

Togo National Day

Taking pride in culture, economic future

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CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF TOGO

On April 27, we celebrate the 56th anniversary of Togo's Independence Day and as usual since the opening of the Embassy of the Republic of Togo in Japan in October, 2010, we are happy to share the feelings of joy and satisfaction of the Togolese people, as well as the government, with our Japanese friends over the excellent relations that exist between Togo and Japan.

It is also the occasion for us to share with you the pragmatic vision, which is led by the President of the Republic H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe, and which will direct the destiny of Togo for the coming years.

In fact, there are no doubts today. Togo has affirmed what

everyone believes about its excellent geographic location. Indeed, Togo remains the principal gateway to the West African region thanks to several factors.

Togo's proximity to the Atlantic Ocean offers it the only natural deepwater port in the region. With the construction of a third quay — 450 meters long with a 15-meter draft — in 2014, the Autonomous Port of Lome became one of the most efficient ports in Africa.

Allow me also to highlight the importance of Lome, where the headquarters of the sub-regional company Asky is located. Since the beginning of the operation of this company, it has become easier to connect to the African capitals from Togo. Also, in order to meet time requirements, the government is committed to the modernization process of the airport infrastructure, especially with the construction of a new terminal that Asky has been operating since April 20. That should increase fourfold the arrival capacity of the Gnassingbe Eyadema Inter-

national Airport of Lome.

My country is not satisfied only with the improvement of the air and maritime infrastructure. In fact, everyone who has visited Togo in the last few years should have been able to see the rapid transformation of the country in the significant improvement in the road network and the expanded supply of electricity in a number of areas, as well as improved telecommunications in Lome and the inland areas of the country.

With the realization of the master plan of the logistics corridor of Togo, thanks to the kind support of the Japanese government through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), new perspectives are offered to Togo in terms of its development, as well as to the global private sector in terms of investment.

Finally, Togo increasingly asserts itself as an international finance destination. In fact, in addition to the headquarters of the regional institutions like the ECOWAS Bank for Investment

and Development (BIDC), my country is home to the headquarters of the Pan-African bank — called Ecobank — that has a presence in more than 33 African countries with some branches in Europe and Asia facilitating transactions in international markets.

To assure the harmonious development of my country with a spirit of cohesion and mutual understanding, the Togolese government has started the initiative "Togo Vision 2030." This initiative aims to define the common vision that the Togolese have about their country over the next 15 years in a participatory and inclusive manner. Each person is destined to bring a stone for the construction of a national building and all social representatives will be invited to share their ideas about the future of Togo. The summary of all their opinions will create the strategic plan of development for Togo through 2030. This would reinforce the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Employment Promotion (SCAPE) whose field of



Dancers perform a traditional North Togo Kamou dance.
EMBASSY OF TOGO

action extends to 2017.

My country is also a very important cultural place. That is why the Togolese Embassy in Japan started on March 31 a Togolese cultural festival, which runs through April, featuring the famous traditional singer King Mensah and other singers such as Adjoa Sika and Amen Viana, as well as art designer Liebe Ad-

zodo.

Development and economic growth is going so smoothly that the Japanese private sector, as well as other Asian investors, should not miss this opportunity to be a part of those who will be happy in the future to have made a decision at the right time to invest in this beautiful country.

Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Togo
on the 56th Anniversary
of Their Independence



from the president and staff of
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