

Togo National Day Special

Peace a fundamental aspect of foreign policy

A. KOUAKOU SEDAMINOU
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF TOGO



Today, the Togolese people celebrate the 58th anniversary of their independence, a new opportunity for them to reaffirm their goal of continuing to work with faith and diligence to achieve

their future. Since the accession of President H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe to the nation's highest office, Togo has redoubled its efforts to assert itself as an example of stability and socioeconomic growth.

The excellent bilateral relations, which continue to grow and diversify, of friendship and cooperation between Togo and Japan play an important role in achieving the objectives of peace, stability and socioeconomic growth.

When Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and African Integration H.E. Robert Dussey took stock of the cooperation between our two countries last year, he rightly said, "In bilateral cooperation, all is well and Japan plays its role perfectly, since it supports Togo in various fields such as trade, education, health, vocational training, transport, human rights and the private sector."

The construction of the bridges over the Kara and Koumongou rivers, as well as the construction of the new fishing port of Lome, are some examples of quality infrastructure being built in Togo thanks to Japanese corporations. I, too, would like to very sincerely thank the Japanese authorities for their support that will help improve Togo's efforts to become an example of a sustainable economy. I also welcome and appreciate the recent designation of a Japan International Cooperation Agency-appointed expert for Togo.



Togo President H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe

At the same time, our two countries continue to share common values and a convergence of views in many others areas within the international organizations to which we belong, on the basis of our cooperation.

Togo, which makes the culture of peace a fundamental link in its foreign policy, has formed and kept friendly and cooperative relations with all nations. The diversity and quality of our multilateral exchanges are clear indicators of the vitality of cooperation for stability, peace and development.

Internally, the objective pursued by the government is that of great achievements on the path of common destiny. Also, through the Strategy of Accelerated Growth and Promotion of Employment, which covered the period between 2013 and 2017, the improvement of living conditions and the diversification of state support mechanisms to the most vulnerable strata have remained at the heart of constant concern.

To give more access to training adapted to the potential of the country and the potential of young people, the government, in line with the pillars of the Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD), has



Togo Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and African Integration Robert Dussey

decided to focus on the quality of vocational training, knowing that this training provides necessary tools and skills to encourage participation of young people in development. Thus, 10 training institutes for development will be created over the next five years in the fields of agriculture, logistics, building, transport and digital technology.

These projects will contribute to finding solutions for the empowerment and economic inclusion of young people, especially women.

As our president has so well noted, the successes achieved and the pursuit of other challenges will only be reached in peace and through permanent dialogue.

These different measures are perfectly in line with Togo's new development policy.

At the end of the implementation of the Strategy of Accelerated Growth and Employment Promotion, which expired last year, Togo chose to pursue its development policy, medium-term economic and social development through the National Development Plan, based on the social project of the head of state. This project is reflected in the government's general policy statement and in the



commitments undertaken by Togo at community, continental and international levels in relation with the Economic Community of West African States 2020 vision, the TICAD process, the African Union Agenda 2063 and the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals.

This new National Development Plan has three main axes: the first is setting up a logistics hub of excellence for international trade accompanying the development of a first-rate business center, and the second is creating jobs through the development of agricultural processing, manufacturing and extractive industries. The third axis aims to see the consolidation of social development and strengthening the mechanisms of inclusion.

Togo will continue to count on the support of Japan for the successful implementation of its National Development Plan.

To conclude, I would like to express my sincerest thanks to The Japan Times for the opportunity to address its distinguished readers and celebrate our independence day, highlighting the depth and the strength of Togo-Japan friendly relations. I am also humbly indebted to our sponsors, whose generosity has made this supplement possible.

The Koutamakou, the land of the Batamariba, is a UNESCO World Heritage site in Togo. The northeastern area is known for the Batamariba's strong miniature mud castles.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Togo
on the 58th Anniversary
of their Independence

KONOIKE
 鴻池組
KONOIKE CONSTRUCTION CO., LTD.

Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Togo
on the 58th Anniversary
of Their Independence



from the president and staff of
AFRICAN HOME TOUCH
RESTAURANT & BAR

【Roppongi】
Yoko Central Roppongi Building 3F
3-15-22 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0032
Tel: 03-6447-0116 Fax: 04-8044-9676

【Kasukabe】
M2 Building 1F Lten, 1-9-13 Chuo
Kasukabe-shi, Saitama 344-0067
Tel: 048-752-6969

URL: africanhometouch.com