

Tanzania National Day

Friendly, bilateral relationship continues to grow stronger

John F. Kambona
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF TANZANIA

Today, April 26, we are celebrating the 52nd Anniversary of the foundation of the United Republic of Tanzania — the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar. On this auspicious day, I would like to pay my most deep respects to the founders of the union — the Father of the Nation, the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, and the first President of Zanzibar, the late Abeid Amani Karume. I also wish to extend my most heartfelt congratulations to all my fellow Tanzanian nationals living in Japan.

On behalf of the government, the people, the entire staff of the Tanzanian Embassy and myself, I take this opportunity to express my sincere and deepest respect to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and the distinguished members of the Imperial family and wish them good health and

happiness.

In the same way, I convey my warm greetings to Prime Minister H.E. Shinzo Abe and to the friendly people of Japan.

The relationship between our two friendly nations has continued to grow stronger even over the past year. In October, Tanzania held general elections and the ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi, won them in a fair, transparent and democratic manner as declared by the entire international community. There was a peaceful transition of power from former President H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete to the incumbent H.E. John Pombe Magufuli. We were glad to see that Japan was one of the first countries to send an envoy, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Seiji Kihara, in December to congratulate our new president and assure him of Japan's continued collaboration and deliver a special message from Abe.

The first "Tanzania-Japan, Public-Private Conference for High Quality Infrastructure" was held in Dar es Salaam on Jan. 14. It was co-organized by

the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation; and the Tanzania Investment Centre. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) oversaw the event from the Japanese side.

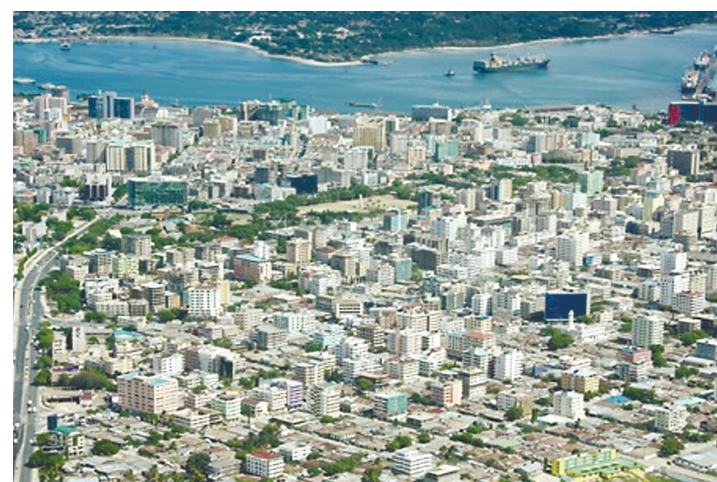
Dignitaries from both the public and private sectors attended the conference. Prime Minister Hon. Kassim Majaliwa and Deputy Minister for Works, Transport and Communication Hon. Edwin Amandus Ngonyani represented the Tanzanian government, while Japan was represented by Vice Minister for Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism the Hon. Takatoshi Nishiwaki and JETRO Vice President Koji Yonetani. The conference was an opportunity for government leaders and the private sector to meet and discuss ways of forging ties in this important sector.

On this occasion of our National Day, we once again continue to reflect on our continued achievements, both at home and in the relationship with the rest of the world. I would like to note some of the laudable progress that has been realized in political, economic and social spheres, as well as in international relations.

On the political front, Tanzania continued to enjoy peace and political stability; while democracy continues to take root and basic freedoms, human rights and rule of law continued to be respected and observed. As mentioned above, there was a peaceful transfer of power on the political front in November after successful and transparent elections. This was the nation's



(Clockwise from above) Panoramic view of the Ngorongoro Crater in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, a UNESCO World Heritage site in northern Tanzania; Beautiful coastline of Zanzibar; Gnu herd in Serengeti National Park, also a UNESCO World Heritage site in northern Tanzania



A bird's-eye view of Dar es Salaam, the country's largest city, in eastern Tanzania

fifth change of government.

In the economic sphere, Tanzania has continued to enjoy sound economic performance. The economy recorded a GDP growth rate of 7 percent in 2015, the driving force for growth being the mining, tourism and manufacturing sectors. Foreign direct investment has increased from \$935.5 million to \$1.87 billion and inflation has remained in single digits. The government has continued to take necessary actions in creating a conducive business environment, including measures to reduce the cost of doing business and bureaucracy, to attract both foreign and domestic invest-

tors.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the government of Japan for their continued support in various sectors such as education, health, agriculture and, in particular, road infrastructure. The importance of roads and other infrastructure that connect agricultural production areas to markets and industrial centers is one of the government's main concerns. With the support of the Japanese government our first fly-over bridge will be built in Dar es Salaam.

As for investment opportunities, the Tanzanian economy can absorb massive doses of investment in every conceivable area. This year for the first time we shall hold on African

soil the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference again presents an opportunity to showcase investment opportunities in sectors such as agriculture, energy, infrastructure, transportation, tourism, mining, manufacturing and services. The discoveries of huge reserves of natural gas — both onshore and offshore — to the tune of 58 trillion cubic feet have heightened further our expectations of becoming a major gas-producer.

I would like to see more Japanese investment in Tanzania, particularly in the areas mentioned above. Tanzania's comparative advantage as a premier investment destination include

a stable political environment; strong economic performance; unlimited investment opportunities; attractive investment incentives; vibrant private sector; pro-business government; huge regional market, preferential access to some of the world's markets; and prime geographic location — the gateway to East, Central and Southern Africa.

I also warmly welcome any Japanese who want to visit Tanzania and see the wonders Mother Nature bestowed on our country. Tanzania is home of world-renowned Serengeti National Park; Selous Game Reserve, the biggest game reserve in the world; Ngorongoro Crater, the largest unbroken crater in the world; Mount Kilimanjaro, the high-

est peak in Africa; Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika, the largest and the deepest lakes in Africa, respectively; and the beautiful Island of Zanzibar, the island of spices and the cradle of the Swahili language, to name a few.

Last, but not least, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the companies that volunteered to sponsor this National Day supplement. As always, we highly value your contribution and cooperation. I also extend my gratitude to The Japan Times for offering me another opportunity of addressing their distinguished readers on this important occasion. Thank you very much and God bless Tanzania, God bless Japan and God bless you all.

Congratulations
to the People of
the United Republic of Tanzania
on the 52nd Anniversary
of Their Union Day

from the president and staff of
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Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest peak in Africa and the tallest free-standing mountain in the world. EMBASSY OF TANZANIA

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