

Guinea National Day

Sustainable development essential for prosperity

Senkoun Sylla
AMBASSADOR OF GUINEA

On this happy occasion of the anniversary of the Republic of Guinea's attainment of independence and self-determination, I would like to extend my warm and sincere wishes of health and happiness to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and the Japanese Imperial family, as well as express my deep admiration to our friends, the Japanese people, for the progress and prosperity that they have achieved.

It is also fitting on this occasion to express my great pride in the ties of historical friendship, harmony and mutual esteem that symbolize the partnership between Guinea and Japan, as well as my great satisfaction of the high level attained by the fruitful cooperation and active solidarity between our two countries.

In that respect I reaffirm my determination to work even harder with the government and society in its entirety to convincingly reinforce and widen our relations in the ser-

vice of the joint aspirations of our two peoples bound by friendship.

This anniversary comes in a unique time, as this year saw the holding of the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) held in Nairobi, Kenya.

Organized for the very first time in Africa, the meetings have seen the participation of eminent figures, including heads of state and government, representatives of international and regional organizations and leaders of the private sector and civil society.

The holding of that forum, recognized as one of the foremost conferences on the question of development financing, has been a catalyst for approaching the issues the African continent faces in its development and for finding ways of overcoming them.

During the summit, Japanese and African leaders held considerable substantial discussions that led to setting of a joint objective in the framework of advancing the agenda of sustainable African development.

The forum has also made it possible to accentuate the necessity to adopt an action plan for implementation and to maintain following up on the commitments that have been made.



Guinea's President Alpha Conde and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands in Nairobi in August. REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

Thus, the heads of state and government have been able to adopt a joint statement, the Nairobi Declaration, for carrying forward the structural dialogues already held and making it possible for them to reach successful implementations and outcomes.

The Nairobi Declaration prescribes for its implementation

three broad areas of action. These are promotion of economic structural transformation by economic diversification and industrialization; promotion of resilient health systems for quality of life; and promotion of social stability for shared prosperity. Additionally, it also aims to give the private sector a leading

role through improvement of the business environment for the purpose of promoting harmonious and sustainable development.

In order to formalize the commitments initially made and in view of the importance given to the development of the Japanese-Guinean partnership, the President of the Republic of Guinea H.E. Alpha Conde has for the second time honored that high-level forum with his presence. After the summit ended he held in-depth discussions with Japanese political and economic authorities regarding development projects and programs. Some of the people he spoke with include Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the president of the Japan External Trade Organization, the president of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' International Research Center and the president of the Association for Economic Development in Africa.

The first head of the judiciary thus endorsed the important decisions that were made and committed himself to doing everything possible to adapt development policies and actions in line with the summit statement.

Promotion of the Japanese-Guinean partnership in line with the cooperation framework defined by the TICAD forum should serve as a springboard for the development of growth sectors for the sake of greater resilience to crises, as well as consolidation of the efforts that have been made toward economic progress.

With its major mining, agricultural and energy resources, Guinea today presents many new opportunities for development of economic activities.

That dynamism has inspired local authorities to work tirelessly for a viable and enabling environment for the promotion of foreign investment.

That is why the Guinean government continues to invite private initiative in the form of involvement by dynamic and competitive Japanese enterprises that can vitalize economic sectors through sharing of the experience and know-how needed for the emergence of dynamic human resources capable of undertaking large-scale structural reforms.

Such initiatives could profit considerably from assistance by the Agency for Promotion of Private Investment, which has a coherent and efficient framework for guaranteeing the prosperity and sustainability of induced investments.

The Japanese-Guinean partnership based on the model of a win-win partnership draws its strength from the complementarity of our respective

economies and represents a serious alternative for meeting the new challenges of development.

Japan and Guinea should therefore seize on all possibilities for keeping their partner-

ship on track for inclusive and prosperous development that is sure to bring the populations concerned the individual and collective fulfillment that they have always aspired to.

Domo arigato gozaimashita.

Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Guinea on Their Independence Day

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