

Algeria National Day

Friendly relations based on trust

Mohamed El Amine Bencherif
AMBASSADOR OF ALGERIA

On the auspicious occasion of the 62nd Anniversary of the Algerian revolution, I am delighted to convey to their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family, as well as to the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, my sincere and best wishes of continued good health, prosperity and happiness. I would like also to express my esteem to the friendly people of Japan.

It's important to remember that this year marks the 62nd anniversary of the Algerian revolution that began on Nov. 1, 1954, started by a group of young people after a long and fruitless political fight for the independence of the Algerian people and the recovery of the sovereignty of Algeria. That day marked a historic move, which was accompanied by the publication of the appeal of Nov. 1, 1954. In this historic and unprecedented document, the Algerian revolution's founders explained their motivations and the objectives of the revolution, as well as the means to achieve

them. The values and principals specified in this document met instantly the expectations of the Algerian people and fed, during more than seven years, a general and popular abnegation until the final accomplishment of the revolution was achieved on July 5, 1962. Until today, this document remains the main source of inspiration for the Algerian nation.

On July 4, 1962, Japan was among the first countries to recognize Algeria's independence. I would like to remember here, in particular, all our Japanese friends and pay the tribute they deserve for their spontaneous support provided to the Algerian people's liberation movement.

Investment opportunities

As everyone knows, stability is fundamental for economic and social development, as well as for foreign investment attractiveness. Hopefully, Algeria is enjoying peace and stability due to the harmonious policies conducted under the leadership of President of the Republic H.E. Abdelaziz Bouteflika. This year, the Algerian government embraced two important changes that can be highlighted here: a constitutional reform in February and the enactment of a new investment law in August.

Algeria will continue to work

steadily to promote the rule of law, democracy, socioeconomic development, the fight against terrorism and the promotion of women as outlined in this year's constitutional amendment. It will also continue to work for strong south-south cooperation.

At the economic level, like many other oil-producing countries, Algeria came under pressure due to a 50-percent drop in hydrocarbon revenues. However, this situation motivated Algerian authorities to design a new economic model, based on many new incentives included in the new investment code aiming mainly to diversify the economy, facilitate more foreign investment to develop various infrastructure projects, promote active industrialization and explore more possibilities in agriculture and fisheries, among others.

On Nov. 10, 2015, a seminar on investment opportunities in Algeria took place in Tokyo. Algerian officials introduced new opportunities and many Japanese companies expressed their willingness to be part of these new projects (please visit <http://www.andi.dz> for more information). To illustrate the quality of the friendly relationship between Japan and Algeria, Youcef Yousefi, former minister of energy and foreign affairs, was awarded by His

Majesty Emperor Akihito the "Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun," Japan's highest distinction.

At political and security levels, Algeria continues its extensive efforts to assure its citizens and its guests a stable daily life even as its borders remain under pressure due to the spread of terrorist activities.

Furthermore, and as requested by the international community to share its experiences, Algeria hosted this year at least three international symposiums on the "fight against violent extremism and de-radicalization policies" and submitted a proposal to the U.N. on this matter. This is a common area of cooperation between Algeria and Japan, who jointly with African countries placed this topic as one of the top priorities of the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) held in Nairobi in August.

At the U.N. level, both Algeria and Japan agreed on the need to accelerate the U.N. reform process to strengthen its legitimacy and representativeness to respond with efficiency to the new and critical growing challenges facing humanity.

Algeria remains profoundly convinced that economic bilateral relations with Japan will reach an unprecedented level in the near future.

Little-known story of joint effort

Akira Urabe
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-ALGERIA ASSOCIATION, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA



On Nov. 1, I join all my Algerian friends in celebrating Algeria's National Day. I would like to take this very special opportunity to tell the readers of The Japan Times a little-known, but charming chapter of Japan-Algeria cooperation.

In Bou Ismail, a picturesque town on the Mediterranean coast, about 40 km west of Algiers, the prestigious National Maritime Academy (Ecole Nationale Supérieure Maritime, formerly Institut Supérieur Maritime) was founded in 1974 to train and educate top maritime professionals. Because of its long coastline, maritime transport has huge importance as part of the transportation network and national economy of Algeria. The government has therefore accumulated resources to establish self-reliance in maritime transportation since the 1970s.

Japan's contribution began in 1990 and a resident expert dispatched by the Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) engaged in the cooperation of operating navigation machinery. The operation simulators for engines and radars offered by JICA were crucial for the graduate mariners of the academy to meet the requirements set forth by international conventions. Due to aggravation of the internal situation, also known as "a decade of crisis," cooperation was suspended in 1993 because of the sudden departure of the JICA expert.

Toward the end of 2002, I visited the academy, as the ambassador of Japan, after almost a decade of no contact since the unexpected suspension. I was stunned with joy. The two engine room simulators and the radar simulator were fully functional, perfectly maintained and operated by the Algerian teaching staff. The vacant office for the JICA expert remained next to the simulators, as if someone had just stepped away for a minute. "He'll sit here, when he comes back," the director of the academy, said proudly with a warm smile.

At the academy, I also observed that, with the assistance of the Algerian government, a considerable number of trainees from Sub-Saharan African countries such as Senegal and Cameroon were studying together with Algerians. Maritime navigation is international by its nature, and in the academy there exists a longstanding natural and excellent example of south-south cooperation.

To my delight, cooperation with Japan resumed in 2005 with the renewal of the radar simulator. And since 2011 with the support of Kobe University, JICA's joint program has expanded its scope to include exchanges of teaching staff and experts to strengthen post-graduate level research and education at the academy. Many graduates are already aboard and steering Algerian LNG tankers and other vessels.

Most visitors to Algiers make a half-day trip to Tipaza, Albert Camus' favorite Mediterranean archeological town and on their way they pass near Bou Ismail. If you ever spend time in Algiers in the future I do recommend that all readers of The Japan Times visit the academy, as Queen Elizabeth II did in 1980, yet another little-known chapter the academy is proud of.



Smartshoes, invented by Algerian Karim Oumnia, represent the vanguard in connected footwear. IMAGE FROM DIGITSOLE.COM

Ongoing efforts to diversify industry

Koichi Kawana
PRESIDENT AND REPRESENTATIVE
DIRECTOR OF JGC CORPORATION

On the occasion of the 62nd National Day of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, I am sincerely honored to have the opportunity to express my warmest congratulations.

The relationship between Algeria and JGC began in the mid-1960s. JGC has since enjoyed the privilege of being permitted to continuously provide professional services in the Algerian oil and gas sector for over 50 years. This year, JGC has been awarded a project in the Hassi Messaoud region where the company has a track record of projects successfully completed, along with the further honor permitting me to participate in the International Energy Forum hosted by Algeria in September.

As a major part of our commitment to Algeria, since 2006 JGC has operated a local engineering subsidiary called JGC Algeria S.p.A. The number of employees is increasing and the company now has a staff of more than 340, with 99 percent being Algerian engineers. Local capabilities are being developed through the on-the-job training received, their daily activities and accumulated experience, as well as through the success of projects undertaken.

In leading JGC's efforts in your esteemed nation, and as Algeria is now at a turning point in diversifying its indus-



try, my heartfelt desire is to contribute to the further development of such diversification, through our most valued clients, in-

cluding Sonatrach, but also in other areas of industry.

Taking the opportunity on this special day, I would like to express my most sincere wishes for Algeria's continued economic development and further prosperity, and for the heightening of the very special relationship between Algeria and JGC.

Continuing business promotion

Keisuke Takeuchi
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-ALGERIA ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, JAPAN BUSINESS FEDERATION (KEIDANREN)

On behalf of the Japan-Algeria Economic Committee of the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren), it is a pleasure and a great honor to extend my congratulations on the occasion of the 62nd National Day of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. First and foremost, I wish to express to President Abdelaziz Bouteflika and to the people of Algeria my heartfelt wishes for their health and prosperity for now and in the years to come.

As the chair of Japan-Algeria Economic Committee, I am committed to contributing to the further economic well-being of both Algeria and Japan. At the end of last year, we had the honor of receiving the Vice President of the Forum des Chefs d'Entreprises Mehdi Bendimerad and the General Director of the Investment Development Agency of Algeria Abdelkrim Mansouri for fruitful discussions toward further development of the important bilateral business relationships.

Keidanren will continue to assume a key role in the global economy through recognizing and promoting business opportunities between Japan and other countries. For its part, the Japan-Algeria Economic Committee would lead in strengthening the economic ties between our two countries. It is anticipated that expansion in bilateral cooperation would further enhance our important bilateral relationship in many years to come.



Foggara, a traditional system for agriculture irrigation, was studied by the late professor Iwao Kobori. EMBASSY OF ALGERIA

Congratulations
to the People of the People's Democratic
Republic of Algeria on Their National Day

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3-1, Minatomirai 3-chome, Nishi-Ku
Yokohama, 220-8401 Japan
TEL: +81-45-200-6795 FAX: +81-45-200-9932
URL: <http://www.mhi.co.jp>