

Mauritania National Day

Economic and social reforms support sustainable development

Yahya Ngam
AMBASSADOR OF THE ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

Allow me to take this opportunity to extend the heartfelt and sincere wishes of President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania H.E. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, to Their 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 to Prime Minister H.E. Shinzo Abe, his government and the Japanese people for their resilience, patience and commitment to international peace and their dedication for 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 President Abdel Aziz, is witnessing huge progress in infrastructure realizations. The achievement of such infrastructure in the country worked as a boosting engine to our economic growth and having a huge positive impact on Mauritanians' living conditions through universal access to basic services, creation of jobs and effective programs to

fight against disparities and poverty. This has contributed to preserve the social peace and political stability that are both pivotal to a steady democracy.

The activities of the new airport, "Aéroport International Oumtounsy" in Nouakchott, which started on June 23, are leading the capital of the country, Nouakchott, to become an important hub between Africa and other regions around the world.

Given its highly strategic geographic position at the crossroads of north and sub-Saharan Africa, Mauritania today offers expanding investment opportunities not only in the fisheries, oil and gas sectors, but also in mining with the iron ore potential of the Taoudeni Basin adding to the existing iron ore mining (SNIM) and important gold reserves.

The significant reforms to encourage foreign investments, the huge potential offered by natural resources, the infrastructure projects and the opportunities



President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania H.E. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz

presented by the Free Zone of Nouadhibou are indicators of the bright future of the country.

At the political level, Mauritania is experiencing real democracy in a peaceful and secure atmosphere, proven by an inclusive dialogue held from Sept. 29 to Oct. 20, concluded by a large consensus to have constitutional reform on some articles in the

constitution not concerning the number of terms of the president or the maximum age of the candidates.

Under the leadership of President Abdel Aziz, the sub-regional organization, G5 Sahel (Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad and Burkina Faso), is totally committed to fight against terrorism and all forms of trafficking and take measures for employment, to encourage investments and to fight against poverty.

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

Since July, the president has held the chairmanship of the Organization of the League of Arab States following the successful "Summit of the Organization" held in Nouakchott on July 25 and 26.

The central role of Mauritania in Arab-African cooperation has been underlined by

the leadership of the president as the chair of the last Arab-African Summit that took place on Nov. 23 and 24 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

The commitment of Mauritanian troops to the peacekeeping operations in Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan and Central Africa is also 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 its determination to achieve the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals. Mauritania's bid to achieve these goals is stimulated by the generous assistance of friendly nations such as 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 our vital sectors such as infrastructure, food security, environmental protec-

tion, fisheries, health, education and others.

The reforms initiated by the government have seen Mauritania classified as one of the best business environments among the major African countries by the World Bank's "Doing Business 2015 Report."

Mauritania is firmly committed to strengthen its cooperation with Japan both by the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process and the Arab-Japan Forum, taking into account that Mauritania participated in TICAD VI in Nairobi in August and in the fourth Arab-Japan Economic Forum in Casablanca in May.

Mauritania can count on Japan's continued support and friendship as we continue our nation-building efforts for a sustainable development.

Taking into account the good economic performance and peaceful situation of the country, Mauritania is celebrating its 56th independence anniversary looking to the future with optimism.



Fish laid out on a beach EMBASSY OF MAURITANIA



Nouadhibou Port EMBASSY OF MAURITANIA

Congratulations
to the People of
the Islamic Republic of
Mauritania
on the Occasion of
the 56th Anniversary of
Their Independence

 **NICHIREI FRESH INC.**

NICHIREI FRESH INC.
6-19-20, Tsukiji, Chuo-ku, Tokyo

Congratulations
to the People of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
on the Occasion of the 56th Anniversary of
Their Independence



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