

UAE National Day

Enjoying fruitful economic and social ties

Mutaz Al Faheem
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE UNITED
ARAB EMIRATES

On the auspicious occasion of the 44th UAE National Day, I am honored to convey, on behalf of the government and people of the UAE, my heartfelt greetings to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the government and the people of Japan. I also extend my sincere felicitations to UAE President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President and Prime Minister H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and the honorable members of the Federal Supreme Council of rulers of the emirates.



I arrived in the middle of January to assume my duties in Japan and it is a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity to extend my greetings to the people of Japan through this newspaper.

The mutual high-profile visits between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, crown prince of Abu Dhabi, in 2013 and 2014 have indeed added momentum to further dialogues of senior government officials from the UAE and Japan at all levels. This year again has witnessed many frequent exchanges of top officials, starting with the visit of H.E. Yoichi Miyazawa, former minister of economy, trade and industry and H.E. Yasuhide Nakayama, former state minister for foreign affairs who jointly presided over the fifth Session of the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) held in Abu Dhabi in January.

In March, H.E. Rashid Ahmed bin Fahad, minister of environment and water, led the UAE delegation to the Third

World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai. On the sidelines of the event, Rashid opened the UAE exhibition, which showcases the disaster risk management achievements of national bodies such as Emirates Red Crescent, the Ministry of International Cooperation And Development, the National Emergency and Crisis and Disasters Management Authority and Masdar.

Headed by H.E. Sultan Al Mansouri, minister of economy, a large delegation comprised of UAE dignitaries visited Japan in September. The minister participated in the Japan-UAE Business Forum and had a fruitful talk with Miyazawa about joint economic cooperation and opportunities for future investment.

In November, H.E. Yosuke Takagi, state minister of economy, trade and industry made his second visit to the UAE following a visit in February. As well as attending the world's most influential oil and gas exhibition in Abu Dhabi, he discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations for the benefit of the two countries with UAE senior officials. His visit was marked by signing a memorandum of understanding between the two countries, aimed at supporting Japan's efforts to renew its oil concessions and acquire new upstream assets in the UAE. The UAE is Japan's second largest oil exporter and is proud to have securely provided 24.4 percent of the country's total imports last year.

In the same month, Minister of State H.E. Maitha Salem Al Shamsi visited Japan and attended the open forum of "Friendship Committee for Women Career Development" hosted by Japan Cooperation Center, Petroleum. At the forum, Maitha — a committee board member — spoke about the advancement of women's careers in the oil industry.

Human resources play an es-



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sential role in the development of a country and currently about 75 UAE students are studying at Japanese universities. Also, every year a growing number of talented UAE youth have been given valuable opportunities to advance their professional stud-

ies in Japanese companies. I offer my thanks to the government, organizations, companies and universities of Japan for helping them gain professional experience.

Etihad Airways celebrated its fifth anniversary in March, marking a major milestone for the airline's rapid growth in Tokyo and Nagoya. I am sure that Etihad as well as Emirates Airline will remain to be vital players in giving further impetus toward bilateral ties as an air bridge cementing the friendship between the two countries.

These facts can explain that how successful relations between the two countries have been.

Another remarkable event this year is the new IRENA



Left: With a capacity for more than 40,000 worshippers, The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi is one of the largest examples of Islamic architecture in the world. Right: IRENA headquarters opened in June in Masdar City in Abu Dhabi. EMBASSY OF THE UAE



headquarters opening in June in Masdar City — the world's first sustainable city — in Abu Dhabi.

The opening will surely confirm and enhance the UAE's po-

sition as a global hub for the energy industry.

Allow me to convey my congratulations on Japan's 11th election as a non-permanent member of the U.N. Security

Council in October. I hope for Japan's further contributions to world peace and stability.

On this meaningful day, I express my gratitude to the Japanese authorities for their

long-standing generous cooperation for enhancement of our bilateral relations. Finally, I wish for many more years of progress and prosperity between the two countries.

Congratulations
to the Government and People
of the United Arab Emirates
on the 44th Anniversary of
Their National Day



Minato Mirai Grand Central Tower
4-6-2, Minatomirai, Nishi-ku
Yokohama 220-8765, Japan
<http://www.chiyoda-corp.com/en>

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