

Afghanistan National Day Special

Resilience across 100 years of independence

BASHIR MOHABBAT
AMBASSADOR OF AFGHANISTAN



On this 100th Anniversary of the Restoration of Independence of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I am honored to express sincerest gratitude to their imperial majesties

the emperor and empress of Japan, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the people and government of Japan for the enduring friendship they have shown over the years. On behalf of the people and government of Afghanistan, thank you for your prominent role among international partners through which we have made extraordinary progress.

One century, 12,000 months, 36,525 days. Generations surmounting innumerable challenges have paved the history between today and Aug. 19, 1919, when Afghanistan achieved independence. Afghanistan has survived and progressed

through the tenacious strength of the Afghan spirit. This commingled with the assistance of our international partners have ensured our reason to celebrate today.

It's said storms cannot break trees that bend, and wind cannot topple trees with strong roots. A tree that is able to survive through bending when the wind storms against it, embraces the challenge and grows stronger from it. Looking back over the century, Afghanistan has undoubtedly been a tree of this sort; surviving storms that might have felled others. Throughout history, our tree has grown beautiful leaves, had those leaves torn away at times and has been deeply cut by conflict. But she now blossoms anew with rich leaves and deeper roots. The international community has assisted us by being additional deep roots that help us weather storms — chief among these auxiliary roots is the government of Japan fostering Afghanistan's capacity for development and sustainability.

Looking back at this past year's many accomplishments, it's no wonder how

far we've come. Through a plethora of international initiatives, meetings, and projects undertaken by the National Unity Government we are improving Afghanistan's seating among other members of the international community. Many endeavors on our path toward achieving peace in an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led process, building a sustainably increasing economy, and linking with our national partners in terms of trade and communication make Afghanistan increasingly able to proudly participate in achieving regional peace and stability.

This year, new parliamentary members were inaugurated into office based on the successful democratically held elections. On Sept. 28, we will again be holding democratic elections for the highest office of the nation — the presidency. It is our hope through consecutive successful elections we can show the importance of civil responsibility, fostering inclusion and active involvement of all Afghans in government and civic actions as we move forward into our next 100 years.

Of Afghanistan's many natural

resources, we are richest in the promise of the future accomplishments of our young Afghan sons and daughters. International partners have aided greatly in human capacity development in fostering Afghan scholars worldwide and in improving the Afghan education system, preparing Afghans to take on tomorrow's challenges autonomously and sustainably. With 47 percent of our population under 15 years old, Afghanistan's future leaders stand poised and eager to work hard and well in the upcoming decades.

On this milestone occasion, I would like to convey, on behalf of the people and government of Afghanistan, our deepest gratitude and respect for Japan's assistance — the country has proven to be a true friend. I look forward to the continued deepening of bonds between our two great nations and paving the next 100 years together.

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



Band-e Amir
National Park in
Bamyan Province
EMBASSY OF
AFGHANISTAN

Relations date back to ancient Silk Road

SEIKO NODA
MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES



It gives me great honor and pleasure to extend my sincerest congratulations to the people and government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

on the occasion of their Independence Day. Indeed, I would like to express my sincerest congratulations even more so in this special year, which marks the 100th anniversary of your esteemed country's independence.

Afghanistan has endured several conflicts in the past, but I believe that a country with such a notable history will take a major role in facilitating peace and stability

in the international order of the world.

It has been 88 years since the diplomatic relationship between Japan and Afghanistan was established, with the relationship between the two countries having actually begun during the Silk Road era when goods were mutually traded — the friendship has become stronger all the more since then.

It must never be forgotten that the Afghan government and the Afghan people offered a great amount of support to us when the Great East Japan Earthquake struck in 2011, for which we Japanese people are very grateful.

Now, we have many interactions with each other in various fields such as art, culture and business, and things are still expanding. I sincerely hope that the wonderful friendship between our two countries will deepen and develop further in the future.



H.E. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani (right), H.E. Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah Abdullah (left) and H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs Salahuddin Rabbani EMBASSY OF AFGHANISTAN



CONGRATULATIONS

*on the 100th Anniversary of
the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's
Independence*

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on the 100th Anniversary of
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Afghanistan's Independence

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