, which remains one of the main contributors to public development aid in Mauritania, in this regard, the Mauritanian government and people acknowledge greatly the positive impacts of Japanese official development aid to such vital sectors as infrastructure, food security, environmental protection, fisheries, health, education and others.



**Fisheries, including octopus processors, are a key sector of Mauritanian economy.**

EMBASSY OF MAURITANIA

The reforms initiated by the government have resulted in Mauritania being named as one of the five African countries with the best business environment by the World Bank's "Doing Business" report 2015.

Mauritania is deeply committed to strengthening its cooperation with Japan both through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process and the Arab-Japan Forum.

I dare to be certain that Mauritania can count on Japan's continued support and friendship as we continue our nation-building efforts.



**The Mosque in Tichitt. The medieval trading settlements of four ksour (villages) — Ouadane, Chinguetti, Tichitt and Oualata — are designated as UNESCO World Heritage site.**

EMBASSY OF MAURITANIA

### Congratulations

to the People of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania  
on the Occasion of the 55th Anniversary of  
Their Independence



JAPAN TUNA FISHERIES  
CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION  
31-1 Eitai 2-chome, Koto-ku, Tokyo