

Turkmenistan Independence Day Special

International ties continue fruitful growth

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This year on Sept. 27, we celebrate the 28th anniversary of the Independence of Turkmenistan. Being an open and fast-growing country, Turkmenistan is actively developing its multifaceted

cooperation in the global arena. Since obtaining its independence in 1991, Turkmenistan has been successfully strengthening its relations with all countries in the political, economic, educational, scientific and cultural fields, as well as other areas.

These relations are solely based on the principle of our permanent neutrality status, which was unanimously approved through a U.N. resolution on Dec. 12, 1995. To commemorate this event, Turkmenistan solemnly celebrated the 20th anniversary of its neutrality in 2015. It may also be noted, that in June 2015, a new U.N. resolution confirming the status of neutrality was adopted, thus cementing the unshakable character of our neutrality, which is engraved in Turkmenistan's constitution.

Complete independence and positive neutrality constitute the two main pillars of our policy. Time has proven that these principles provide excellent opportunities for Turkmenistan to flourish. Outstanding achievements have been made in the political, economic, social and other sectors over the period of independence. Today, Turkmen people are happy to be part of a sovereign nation with absolutely no dependence on other countries, nor any political blocs or unions.

Our neutral status has also allowed us to put forward new global initiatives to create universal mechanisms for the solution of global geopolitical issues, including transit and transport.

One such initiative has been reflected in another important Turkmenistan-sponsored U.N. resolution on the "Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development" adopted on Dec. 19, 2014.

Today, we focus on common Caspian development. On the initiative of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the First Caspian Economic Forum in Turkmenistan was held on Aug. 12, recognizing the Caspian Sea as a space of cooperation, development and prosperity that is free of conflicts and confrontations.



President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov

The area continues to serve as a unifying space for states, international organizations, business and scientific and technological potential.

The Caspian Economic Forum became a platform for bringing cooperation between the states of the Caspian region to a new level, as well as an instrument of economic



The logo for the country's 2019 slogan, "Turkmenistan - the Home of Prosperity"

growth in the region and beyond its borders.

Safeguarding the peace, disarmament, energy security and environmental protection are some of the other important initiatives put forward by Turkmenistan. These ideas have been well received, appreciated and supported by other countries, including Japan.

In this context, it is remarkable that at the 106th plenary meeting of the 73rd session of the General Assembly of the U.N., all U.N. member states unanimously adopted the resolution, "2021 — International Year of Peace and Trust," initiated by the president of Turkmenistan.

Another strategic direction of the foreign policy of Turkmenistan is to establish productive relations with Asia-Pacific countries. Therefore, Japan, which is the only Group of Seven country in the region, is one of the most important partners of Turkmenistan. As ambassador of Turkmenistan in Japan, my main duty is to implement agreements reached during the visits of the president to Japan in 2013 and in March 2015.

Today, Turkmen-Japanese cooperation is successfully developing in different fields. Our country's enterprises work in cooperation with dozens of major Japanese corporations implementing large regional projects, especially in the oil and gas field. The Japanese business community not only knows Turkmenistan as a country that possesses the world's fourth-largest reserves of



Bagt Koshgi (The Wedding Palace) in Ashgabat
EMBASSY OF
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natural gas, but also as a politically, socially and financially stable, strong and loyal partner. In order to increase economic cooperation between Turkmenistan and Japan, the Turkmen-Japanese and Japanese-Turkmen committees for economic cooperation were established in 1993. This year on May 23, we held the 13th joint meeting of these committees in Ashgabat.

The vivid result of the close economical cooperation between Turkmenistan and Japan is the implementation of joint projects. An outstanding example is the opening of the plant for production of gasoline from

natural gas in Turkmenistan on June 28. This is the world's largest gas-to-gasoline plant equipped with new super modern technologies that will produce eco-friendly fuel.

Successful Turkmen-Japan cooperation is also taking place between our parliaments, government organizations and universities.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the readers of The Japan Times on the 28th anniversary of independence of Turkmenistan. I would also like to express my strong confidence that multifaceted and mutually beneficial Turkmen-Japanese cooperation will continue to flourish.

Complete independence and positive neutrality constitute the two main pillars of our policy.

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

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to the People of Turkmenistan

on the Occasion of

the 28th Anniversary of

Their Independence

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