

Tanzania, Japan keep deepening ties as strategic, reliable partners

By Baraka Luvanda
Ambassador of Tanzania

Today, the United Republic of Tanzania proudly celebrates the 61st anniversary of the Union between the then State of Tanganyika and the State of Zanzibar, a historic event that took place on April 26, 1964. This union laid the foundation for the Tanzania we know today. We pay special tribute to the visionary leadership of the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, Father of the Nation and first President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and the late Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume, the first President of Zanzibar, whose commitment and foresight gave birth to this enduring unity.



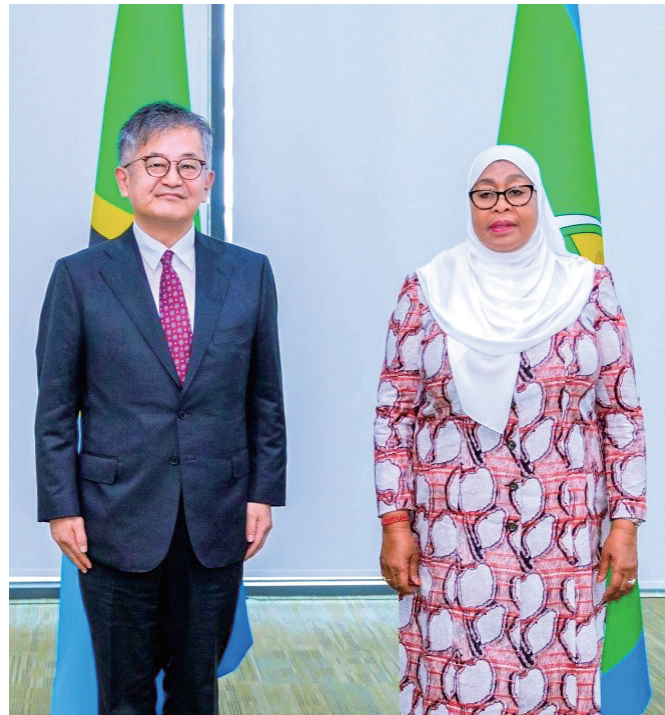
Baraka Luvanda

On behalf of the government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania, I wish to convey our highest respect to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress, as well as to all esteemed members of the Imperial family. I also take this opportunity to extend our warmest greetings to Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and to the friendly people of Japan.

Three years into my tenure as ambassador to Japan, I am proud of the strong and historic bilateral ties our two countries continue to enjoy. These relations, which date back to Tanganyika's independence in 1961, have remained steadfast, marked by mutual trust, respect, and cooperation. The establishment of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) offices in Tanzania in 1962 was followed by the opening of the Embassy of Japan in Tanzania in 1966 and the Embassy of Tanzania in Tokyo in 1970, which illustrate the solid foundation on which our relationship was built.

Over the years, the partnership between Tanzania and Japan has flourished, driven by shared goals of sustainable development, economic growth and poverty reduction. Japan has emerged as one of Tanzania's most reliable and strategic partners, offering vital support across sectors such as infrastructure, energy, agriculture, water, transport, health, education, mining, sports and skills development. Japanese investment continues to thrive in Tanzania, with expansive flagship projects and the presence of prominent Japanese companies.

Our economic cooperation has reached new heights in recent years. Notably, in October 2024, Tanzania hosted a major Japanese business delegation consisting of over 60 companies in infrastructure and construction. This was followed by another visit in January 2025, bringing together around 50 Japanese firms. These



Courtesy of the Tanzanian Embassy

Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, with His Excellency Mr. Yoichi Mikami, Ambassador of Japan to Tanzania, at the State House in Dar es Salaam, on March 28, on the occasion of the presentation of letters of credence

high-level engagements have opened new avenues for partnership, many of which are already yielding promising results through ongoing bilateral discussions and business linkages.

In trade, Kilimanjaro Coffee has become a beloved brand among Japanese consumers, ranked among Japan's top three premium coffee brands. Additionally, trade in sesame seeds, tobacco leaves, spices, and Tingatinga paintings continues to boom. Despite progress, there is still significant untapped potential for Tanzanian products in Japan. We see exciting opportunities for Japanese interested companies in exports of coffee (both beans and instant), sesame seeds, spices, tobacco, cotton, tea, minerals and precious stones, live plants and mushrooms, groundnuts, cashew nuts, cocoa beans, frozen avocados, dried fruits like mangoes and pineapples, fish, seafood, seaweed, honey, wines, handicrafts (Makonde carvings and Tingatinga paints), wood and articles of wood, among others.

Under the leadership of Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, Tanzania has fostered a conducive and welcoming environment for trade and investment. Her



Courtesy of the Tanzanian Embassy

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Dr. Natu Mwamba, and the Japanese Ambassador to Tanzania, Mr. Yoichi Mikami, signed a grant fund project to improve medical equipment for maternal and child healthcare services in Tanzania. The signing ceremony was held on March 14.

administration has strengthened democratic governance, promoted innovation and attracted an increasing number of foreign investors, tourists and development partners. To date, mega infrastructure projects in Tanzania have been initiated by the government, and a number of them are now operational, contributing significantly to the growth of the economy and linking Tanzania and its neighboring countries. Some notable mega projects include: the Standard Gauge Railway Line (SGR: 2,561 kilometers), the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (2,115 megawatts) and the Kigongo-Busisi Bridge (3.2 kilometers) along Lake Victoria. These investments are transforming Tanzania's economy and regional connectivity.

Tanzania regards Japan as a vital ally in its development trajectory. Japan, through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), has provided an invaluable framework for deepening cooperation between Japan and Africa. Tanzania, in particular, has reaped numerous benefits through the TICAD process and is prepared and looking forward to an effective participation in the upcoming TICAD9 Summit, scheduled for August 2025 in Yokohama.

Likewise, Tanzania is proudly participating in the 2025 Osaka-Kansai Expo, where we invite all Japanese citizens and Expo visitors to explore the Tanzania Pavilion and experience our unique cultural and economic potential.

On this momentous occasion, I wish to renew our standing invitation to Japanese friends and the global community to visit Tanzania and discover its extraordinary natural and cultural heritage. To wit, Tanzania is

home to seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including: Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti National Park, Mount Kilimanjaro and Kilimanjaro National Park, Selous Game Reserve, Stone Town of Zanzibar, Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara, Kondoa Rock Art Sites.

Beyond these renowned sites, Tanzania boasts: 22 National Parks, a Conservation Area, 32 Game Reserves, 44 Game Controlled Areas, 33 Wildlife Management Areas, six Nature Reserves, four Ramsar Sites (Malagarasi-Muyovozi, Kilombero Valley, Lake Natron Basin, Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa Marine Ecosystem), Great Lakes including Lake Victoria, the world's largest tropical lake, and Lake Tanganyika, the second deepest freshwater lake globally.

As we celebrate the 61st Anniversary of our Union, we do so with deep gratitude for the continued friendship and support from Japan. We look forward to advancing our shared vision of prosperity, peace, and sustainable development.

Asante sana (thank you very much/domo arigatou gozaimashita).

CONGRATULATIONS
to the People of
the United Republic of
TANZANIA
on their 61st Union Day



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