

*Message from Ambassadors*



## Angola-Japan: Working Together to Build a Win-Win Relationship

João Miguel Vahekeni  
Ambassador of Angola to Japan

Angola is a country with strong and sustained economic growth and ranks among the world's fastest growing economies over the last decade. Historically, the economy relied heavily on the oil sector but this process is now being reversed as other economic sectors, such as construction, are beginning to show remarkable signs of growth and attracting significant foreign investment.

Investment opportunities also abound in other sectors such as industry, agriculture, power, transportation, etc. and we, the Embassy, are ready to give full support to Japanese companies interested in entering the Angolan market.

The Angola-Japan bilateral relations will reach new heights in the months ahead given that the Angolan Government has declared Japan as one of its key partners in Asia, in the foreign policy announced earlier this year.

While we look ahead, we can proudly reflect on the various projects we carried out in 2013 such as the signature of a cooperation agreement between Agostinho Neto University (Angola) and Ryukoku University (Japan), the first of such an agreement between a university in Angola and a partner in Asia. We hope that academic exchanges between these two institutions will lead to the development of human resources in Angola as well as further enhance the mutual understanding between the two countries.

In May 2013, H.E. Mr. Francisco Manuel Monteiro de Queiroz, Minister of Geology and Mines came to Japan to attend the Japan Sustainable Mining, Investment and Technology Business Forum (J-Sumit) attended by resources Ministers from Africa countries and Japanese mining companies. Minister Queiroz met H.E. Mr. Isshu Sugawara, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, with who reviewed the state of the bilateral ties between the two countries.

Representing the President of the Republic of Angola, H.E. Mr. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chicoti, Minister of External Affairs, leading a delegation of 28 representatives from various ministries participated in the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) held in Yokohama. On the sidelines of TICAD V, Minister Chicoti held talks with H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the two sides discussed about ways to strengthen the bilateral relations of Angola and Japan and how to expand them into different fields.



2013年9月のアンゴラ投資セミナーで開会挨拶に立つ  
ジョアン・ミゲル・ヴァヘケニ駐日アンゴラ大使

A strong delegation from Angola headed by H.E. Mr. Francisco Manuel Monteiro de Queiroz, Minister of Geology and Mines, and made up of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Energy and Water, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Angola, National Private Investment Agency (ANIP), National Diamond Company (ENDIAMA), Diamond Trade Society of Angola (SODIAM), Toyota Angola and representatives of some private companies came to Japan to take part in the “Seminar on Investment Opportunities in Angola” which was held last September in Tokyo.

The seminar co-organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Angola in Japan and the Japan Institute for Overseas Investment (JOI) with the support of the Engineering Advancement Association of Japan and the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry was a great success attracting nearly 200 participants from as far as Shizuoka and Hiroshima.

The event, the first of its kind held in Japan by the Embassy of Angola, served as an important opportunity to introduce to the Japanese business community the political stability and the astonishing economic development that Angola has been witnessing since 2002. Furthermore, the seminar was in one hand a setting to show to potential Japanese investors the countless business opportunities that the country has to offer and on the other a venue for businessmen from the two countries to exchange views on how to develop and further the economic ties existing between Angola and Japan.



建設ブームに沸くアンゴラ

In fact, the results of the seminar are already being felt as shown by the growing number of Japanese businessmen going to Angola to follow up on contacts established during the seminar as well as to explore new business opportunities. When we compare the number of visa applicants to Angola in the last three months with the same period a year ago, we can see a staggering threefold increase.

The Embassy of Angola in Japan will continue to exert efforts to develop programs aimed at promoting and strengthening the economic relations between Angola and Japan. Furthermore, we will enhance our role as a mediator in supporting the entry of Japanese business in Angola by organizing business seminars in Japan and in Angola as well as by arranging field trips to Angola for Japanese businessmen.

It is my sincere hope that more and more Japanese companies put Angola in their investment radar and play a leading role in the development of the economy of Angola and in the process build a long-term win-win relationship between our two countries and peoples.

Arigatou gozaimasu.

### JOI 特別会員

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