

Mongolia National Day

Bright future lies in friendly bilateral ties

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On the occasion of Mongolia's National Day celebrations, Naadam, and the 45th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and Japan, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to

the readers of The Japan Times.

Bilateral ties have developed and expanded in the past 45 years, especially in the 27 years after the Mongolian public chose democratization and reform. The fact that then-Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu visited Mongolia in 1991 and unveiled the Japanese government's measures to support the country's democratization opened a new era for development of the bilateral relations. Particularly, the Mongolia Consultative Group Meeting that Japan has held 10 times with the World Bank has tremendously contributed to the country's economic stability, transition to a market economy and laid the foundation for

fresh development. Japan offered financial aid worth \$2.3 billion, accounting for 70 percent of the assistance provided by the international community, garnering gratitude and respect from the Mongolian public. Japan's decision to offer further financial assistance this year to Mongolia, which was on the brink of bankruptcy due to its deteriorating fiscal health, by adopting a special economic recovery program jointly with the International Monetary Fund meant an important step to help Mongolia again.

The ties between Mongolia and Japan have developed based on a comprehensive partnership from the middle of the 1990s, expanding in various areas. Both countries successfully promoted bilateral relations to the next stage with a strategic partnership from 2011. The implementation of this action plan has shored up bilateral political dialogues at all levels, boosting mutual understanding and trust. Since 2013, our president and chairperson of the State Grand Khural have each visited Japan three times, while our prime minister has called on the country four times. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has visited Mongolia three times, while Mikio Hayashi, chairman of the Japan-Mongolia

Parliamentary Friendship League visited twice and Lower House Speaker Tadamori Oshima is planning a July visit. We see two-plus-two political-military talks, and strategic dialogues, as well as policy planning talks, between our foreign ministries every year.

Bilateral trade and economic relations gradually advance based on a mutual principle. Thanks to the Japanese government's official development assistance, the new Ulaan Baator International Airport and the Mongolia-Japan Teaching Hospital were constructed. The two countries concluded a bilateral economic partnership agreement last year and launched negotiations on a double taxation agreement. In 2015, a delegate led by Sadayuki Sakakibara, chairman of Keidanren, visited Mongolia and organized an investment forum and the eighth Mongolia-Japan Joint Consultation with the Government and Private Sector was held in Ulaan Baator in early July.

Another crucial aspect in our partnership is cooperation in culture and education, as well as exchanges among people and places, which has expanded year by year. Currently, more than 2,700 Mongolians study at Japanese universities and graduate schools. We now see more than 100 friendship asso-



ciations in Japan and around 30 of them in Mongolia.

Mongolia and Japan have deepened the cooperative ties of mutual support in regional and global issues. Mongolia voiced its support on Japan becoming a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council as the country has implemented its policies for proactive contribution to peace and contributed to international stability and prosperity, while Japan has actively worked so that Mongolia could join a consolidation process in the Asia-Pacific region. The two countries signed a new Mongolia-Japan Mid-term Action Plan for a Strategic Partnership (2017-2021) in March to further develop the bilateral ties.

The future of the bilateral relations is bright as we are close partners in the region.

**Mongolian wrestlers
in the Naadam Festival**
EMBASSY OF
MONGOLIA

Congratulations
to the People of Mongolia
on the Occasion of
the Mongolian National Day

 Mitsubishi Corporation