

National Day of Tanzania

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Tanzania, Japan open new partnership path

By Anderson Mutatembwa
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Today, the United Republic of Tanzania proudly commemorates the 62nd anniversary of the union between the two former states, the Republic of Tanganyika and the People's Republic of Zanzibar, a historic milestone achieved on April 26, 1964. This enduring union laid the foundation for the strong, united and vibrant nation we celebrate today.

On this solemn and important occasion, we pay heartfelt tribute to the visionary leadership of the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, the father of the nation and the first president of the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as to the late Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume, the first president of Zanzibar. Their foresight, courage and unwavering commitment to unity gave rise to one of Africa's most remarkable and lasting unions.

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 Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and the friendly people of Japan for their continued friendship and goodwill.

Having assumed my role as ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to Japan eight months ago, I am deeply honored to witness and contribute to the strong and historic bilateral relations that continue to thrive between our two countries. These ties, which date back to Tanganyika's independence in 1961, have been characterized by mutual trust, respect and enduring co-operation. The early establishment of JICA operations in Tanzania in 1962, followed by the opening of the Embassy of Japan in Dar es Salaam in 1966 and the Embassy of Tanzania in Tokyo in 1970, reflects the solid foundation of our partnership.

Over the decades, Tanzania-Japan relations have grown stronger, driven by shared aspirations for sustainable development, economic transformation and poverty reduction. Japan remains one of Tanzania's most reliable and strategic partners, supporting key sectors including infrastructure, energy, agriculture, water, transportation, health, education, mining, sports and skills development. Japanese investments continue to expand, with flagship projects and the presence of leading Japanese companies significantly contributing to Tanzania's development.

Our economic cooperation has achieved remarkable milestones in recent years. In July 2025, Tanzania had the honor of hosting a high-level Japanese business delegation, which included over 20 representatives from member companies of the Japan International Association for the Industry of Urban Development. This event further strengthened business-to-business linkages and investment opportunities.



Anderson Mutatembwa



Courtesy of Tanzania Embassy

Under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Tanzania eyes double-digit growth and a long-term aspiration of becoming a \$1 trillion economy by implementing the "Tanzania Development Vision 2050" (Dira 2050).

Additionally, Tanzania's active participation in the 2025 Osaka-Kansai Expo marked another significant chapter in our partnership. Tanzania proudly celebrated its National Day during the world exposition on May 25, 2025, followed by the Tanzania Investment, Business and Tourism Forum on May 26, 2025, which attracted over 300 companies and stakeholders from both Tanzania and Japan. These engagements resulted in the signing of eight memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and two statements of cooperation across key sectors, including health, education, infrastructure development, blue economy, environment (joint crediting mechanism-JCM), energy and investment. These outcomes have laid a strong foundation for practical collaboration and concrete project implementation.

The momentum from the Osaka world exposition was further enhanced by high-level bilateral engagements, including a summit between the prime ministers of Tanzania and Japan held in Tokyo on May 29, 2025. This meeting reaffirmed both countries' commitment to deepening strategic cooperation and exploring new opportunities for partnership.

Similarly, Tanzania's participation in the TICAD 9 Summit, held from Aug. 20 to 22, 2025, in Yokohama, was highly successful. Tanzania actively engaged in bilateral meetings and thematic sessions, showcasing itself as a success story of Japan-Africa cooperation. On the sidelines of the summit, three additional MoUs were

signed, focusing on human resource development in construction, transport modernization and legal frameworks for business, further expanding the scope of collaboration.

These high-level engagements have opened new and promising avenues for partnership, many of which are already translating into tangible outcomes through ongoing dialogue, investments and institutional cooperation.

Tanzania continues to regard Japan as a key partner in its development journey. Through platforms such as TICAD, Japan continues to provide invaluable frameworks for advancing cooperation with Africa. Likewise, Tanzania's participation in the 2025 Osaka-Kansai Expo offered a unique opportunity to showcase the country's rich cultural heritage and vast economic potential to the

people of Japan and the global community.

In trade, Tanzania products are gaining recognition in Japan. Kilimanjaro Coffee, in particular, has continued to become a beloved brand among Japanese consumers, ranking among the country's top premium coffee selections. Exports of sesame seeds, tobacco, spices and traditional art, such as Tingatinga paintings and Makonde carvings, are also steadily expanding. Nonetheless, there remains significant untapped potential. Tanzania warmly welcomes increased engagement from Japanese businesses in sectors such as agriculture, agro-processing, fisheries, manufacturing, mining, infrastructure development, housing and human settlements, renewable energy and tourism.

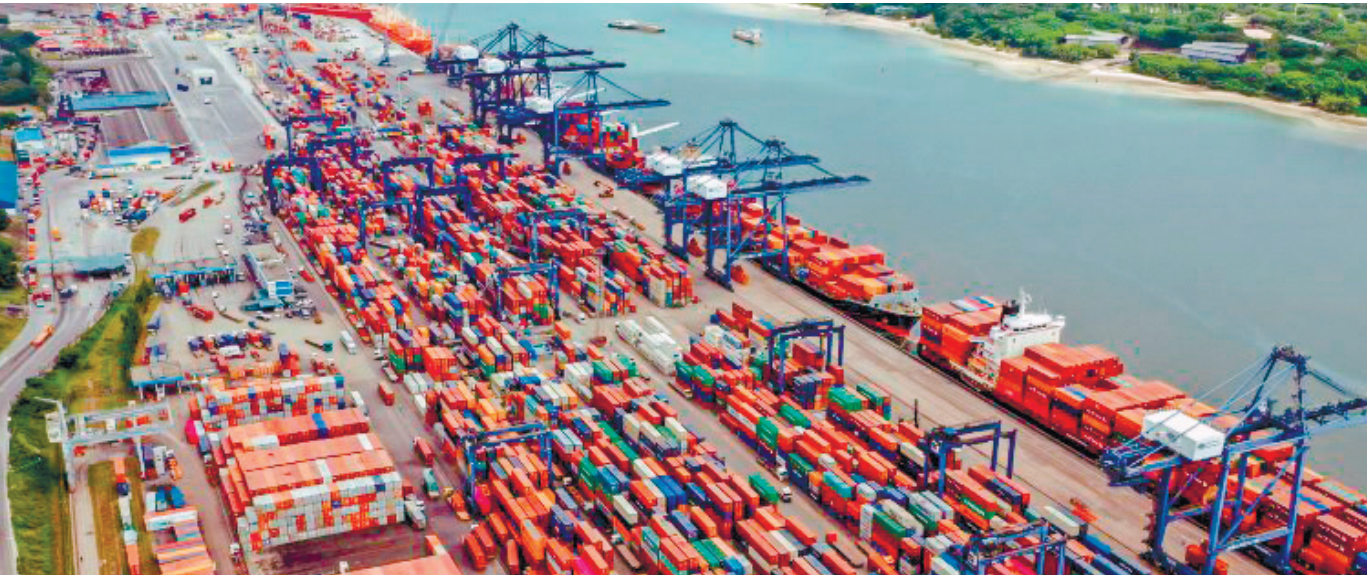
Under the visionary leadership of Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, Tanzania has cultivated a conducive environment for investment and trade. Her administration has strengthened democratic governance, enhanced policies and regulatory frameworks, and promoted inclusive economic growth. Landmark infrastructure projects, including the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project and the Kigongo-Busisi Bridge, are transforming the country's economic landscape and enhancing regional connectivity.

In July 2025, President Samia Suluhu Hassan also launched Tanzania Development Vision 2050 (Dira 2050), which outlines a clear path toward building a resilient, inclusive and competitive economy by mid-century.

On this special occasion, I take this opportunity to warmly invite our Japanese friends and the global community to visit Tanzania and experience its extraordinary natural beauty and cultural richness. Tanzania is home to seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Mount Kilimanjaro and the historic Stone Town of Zanzibar. Beyond these iconic sites, the country boasts an impressive network of national parks, game reserves, marine ecosystems and the Great Lakes, offering unmatched opportunities for tourism and investment.

As we celebrate the 62nd anniversary of our union, we do so with deep appreciation for the enduring friendship and support of Japan. We look forward to advancing a shared vision of peace, prosperity and sustainable development for the benefit of our people.

Asante sana.
Thank you very much.



Dar es Salaam Port is the principal maritime gateway to Eastern and Southern Africa.



In May 2025, a memorandum of cooperation for a joint crediting mechanism (JCM) was signed between Japan and Tanzania, which became the 30th Japan-JCM partner country.



Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest free standing mountain in the world

Respectful Congratulations
on the 62nd Anniversary of
Tanzania's Union Day

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Congratulations
to the People of
the United Republic of Tanzania
on their 62nd Union Day

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