

# Guinea National Day Special

## Diplomatic, economic bonds remain strong

**SENKOUN SYLLA**

AMBASSADOR OF GUINEA



The 62nd anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Guinea is a renewed occasion to express to their Majesties Emperor Naruhito, Empress Masako, the imperial family,

government and people of Japan, all gratitude and recognition of the Guinean people, their government and the President of the Republic, H.E. Alpha Conde, for the invaluable contributions and significant support provided to the Republic of Guinea, as part of its political, economic and social development process, especially in a particularly difficult time marked by the coronavirus pandemic.

I would also like to sincerely thank the Japanese government for the excellent relations that our countries have maintained for more than six decades that have been nourished by high-level meetings and fruitful exchanges to make our partnership model an instrument at the service of the sustainable development of our countries.

We have been able to see and judge by ourselves in this unprecedented period, the importance of the partnership and friendship that unites our two states, without which our resilience against the coronavirus health crisis would have been severely threatened.

Beyond health, there are also economic,

social, cultural, environmental and political consequences of the pandemic, including the postponement of many events such as the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

To mitigate the effects of the spread of coronavirus, Guinea has put a quality health and socioeconomic emergency response in place. The first measures dictated by the government concerned emergency health interventions. In addition to the strengthening of care capacities, the government has also initiated preventive and responsive actions by contributing to the efforts of the health authorities and in particular, the National Response Plan initiated on April 6.

On the economic front, under the auspices of the president, Guinea has equipped itself with high-quality infrastructure and other cutting-edge achievements to promote a better attractiveness of the country and highlight the possibilities it has to offer.

With its enormous mining and hydroelectric potential, Guinea wishes to combine its experiences and know-how with those of Japan, notably through greater participation of the Japanese public and private sector in the realization of vast development projects.

The improvement in the macroeconomic environment has also led the government to rationally qualify its spending and mobilize more resources. It also favored the optimal management of public debt and currency. The budgetary surplus resulting from these efforts was used to support social programs such as education,

health, employment for young people and women, and other social actions.

Regarding the strengthening of the institutional partnership between Guinea and Japan, it is important to remember that Japan has always been alongside Guinea by providing substantial aid and support through nonrepayable financial assistance and technical cooperation.

Cooperation between Guinea and Japan is also greatly nourished by the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process, an initiative launched in 1993 by the Japanese government to promote high-level political dialogue between African leaders.

Japan and Guinea must evolve this process through science, technology and innovation, as well as human resource development to better reflect Africa's development needs and overall ownership of its programs and development projects.

Key areas such as economic diversification and industrialization, improvement of the business environment, debt transparency and sustainability, quality infrastructure, agriculture and the blue economy also need to be further strengthened.

Moving forward, Japan's support for Guinea is extremely essential to meet the expectations of TICAD and the new economic and social challenges that will make Africa, particularly Guinea, a destination of choice in terms of investment and international cooperation.

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