

Burkina Faso National Day Special

Mutual exchanges foster cooperation

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AMBASSADOR OF BURKINA FASO



On Dec. 11 Burkina Faso celebrates the 59th anniversary of its independence. The theme is “100 years of the creation of Burkina Faso: duty of remembrance and patriotic commitment for the

consolidation of the nation-state.”

This historic date symbolizes the triumph of the republican spirit of Burkina Faso’s people to build an independent, strong and prosperous nation.

As 2019 draws to a close, with the support of Japan, the unremitting efforts of Burkina Faso’s government to implement the National Economic and Social Development Plan have made it possible to achieve important results in the strategic sectors of education, health, agriculture, infrastructure and democracy.

Despite difficulties in security facing countries in the Sahel region, Burkina Faso

recorded a growth rate of 6.4 percent in gross national product in 2019. Burkina Faso President Roch Marc Christian Kabore, who is also the current president of the G5 Sahel, a joint military task force, called on the international community to intensify its efforts against terrorism in Africa occurring mainly in the Sahel.

As for the G5 Sahel meeting held in February in Ouagadougou, the Japanese government made an important announcement to the G5 Sahel countries to support in fighting terrorism.

The major event this year between Japan and Africa was The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7) in Yokohama, in which the president of Burkina Faso participated with a delegation of almost 100 members.

The fruitful exchanges that the president had with Japan’s highest authorities and its business leaders made it possible to draw fruitful cooperation between our two countries.

Japan and Burkina Faso have been entertaining excellent ties of friendship and cooperation since 1962. Priority areas are diplomacy, agriculture, education, health

and infrastructure, among others.

In 2019, our bilateral cooperation has maintained and strengthened its dynamism, evidenced by the exchange of high-level delegations. Our president made two visits to Japan within a 12-month period: The first on an official visit in November 2018, and his participation in TICAD 7 in August this year.

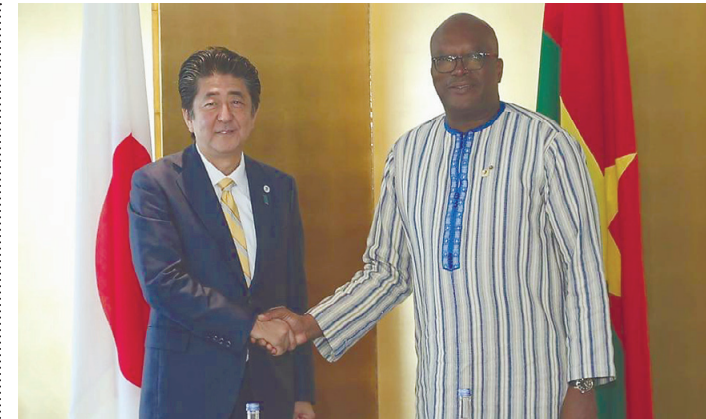
Members of the government and the National Assembly of Burkina Faso also made official visits to Japan.

The most recent visit was that made by Foreign Minister Alpha Barry on the occasion of the enthronement of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito.

In addition, Japan was pleased to host the fifth session of Japan-Burkina Faso bilateral consultations on April 8 that allowed for an evaluation of our cooperation and laid a new foundation for the future.

Our governments have reached an agreement regarding food and humanitarian aid, and the acquisition of heavy equipment for infrastructure, as well as the provision of resources to help the stability of our country.

The participation of many businesspeo-



ple, as well as government officials during TICAD 7, is proof that our two countries are considering the promotion of investment and innovation based on a win-win partnership.

That is why the government of Burkina Faso is pleased to have this memorandum between the Japan External Trade Organization and the Burkina Investment Agency that will inspire confidence in Japanese investors and open more opportunities for both parties.

Allow me to express our sincere gratitude to the government and people of Japan for their constant support for Burkina Faso’s development efforts.

Thank you.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Roch Marc Christian Kabore shake hands at TICAD 7 in Yokohama in August. PREFASO

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 Burkina Faso
on the Anniversary of
Their Independence***



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