

# D.R. Congo National Day Special

## Nation of unexplored opportunities

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REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Fifty-nine years ago, the Congolese people gained their independence from Belgium. As newly appointed ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in

Japan, it is an honor to celebrate with my fellow citizens the 59th anniversary of the independence of the DRC.



**The Congo River and Kinshasa** EMBASSY OF  
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Hence, I congratulate them and wish them a festive Independence Day.

On this memorable day, I would like to extend on behalf of our new president, Felix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, warm greetings and deep respect to the new emperor and empress of Japan, the emperor emeritus and the empress emerita, the imperial family as well as the distinguished members of the government of Japan.

The year 2019 marks an important turn for the DRC and Japan. Both countries have entered a new era of prosperity. On one hand, the DRC with the election of the president as the fifth president of the country following the general elections held on Dec. 30, made it the first peaceful transition of power in the country since it became independent. On the other hand, Japan entered the Reiwa Era, translated as “beautiful harmony,” fostering the expression of “a culture being born and nurtured by people coming together beautifully,” according to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Furthermore, in August, Japan will hold the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VII)

in Yokohama. This represents a fantastic opportunity for the DRC to strengthen its bilateral relations with Japan through showcasing its business appeal to the Japanese private sector.

On the level of bilateral cooperation, the country is seeking the Japanese government’s support in key sectors such as education, health, energy, natural resources exploration, transport and infrastructure.

Regarding the health sector, assistance is required in building a medical facility in order to treat victims of infectious and tropical diseases such as the Ebola virus. In the energy sector, a rehabilitation project concerning the hydroelectric dam of the Inga power station is in progress thanks to support from the Japanese government.

Regarding the valorization of the DRC’s natural resources, it is necessary to establish a global geographical survey to map its mining deposit. As for quality infrastructure, the Matadi port rehabilitation project is another key project benefiting of special attention from the Japanese government.

TICAD VII represents an advancement in Japan-Africa relations. The DRC, thanks to its



**Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Kenji Yamada and President Felix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo in Kinshasa on Jan. 21.** CABINET  
OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

natural resources and its geographical location, is a real flagship for the African business market. Japanese companies are discovering the potential this country can offer.

From rare metals to oil, agriculture and quality infrastructures, the DRC displays great investment opportunities. In consideration of the various, ongoing support from the Japanese government, the DRC is more than open to offer privileged concessional facilities to assist the implementation of Japanese corporations’ projects. Although this covers wider fields, natural resources are especially of note as the DRC can also provide Japan with strategic solutions.

*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 Democratic**  
**Republic of the Congo**  
**on the 59th Anniversary of**  
**Their Independence**

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