

Mauritania National Day

Political reforms to consolidate democracy, stability

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AMBASSADOR OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC
OF MAURITANIA



First allow me the opportunity, on the celebration of the 57th Anniversary of the National Independence of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, 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 the distinguished Imperial family. I would also like, on behalf of the people and the government of Mauritania, to express my admiration for Prime Minister H.E. Shinzo Abe, his government and the Japanese people for their commitment to international peace and their dedication to creating 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 our president, is witnessing huge progress in infrastructure realization. The achievement of such infrastructure in our country has worked as an engine propelling our economic growth. This made 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, thus contributing to the preservation of social



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

peace and political stability, both pivotal to a steady democracy. In this regard, the government adopted the "Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity" (SCAPP) this year, which will be in effect until 2030.

Mauritania offers expanding investment opportunities not only in the fisheries and oil and gas sectors, but also in mining with great iron ore potential adding to the existing iron ore mining by Societe Nationale Industrielle et Miniere and important gold reserves.

The significant reforms to encourage foreign investment, the huge potential offered by natural resources and infrastructure projects, as well as the opportunities given by the free zone of Nouadhibou are indicators of a bright future for our country.

On a political level, Mauritania is experiencing real democracy in a peaceful

and secure atmosphere, proven by an inclusive dialogue held from Sep. 29 to Oct. 20, 2016, that was concluded by a large consensus to have constitutional reforms on some articles in our constitution. In the application of the conclusions of that dialogue, a referendum was successfully organized on Aug. 5 and with a very high positive vote, the Mauritanian population decided to instate a new flag, new national anthem and bring some changes in various constitutional bodies, along with the suppression of the Senate.

All of these changes will be applied soon after the finalization of the legislative process; only the suppression of the Senate was immediate.

Under our president's leadership, Mauritania is playing a key role in building a strong G5 Sahel, an organization to fight against terrorism.

The dedication of Mauritanian troops to the peacekeeping operations in various countries is yet another sign of the commitment of Mauritania to the necessity of global diplomacy for peace and stability in Africa.

The exchange between the foreign ministers of our two countries in Cairo during the Arab-Japan Political Dialogue and in New York during the last U.N. General Assembly have shown our common views on many international issues.

Mauritania stands resolutely committed to economic liberalism. 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 like Japan,



Nouadhibou Port
EMBASSY OF
MAURITANIA

which remains one of the main contributors to the public development aid in Mauritania, and in this regard, the Mauritanian government and people greatly acknowledge the positive impacts of Japanese official aid to our vital sectors such as infrastructure, food security, environmental protection, fisheries, health, education and others.

Mauritania is strongly committed to strengthening its cooperation with Japan both through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development and the Arab-Japan Economic Forum.

At a time when Mauritania, despite several challenges, is making remarkable progress, Japan increasing its official development aid and investment would contribute substantially to the acceleration of the development of my country.

For that to come about Mauritania's unflinching commitment to the partnership with Japan remains constant and enabling.

Congratulations
to the People of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
on the Occasion of the 57th Anniversary of
Their Independence



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