

Turkmenistan Independence Day Special

Ongoing development in renewable energy, transport

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On Sept. 27, Turkmenistan is celebrating an auspicious date in the history of the state — Independence Day. For 29 years, the country has followed the centuries-old aspirations

and covenants of its ancestors to protect the homeland, peace, harmony and unity of the nation.

This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the U.N. resolution of our permanent neutrality status that was granted on Dec. 12, 1995.

This recognition of Turkmenistan as a peace-loving country is affirmation of Turkmenistan's authority as a state capable of making worthy contributions to foreign policy and peaceful development, ensuring security and stable progress.

In connection with this significant date, the year 2020 has been domestically proclaimed "Turkmenistan — Home of Neutrality."

Independent and neutral, Turkmenistan will take part in common endeavors toward achieving goodness, fairness and humanist ideals, and toward such ideals of the United Nations.

Because this year is the 25th anniversary of Turkmenistan achieving permanent neutrality status, it is worth mentioning how this status contributes to the development of the nation's bilateral and multilateral relations.

One of the most important aspects of Turkmenistan's neutrality is our non-alignment with political, economic, military alliances and blocs. Our national army has a cap on its numbers, a figure that is sufficient for the defense of peace and freedom for our country. We participate in the refusal of weapons of mass destruction and ban the transportation of such weapons within our territory and airspace. Neutrality is also important so that we can conduct domestic and foreign policy in close cooperation with the U.N. and other international humanitarian organizations.

Neutrality contributes to the growth and strengthening of Turkmenistan's authority as a country that has proclaimed the development of mutually

beneficial cooperation with all states and peoples of the world and the strict observation of international legal norms and obligations as a priority of its political strategy.

Neutrality is an efficient instrument in attracting foreign investment. It helps with the initiation of our country's constructive measures for consolidating peace and safety and strengthening cooperation in Central Asia and the basin of the Caspian Sea.

On June 3, 2015, a second U.N. resolution confirming the status of Turkmenistan's neutrality was adopted. On Feb. 2, 2017, a further resolution adopted by the U.N. General Assembly and introduced by Turkmenistan proclaimed Dec. 12 as "International Day of Neutrality." This was a clear example of the global significance of neutrality in world politics, incorporating Turkmenistan's accumulated experience and foreign policy current practices.

At the initiative of the president of Turkmenistan, the U.N. General Assembly in 2019 unanimously adopted the resolution "2021 — the International Year of Peace and Trust."

With the establishment of diplomatic

relations between Turkmenistan and Japan in 1992 and Turkmenistan's acquisition status of permanent neutrality, a reliable political and regulatory framework has been created for a partnership that is successfully developing both bilaterally and multilaterally.

An indicator of the high-level bilateral relations is the official and working visits of the president of Turkmenistan to Japan and the official visit of the prime minister of Japan to our country during which solid bilateral documents were signed, defining priority vectors for developing the partnership for the foreseeable future.

We actively cooperate within international frameworks, where our countries take similar or close positions on such key issues as strengthening global peace and security; the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction; preserving the ecology and the environment; and implementing the U.N. sustainable development goals, as well as other important areas.

We greatly appreciate Japan's ongoing support for our international initiatives in key areas of modern development such as sustainable energy and transport. In turn, Turkmenistan also admires Japan's initia-

tives and approaches to the development of international cooperation through respect and understanding.

Thanks to such mutual efforts, Turkmen-Japanese economic relations are developing on a systematic and long-term basis. An important factor of cooperation is the activity of committees on economic cooperation.

In 2019, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov paid a working visit to Japan, where he also attended the enthronement ceremony of Emperor Naruhito.

Within the framework of that working visit, a signing ceremony was held for bilateral documents that reinforced each party's desire to intensify multiformat interaction, including the implementation of projects in the gas, chemical, transport and agricultural sectors.

Today, 38 investment projects involving Japanese companies have been registered in our country with investment totals exceeding \$11.34 billion. Major Japanese companies have long been successfully operating in the Turkmen market in such important sectors as fuel and energy; construction; petrochemicals; water management; and several others. We welcome



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such cooperation and we will encourage and support it.

I am confident that the potential for interaction is great, and that planned activities will contribute to the development of friendly and fraternal relations between Turkmenistan and Japan.

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



Top: Ashgabat is home to a collection of white marble buildings spread across a long, dry valley. Above: The southern part of the capital extends to the foothills of the Kopet Dag mountains EMBASSY OF TURKMENISTAN

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to the People of Turkmenistan

on the Occasion of

the Anniversary of

Their Independence

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