

Djibouti National Day

Country continues taking steps toward further realization of its dreams

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AMBASSADOR OF DJIBOUTI



This year the Republic of Djibouti will celebrate its Emerald Jubilee to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Proclamation of its Independence on June 27, 1977, after gaining its independence from France. There are many activities planned to mark this special year.

At the outset, I would like to convey the warm greetings of the President of the Republic of Djibouti, H.E Ismail Omar Guelleh, as well as his best wishes for the health and happiness to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the members of the Imperial family, and peace and prosperity to the friendly people and government of Japan.

As we commemorate our country's independence, we also reflect on the cordial and fraternal ties that characterize the relations between Djibouti and Japan. We cherish the fact that since our independence in 1977, the Japanese government and its people have always stood by Djibouti. Not surprisingly, Japan is among our leading development partners. Indeed, our bilateral relations have continued to expand in the last few years.

President Guelleh attended the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development that took place in Nairobi last year. During a cordial bilateral summit between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and our president, Japan promised to maintain its support of Djibouti for the development of geothermal energy, education and trainees under the ABE

Initiative.

Djibouti maintains its focus to diversify its sources of power toward the use of more renewable and green energy, including solar, wind and geothermal. The country has already adopted a wide range of resilience measures to ensure energy efficiency such as rehabilitating the dike protecting people from its most flood-prone dry river bed and updating its emergency plans.

The strengthening of bilateral relations was reaffirmed in May during the last visit of Japan's Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Shunsuke Takei, who was welcomed in Djibouti by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf. The discussions between both ministers helped to seize on the high level of cooperation already existing between the two countries and to examine, at the same time, ways and means to strengthen them further.

The first Djibouti-Japan Business Forum took place on May 8 in Djibouti. It was an opportunity for Japanese investors to become more interested in our country. The Minister to the Presidency in Charge of Investment, H.E. Ali Guelleh Aboubaker, delivered the opening speech during which he called on the Japanese private sector to seize Djibouti's business opportunities in a conducive environment. The forum was attended by a large number of representatives from the Djibouti-Japan public and private sectors.

Djibouti wishes to bolster its comparative advantages over its neighbors by transforming itself into a regional platform and hub for logistics, trading and financial services.

Many infrastructure projects have been completed and others are nearing the final stages of completion. The political vision of President Guelleh, sup-

ported by patriotism and the political maturity of all the stakeholders, puts Djibouti at the forefront in moving toward its dream to become a real continental maritime cargo hub.

Indeed, the recent inauguration of the Doraleh Multipurpose Port, Djibouti's newest and largest port, is the first of four new ports being developed in Djibouti as part of its strategic series of megaprojects that will help achieve this. The port will increase the East African country's capacity and will support the enlargement and diversification of port activities in the region.

Djibouti maintained its visibility on the international scene with its involvement and contribution to various international organizations to which it belongs. Our country is engaged in peacekeeping operations under the African Union Mission to Somalia. Additionally, Djibouti continues to host various international community military forces engaged in counter-piracy and anti-terrorism in the Indian Ocean. Djibouti is pleased to accommodate a base from Japan's Self-Defense Forces, which is tasked with combating piracy off the East African coast. The country's motivation is mainly to provide assistance to facilitate friendly countries like Japan to protect their interests.

Djibouti achieved universal health coverage, resulting in the sharp decline in infant and maternal mortality rates. It has also achieved universal primary education and is on the way to achieving universal secondary education by 2035.

Vision Djibouti 2035 is a master plan under the Ministry of Finance and its Minister H.E. Ilyas Moussa Dawaleh. This initiative is based on major key pillars focusing on economic integration, good governance and human development to promote Djibouti to the status of an emerging country by 2035.



President of the Republic of Djibouti Ismail Omar Guelleh and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe meet on the sidelines of the TICAD VI summit in Nairobi in August.

EMBASSY OF DJIBOUTI



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to the People of the Republic of Djibouti
on the 40th Anniversary of Their Independence



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