

Kuwaiti prime minister's visit

Further bolstering amicable ties

Abdul-Rahman Humood Al-Otaibi
AMBASSADOR OF KUWAIT

I would like to express my heartfelt welcome to the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, on launching his official working visit to Tokyo on May 11. This visit comes as a complement to the last visit by His Excellency Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the State of Kuwait in August 2013.

During the visit, His Highness will be received in an Imperial audience with His Majesty Emperor Akihito. I am very honored to renew my sincerest greetings to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and the honorable Imperial family on this occasion.

I would also like to note an-



Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah



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

other significant event during the visit, namely His Highness holding a bilateral meeting with Abe. The meeting is expected to pick up from their last meeting during Abe's visit to Kuwait.

During the talks in Kuwait City, His Highness and Abe reaffirmed their willingness to deepen the bilateral relationships further to build up a full-fledged framework for a comprehensive partnership.

Abe's visit to Kuwait not only

came as a complement to the historical state visit by His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Japan in March 2012, but also injected fresh impetus to the already firm and stable bilateral relations between Kuwait and Japan.

Let me briefly trace the modern history of the Kuwait-Japan relationship. The shaping of our cordial ties started even before the independence of the State of Kuwait

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in 1961, in the field of energy and oil. The friendly bilateral ties became an official diplomatic framework with the independence of the State of Kuwait.

Since then, the friendly ties between Kuwait and Japan have been reinforced in the fields of politics, economics and social and cultural affairs as officials, businessmen and ordinary people of both countries have keenly and proactively contributed to further



Night view of Kuwait City EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

Overcoming difficulties through patience and mutual friendship

Yuriko Koike
CHAIRPERSON, JAPAN-KUWAIT PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



As chairperson of the Kuwait-Japan Parliamentary Friendship League and former minister, I warmly welcome the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, to Japan.

Kuwait has been a resolute friend to Japan for over half a century and the friendly relations between Kuwait and

Japan are better than ever. During this time, we have overcome our difficulties through patience and mutual friendship.

One of the examples of the cooperation is the immediate and plentiful disaster relief offered by Kuwait in the wake of the March 11, 2011, Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami.

A generous donation of 5 million barrels of crude oil, worth over ¥40 billion at the 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 H.H. 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 operations 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.

Additionally, Kuwait has made available the Ali Al-Salem Air Base to Japan's Self-Defense Forces, enabling effective operations in the region related to the Iraq War.

On behalf of the people of

Japan, please allow me to again extend my sincere gratitude to Kuwait. We will always remember your goodwill and tremendous support.

I am confident in saying that we can expect to further strengthen and solidify our long-standing relationship in various fields, not only between governments, but also through encouraging further interaction and friendship between our peoples.

In closing, I wish for the continued happiness and prosperity of H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, H.E. Ambassador Abdul-Rahman Al-Otaibi and the people of Kuwait.



Kuwait Towers at sunset EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

Heartiest Welcome to Japan
H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak
Al-Hamad Al-Sabah,
Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait
on His Official Working Visit



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Kuwait
Thank you Kuwaiti People and
Kuwait Fund for helping the world.

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H.H. SHEIKH JABER AL-MUBARAK
AL-HAMAD AL-SABAH,
PRIME MINISTER OF
THE STATE OF KUWAIT
ON HIS OFFICIAL WORKING VISIT

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Prime Minister of
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On the occasion of the visit to Japan of

H. H. SHEIKH JABER AL-MUBARAK AL-HAMAD AL-SABAH,
THE PRIME MINISTER OF
THE STATE OF KUWAIT

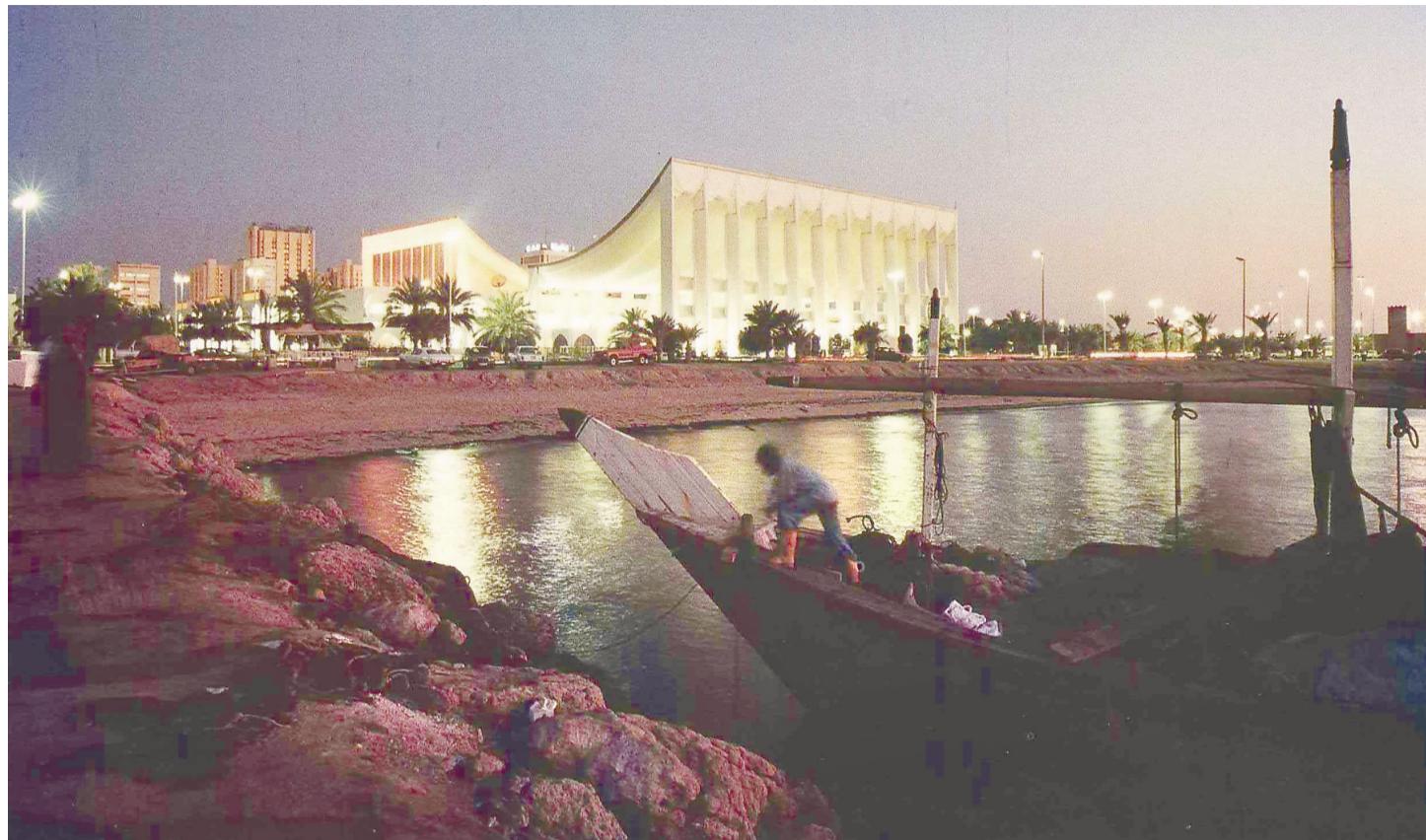
KUWAIT PETROLEUM CORPORATION
has the privilege to welcome the
honorable guest and his distinguished delegation.

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation
(Far East) (K.S.C.)

Heartiest Welcome to Japan
H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak
Al-Hamad Al-Sabah,
Prime Minister of
the State of Kuwait
on His Official Working Visit

Mitsubishi Corporation

Kuwaiti prime minister's visit



The National Assembly sits on the shore of Kuwait Bay. EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

Strong cooperation in a variety of sectors

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tighten the bonds between our countries by exploring opportunities in all fields beyond the traditional framework of bilateral relations.

Needless to say, the outcome of the visit by Abe to Kuwait and the bilateral talks with the prime minister of Kuwait in Kuwait City have endorsed the glorious legacy of the past history of our diplomatic relations.

The legacy has not only been inherited, but also evolved from the conventional framework into the most advanced, and, I believe, the model of bilateral relations that would meet contemporary requirements based on cooperation in the fields of culture, science, technology and the development of human resources.

As a result, the relationship between Japan and the State of Kuwait have become ever more firm and extensive in recent years.

Such advanced cooperation between Kuwait and Japan should be a natural

consequence of our never-ceasing mindfulness and kind thoughts for each other's countries and peoples. During the invasion of Kuwait in 1990, the Japanese government and people stood firm with us. In the aftermath of the calamity of the East Japan Great Earthquake and tsunami in March 2011, the Kuwaiti government and people then delivered massive support and aid to the disaster-battered areas.

As a token of appreciation to the moves, Emperor Akihito and the government of Japan kindly extended their invitation to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait to Japan as a state guest in March 2012. During the visit, Emperor Akihito was eager to receive Sheikh Sabah in person to showcase the ever-strong bilateral ties between our countries.

Today, Tokyo receives Kuwait's prime minister once again as another contribution to the bilateral relations between Kuwait and Japan,

marking the third official visit by His Highness to Japan.

The first official visit was from Nov. 24 to 29, 2004. At the time His Highness was the deputy prime minister cum minister of defense.

During the trip, His Highness visited as an honored guest of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On Nov. 25, His Highness paid a call to then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, and met with then Minister for Foreign Affairs Nobutaka Machimura; Director-General of the Defense Agency Yoshinori Ohno and other political figures. On Nov. 29, His Highness attended the signing ceremony of the Agreement on the Improvement of the Environment of Kuwait Bay. Also on the same day, His Highness attended the 10th Japan-Kuwait Businessmen's Committee meeting as an honored guest.

The second official visit by His Highness was on Nov. 5, 2009, when he was the first deputy prime minister cum minister of defense and chairman of the supreme environmental council.

His Highness was invited to Japan to attend a ceremony hosted by the government of Japan where His Highness was

bestowed the "Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun" from Emperor Akihito at a ceremony held at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.

His Highness became the first Arab figure to be awarded Japan's highest honor for non-Japanese people. The distinction was awarded in recognition of efforts by His Highness to promote mutual understanding, as well as political, diplomatic and environmental ties between Kuwait and Japan.

This time, we are very confident that the visit by His Highness will have another massive impact on the bilateral relations between Kuwait and Japan.

Additionally, we are eager to open another chapter of the history book of the everlasting and ever-evolving friendly relationship between the State of Kuwait and Japan.

Today, I am very heartened by what I have witnessed, and what I will witness, on the bilateral relations that Kuwaitis and Japanese have cultivated. I am proud of the ties that bind our two countries and peoples and I hope this visit will lead to new milestones in our countries' strong partnership.

Heartiest Welcome to Japan

H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak

Al-Hamad Al-Sabah,

**Prime Minister of
the State of Kuwait**

on His Official Working Visit



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U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon pays tribute to the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah in September, 2014. EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

Heartiest Welcome to Japan

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