

Kuwait National Day

Upholding democracy and responsible freedom

Abdul-Rahman Humood Al-Otaibi
AMBASSADOR OF KUWAIT

The State of Kuwait and its people are celebrating the 55th Anniversary of Independence and the 25th Anniversary of Liberation from the brutal Iraqi invasion.



On my behalf and on behalf of the leaders, government and people of the State of Kuwait, I am pleased and honored to express my heartfelt appreciation to the people of Japan for the efforts and initiatives made throughout our mutual history that have resulted in today's deep relations of friendship that bind our countries.

I am honored to extend my sincere wishes of longevity and bliss to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and to every member of the honorable Imperial family, while also wishing Japan and its people continued progress and prosperity.

These two auspicious occasions coincide with the 10th anniversary of the assumption to the throne by His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, and His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. It is my honor to offer my sincere and heartfelt congratulations and best wishes of good health, bliss and longevity to Their Highnesses and to our country's further prosperity.

Since Independence, Kuwait has committed itself to democracy and responsible freedom. These values are an integral part of a constant path that Kuwaitis have been pursuing, and therefore, have enshrined in Article 6 of the 1962 constitution. This article stipulates, "The system of government in Kuwait shall be democratic under which sovereignty resides in the people the source of all powers." This has made Kuwait today one of the most vocal and vibrant democracies in the region.

We live in a world of ever-increasing humanitarian challenges and conflicts of an unprecedented scale, especially in the Middle East, that have resulted in displacing over millions of refugees around the world. In the face of these tremendous crises, the international community's responsibility to exert more effort toward finding a solution for these struggles is becoming increasingly difficult. Therefore, building on the principle of shared responsibility, every nation is called upon to work out innovative ways to meet the requirements and development needs that would eventually contribute to eradicating poverty by the year 2030 through joint international efforts and active global partnerships.

To that end, the State of Kuwait has been joining hands with regional and international organizations to achieve our commonly sought goals in building a world of peace and stability and helping every nation achieve sustainable economic, social and environmental development. Kuwait has always advocated the need for every nation to fulfill its humanitarian pledges and to allocate around 7 percent of its gross domestic product to providing sustainable humanitarian assistance to communities in need.



Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Our country has endeavored to fulfill its regional and international responsibilities toward achieving the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals. It has hosted several important conferences during the past few years, in addition to taking numerous initiatives to promote partnerships and strengthen cooperation in the development and humanitarian fields. It is also a hub for several U.N. agencies, providing a U.N. House to the UNDP, UNHCR, UNOCHA, U.N. Habitat, ILO, WFP and IOM.

Though an emerging country, Kuwait has since its independence in 1961, paid great attention to the needs of developing countries, providing them with assistance and support. Today we are proud that Kuwait is one of the major international donors of humanitarian assistance and is both a pioneer and standard-bearer for the establishment of development funds in the region. It is ranked among the top donors of humanitarian assistance in 2014 according to the Global Humanitarian Assistance Report.

Kuwait has long been an advocate and player in global development, providing humanitarian support to disaster-stricken countries within the region and beyond. Its foreign assistance is channeled either bilaterally (government-to-government) or multilaterally through national charitable organizations and international organizations. For instance, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has been playing an important role since Kuwait's independence by providing easy loans and grants to finance infrastructure projects and other development initiatives in over 104 countries.

Economically, the State of Kuwait, as a major oil producer, has been keen on shifting its economy, which currently relies almost entirely on this important commodity, toward a diverse economy with various income resources and economic activities. Kuwait's vision for 2035 that articulates His Highness' aspirations and is endorsed under the current Development Plan, aims to transform Kuwait into a world-class financial and commercial center. This will see the private sector leading economic activities, fostering competitiveness and increasing productivity, supported by viable public institutions, while maintaining the deep-rooted values and national identity toward achieving balanced economic and human development. These activities will be supported with adequate infrastructure, legal framework and enabling business environment.

In parallel, being aware of the importance of human capital as the main pillar of society and the country's most valuable asset, our government has



Kuwait Towers with floodlights EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

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The constitution of the State of Kuwait upholds democracy. EMBASSY OF KUWAIT



Kuwait City EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

Friendly ties between governments, people

Yuriko Koike
CHAIRPERSON, JAPAN-KUWAIT
PARLIAMENATARY FRIENDSHIP
LEAGUE

As chairperson of the Kuwait-Japan Parliamentary Friendship League, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of Kuwait.



Kuwait has been a resolute friend to Japan for over 50 years and the friendly relations between our two countries is currently better than ever. During this time, we have overcome our difficulties through patience and mutual friendship.

We would like to express deep appreciation especially for the immediate and plentiful disaster relief offered by Kuwait in the wake of the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami.

A generous donation of 5 million barrels of crude oil, worth over ¥40 billion at that time, within a month of the calamity was followed by an additional donation of \$3 million for the reconstruction of Aquamarine Fukushima and of \$2 million to the Japan Red Cross, granted by His Highness Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during his state visit to Japan in 2012.

The Sanriku Railway, which was severely damaged by the tsunami, was able to resume full-scale operation thanks to Kuwait's funding of new trains, with the first carriages emblazoned with the national emblem of Kuwait. The line is an essential means of transportation for the people of Iwate Prefecture and is playing a vital role in accelerating reconstruction efforts of the disaster-hit areas.

On behalf of the people of Japan please allow me to again extend sincere gratitude to H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, to the people of Kuwait, to Ambassador Abdul-Rahman Al-Otaibi, who made multiple visits to observe and clearly understand the needs of the disaster-stricken areas and everyone at the embassy.

We will always remember your goodwill and tremendous support.

We are looking forward to welcoming Prime Minister Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, who was my counterpart during my term as defense minister, who is visiting this year.

I am confident to say that we can expect to further strengthen and solidify our longstanding relationship, not only between governments, but also through encouraging further interaction and friendship between our peoples.

In closing, I wish continued happiness and prosperity for H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the people of Kuwait.

Heartiest Greetings and Congratulations to the State of Kuwait on the Occasion of the 55th Anniversary of National Day and the 25th Anniversary of Liberation Day



Chaudhry Asif Mahmood
CEO, Pak Japan group of companies

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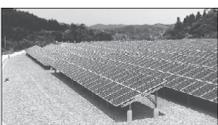
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HEARTIEST GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STATE OF KUWAIT ON THE 55th ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL DAY AND 25th ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION



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JAPAN-KUWAIT SOCIETY

Chairman: Yasushi Kimura

Kuwait National Day

Longstanding relations and strong ties

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been making every effort to nurture national human resources, while learning from the experiences of more advanced nations, in particular Japan. Kuwait's Human Development Index value for 2014 is 0.816, which puts it in the very high human development category, according to the UNDP 2015 Human Development Report.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to reflect on the long-standing ties between Kuwait and Japan. Since the establishment of our diplomatic relations, over five decades ago, the friendship between Kuwait and Japan has grown into a strong and dynamic partnership based on shared values and mutual interests. Moreover, since Kuwait has been Japan's key source of crude oil for over half a century, Japan can always look to Kuwait to secure safe and reliable energy resources.

Five years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. Here, I am bound to reiterate my country's solidarity with Japan and its people, to whom I express my highest admiration for an unwavering stance in facing this calamity with patience and resilience.

Additionally, the achievements made by the affected prefectures of Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate, have been truly remarkable in terms of scale, sustainability and, most importantly, in focusing on alleviating the suffering of the victims and their families.

Moreover, as Japan is currently assuming a non-permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council, my country commends the Japanese gov-

Celebrating a long history of friendly cooperation in academic and cultural exchanges

Yasushi Kimura
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-KUWAIT SOCIETY



On this auspicious occasion of the 55th National Day of the State of Kuwait, I am pleased to offer on behalf of the members of Japan-Kuwait Society our sincerest greetings and congratulations to His Highness Amir of Kuwait Shaikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Crown Prince Shaikh Nawwaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Prime Minister Shaikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and His Excellency Abdul-Rahman Al-Otaibi, ambassador of Kuwait to Japan, as well as to the friendly people of Kuwait.

To each and every Japanese citizen, this coming March 11 is a day not to be forgotten as it marks the fifth anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami that devastated extensive regions along the northeastern coast of this archipelago. Kuwait quickly reacted to the disaster Japan suffered. The Amir of Kuwait ordered a contribu-

tion of five million barrels of crude oil worth \$500 million, the largest amount ever donated to Japan by any country of the world. The sales proceeds of the Kuwaiti crude oil were distributed to three hardest-hit prefectures of Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate.

Ambassador Al-Otaibi rushed to the disaster-stricken areas to deliver soccer balls and school items along with daily necessities to schoolchildren. Additionally, at the embassy, the ambassador and his wife organized charity bazaars, with the proceeds donated to the hardest-hit areas through the Japanese Red Cross Society.

The generous Kuwaiti aid was effectively utilized for the projects related to post-disaster reconstruction work, such as the complete recovery of the Sanriku Railway that runs along the Pacific coast of Iwate Prefecture, refurbishment of the marine science museum Aquamarine Fukushima and establishment of the Iwate Children's Care Center, which provides support to children traumatized by the quake.

In April, Kuwait began implementing the Second Five-year Development Plan (2015-2020) that envisages major infrastructural proj-

ects for power, water, airport and public transportation networks. Calling for Japanese cooperation in the process of implementing the development plan, State Minister for Development and Planning Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh visited Japan in October 2014, and Shaikh Mish'al Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, director general of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority, visited Japan in March.

Both visited Japan to showcase the promising investment environment in Kuwait and invite potential investment from Japanese business entities. Additionally, in August, Kuwait's cabinet resolved the total abolishment of its offset program that had long been an obstacle to foreign investment in Kuwait.

With these preparatory efforts in the background, the 20th meeting of the Japanese-Kuwaiti Businessmen's Committee due to be held in March in Tokyo is hoping to bring forth practical proposals that would help effectively implement as many projects as possible envisioned in the five-year development plan.

Regarding cultural exchanges, the number of Kuwaiti youth eager to study the Japanese language has apparently been increasing in recent

years. Specifically, the number of Kuwaiti entries in the Japanese speech contests sponsored by the Japanese Embassy in Kuwait has been on the rise every year. While in Tokyo, when Ambassador Al-Otaibi visited the Tokyo University for Foreign Studies in November, a full house of Arabic language students listened to his lecture.

The fact that young people, either in Japan or Kuwait, enthusiastic for cross-cultural and language studies, are increasing in number is an encouraging element for our friendly relations.

Since its establishment in 1961, the Japan-Kuwait Society has laid the groundwork for academic and cultural exchanges over the past 56 years. With cultural and Arab-Islamic subjects as focal point, we will keep doing our best to promote friendly relations and mutual understanding between our two peoples.

Last but not least, I would like to offer my sincerest appreciation to Ambassador Al-Otaibi for his amazingly powerful efforts to enhance friendly relations between our two countries. Hoping that our excellent relations further develop, I pray for the prosperity and progress of Kuwait and its peace-loving people.



Failaka Island (left) is a Kuwaiti island 20 km off the coast of Kuwait City in the Persian Gulf. Kuwait City is a popular tourist destination. EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

**Heartiest Greetings and Congratulations
to the State of Kuwait
on the Occasion of
the 55th Anniversary of National Day and
the 25th Anniversary of Liberation Day**



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Skyscrapers are one of the major features of Kuwait City. EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

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Heartiest Greetings and Congratulations
to
**H.H. The Amir,
H.H. The Crown Prince,
H.H. The Prime Minister
and The People of The State of Kuwait**

On the Occasion of the
55th National Day of Kuwait, and
25th Anniversary of Liberation



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