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ANGOLA-JAPAN BILATERAL RELATIONS: 50 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION

His Excellency, Professor Shintaro Torigoe

Distinguished Professor Satoshi Terao

Distinguished Professor YU Tamura,

Distinguished Professor YASUHIRO

Nishiwaki

His Excellency Dr. Gilberto Jerónimo, Ambassador of Portugal to Japan;

Dear students of the Portuguese Language Program,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

“Ohayo Gozaimasu” (Good morning)

As I begin my brief remarks, I would first like to thank Osaka University for this opportunity to share with all of you the history of the friendly and cooperative relations between the Republic of Angola and Japan, which just celebrated their 50th anniversary on September 9.

Historical and diplomatic relations between Angola and Japan began in 1976, shortly after our independence, and over the past few decades, Japan has always been a trusted partner, particularly in the *post-civil war* period, through the implementation of programs and initiatives

in the humanitarian field, including support for the demining process and the rehabilitation of farmlands and agricultural areas.

With the opening of the Embassies of the Republic of Angola in Japan (2001) and of Japan in Angola (2005), a new phase in our cooperation began, with the emergence of bilateral cooperation extending beyond the humanitarian sphere, through a broader partnership focused on the development of other sectors, with an emphasis on energy and water, agriculture, health, staff training and capacity building, technology, and investment, thus bringing about a substantial shift in the scope of cooperation. These efforts were better supported by the establishment in our country of *the Japan International Cooperation Agency* (JICA), providing the necessary impetus for the emergence of a closer bilateral relationship between the two countries.

▪ **Assessment of Bilateral Relations**

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Angola and Japan are considered good but with room for further growth; therefore, the two countries have prioritized the development of close ties in the political-diplomatic, economic, and cultural spheres.

Turning to other areas, it is important to mention that, in **the political sphere**, there is an exchange of high-level bilateral visits, notably the meeting between H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, and the former Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Shigeru Ishiba,

which took place during the *Tokyo International Conference on African Development* (TICAD-9) summit, held in August 2025 in the city of Yokohama, where several legal instruments were signed.

At the ministerial level, we highlight the visit that H.E. Toshimitsu MOTEGI, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, made to Angola last May, where he met with his Angolan counterpart. They discussed issues related to and expressed a desire to deepen and expand relations in the economic sphere, particularly in the areas of critical minerals and energy—resources that Angola possesses in abundance. The two ministers agreed to encourage the participation of Japanese companies in the trade of Angolan crude oil.

Economically, and within the framework of existing cooperation between the two countries, Angola has benefited over the years from Japanese investments aimed at establishing a solid foundation for the growth of our economy. These investments included the creation of several lines of credit, which helped finance the rehabilitation of three **textile factories; the construction of the fiber-optic cable linking Angola to Brazil; the rehabilitation of the Port of Namibe and the construction of the Sacomar terminal**; as well as other important investments focused on opening lines of credit, infrastructure development, water distribution and irrigation, and the extension of power transmission lines, among other significant initiatives that contribute to our country's development.

Among the various infrastructure projects built, we can mention the “Southern *Corridor*,” a project that includes the Port of Namibe, which was built by Toyota Tsusho and TOA (with financing from JBIC) and connects to the Moçâmedes Railway, with the potential to link to neighboring countries (Zambia and Namibia), thereby improving African interconnectivity. Another project worth highlighting is the “*Lobito Corridor*,” a *strategic* infrastructure project that is attracting the attention of Japanese business leaders due to its regional importance in connecting the (the Atlantic and the Indian), passing through countries such as Angola, the DRC, Zambia, and Tanzania, and having benefited from Japanese financing as part of efforts to empower farmers living along the railway line.

All these processes are legally underpinned by *the Agreement on the Liberalization, Promotion, and Protection of Investments* between the two countries (ALPPI), an important instrument for the implementation and realization of the business agenda between Angolan and Japanese businesspeople.

In the multilateral context, our cooperation is focused on the *Tokyo International Conference on African Development* (TICAD), a forum established by Japan and African countries (including Angola) that addresses a range of issues—*political, economic, and social*.

▪ Outlook

At this time, we wish to continue working toward establishing a strategic partnership focused on sectors such as energy and mining (by creating conditions for access to oil and gas and the exploration of rare-earth minerals), while not forgetting areas of cooperation such as transportation, industry, energy, fisheries, science and technology, communications, and tourism, to encourage greater partnership and investment through the creation of *joint ventures* aimed at capitalizing on existing mutual economic benefits.

We must also pay special attention to cooperation and exchange between our peoples, with a particular emphasis on cultural and social rapprochement—which is the very reason we are here today.

At this time when we are “*celebrating the Angola-Japan Friendship Jubilee*,” we hope that Angola and Japan will continue to pursue the paths of development and shared prosperity, toward a prosperous future.

I sincerely hope that many of you students here today will take advantage of the language as well as the opportunities available to not only get to know our country but also to develop projects in Angola.

Arigato Gozaimasu!!