

Deepening ties for sustainable growth and prosperity

By **Tabu Irina**
Ambassador of Kenya

December 12, 2021, marks the 58th Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Kenya, Jamhuri Day. On this auspicious occasion, I wish to convey on behalf of the government and the people of Kenya residing in Japan, warm greetings and best wishes to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress, H.E. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, the government and the friendly people of Japan. I also wish to congratulate the prime minister on his election in October this year. I further wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Japan for successfully hosting the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Tabu Irina

As we celebrate Jamhuri Day, we take note of long-standing, cordial Kenya-Japan relations spanning 58 years. The cordial relations, anchored on five key pillars of infrastructure and private-sector development; agriculture; environment, water and sanitation; human resource development; and health continue to grow from strength to strength demonstrated by the exchange of high-level official visits, increasing trade and investment as well as strategic partnership and mutual collaboration. Our priority is to further strengthen and deepen these relations for enhanced collaboration to exploit the opportunities within our countries for sustainable economic growth and prosperity.

Kenya is a regional economic hub with stable economic growth, averaging 5.5% over the last 10 years. With a GDP of \$101.05 billion, Kenya is the dominant economy in East Africa, accounting for more than 45% of the region's GDP and the third largest and fastest growing economy in sub-Saharan Africa. Kenya has a number of attractions that make the country not only the gateway to East and Central Africa but also among the leading destinations for foreign direct investments in Africa. These attractions include a strong strategic location in the eastern part of Africa, enabling convenient access to regional and international markets; political and economic stability with resilient growth; a fully liberalized and diversified economy; a well-developed financial sector; a large domestic consumer market; a youthful and productive labor force; a leading ICT innovation hub in Africa; ever improving environment for doing business (56th out of 190 in the world and third in Africa in ease of doing business); and relatively advanced infrastructure.

Kenya is the leading recipient of Japanese official development assistance in sub-Saharan Africa and has the second largest number of Japanese companies in Africa at 89 in 2020. According to JETRO Survey Reports, Kenya has been voted by Japanese companies in Africa as the top investment destination in Africa for the last six consecutive years. In their most recent report, released in 2021, 35.1% of Japanese companies in Africa voted for Kenya as the top investment destination in Africa followed by South Africa, Nigeria and Ethiopia.

Kenya's economic development agenda is guided by the Kenya Vision 2030 and the Big Four Agenda. The Japanese government has been a strategic development partner in the implementation of these priorities, particularly infrastructure development. Japan has supported Kenya in developing landmark infrastructure such as the expansion and modernization of Mombasa Port; construction of roads and bridges, development of geothermal power plants in Olkaria and development of the Sondu Miriu Hydropower Station. Owing to Japan's support in geothermal energy generation, Kenya is ranked as the eighth-largest producer of geothermal electricity in the world and first in Africa with a capacity of about 700 MWs. Kenya also set the pace in wind power in 2019 by launching the 310 MW Lake Turkana Wind Power, the largest wind power project in Africa, that will significantly accelerate Kenya's efforts toward the quest for 100% renewable energy use by the year 2030 and spur economic development.

We have enormous opportunities for investment under the Big Four Agenda, namely food and nutrition security, manufacturing, affordable housing and universal health coverage, as well as under Kenya Vision 2030. Looking toward the future, we invite Japanese companies to take advantage of the conducive investment environment and the huge investment opportunities in our country to continue playing a pivotal role in Kenya's development agenda, especially in the development of major infrastructure



Courtesy of the Kenya Embassy

A fully operational and busy berth at Kenya's Mombasa Port

such as the Mombasa Port Expansion Project Phase III that is set to commence in May 2022; the Dongo Kundu Special Economic Zone Development Project that includes port and infrastructure development around the area, construction of Mombasa Gate Bridge, the ongoing Lamu Port Development Project and the planned Konza Technopolis, an IT hub that will sit on 5,000 acres of land. Through this project we intend to leverage IT to attract business process outsourcing, software development, data centers, disaster recovery centers, light assembly manufacturing industries, among others.

Kenya has a well-developed tourism industry with vast



Courtesy of the Kenya Embassy

Bush dinner at Kenya's Maasai Mara National Reserve

attractions ranging from epic savannah landscapes, numerous wildlife and beautiful palm-fringed beaches that continue to attract a broad array of visitors. Kenya was also ranked as Africa's leading tourist destination in 2020 by the World Travel Awards (WTA), with Nairobi named as Africa's leading business travel destination. Despite the sector having been immensely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, measures for recovery put in place particularly focusing on the safety of travelers and the opening-up of the economy have seen the sector bounce back. We invite Japanese tourists to visit Kenya and experience our diverse tourism products in a safe environment.

**Our Warmest
Congratulations
on the Anniversary of
the Independence of
the Republic of Kenya**



KONOIKE

KONOIKE CONSTRUCTION CO., LTD.
International Division
1-9-1, Nihonbashi-honcho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Tel: +81-3-5201-7730

**Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Kenya
on the 58th Anniversary
of their Independence**

SARAYA

Saraya Co., Ltd.

**"Our mission is to improve sanitation,
the environment and health in Kenya"**

Osaka, Japan

☎0120-40-3636

and

Saraya Kenya Co., Ltd.

<Address>

Upper Ground Floor Unit 05, Marsabit Plaza,
Ngong Road, Nairobi, Kenya

+254-717-355-933

TOSHIBA

*Congratulations
on Kenya's Independence Day*

Toshiba is committed to building partnerships
that create a better future for Kenya and Africa
so that we can together turn on the promise of a new day.



Toshiba Africa (Pty) Ltd
Phone +27 (0)11 305 2820 - South Africa office | +254 205 148 134/5 - Kenya Branch office
Email: taf-info@toshiba.co.za | www.toshiba.co.za