

# Bahrain National Day

## Appreciation for ever-deepening bonds between our countries

Khalil Ebrahim Hassan  
AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF  
BAHRAIN

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain celebrates the 45th National Day, the 44th anniversary of the diplomatic relations with Japan, the 17th anniversary of the Accession to the Throne of H.M. King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the 11th anniversary of the embassy in Tokyo.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain

the rest of the East and the West. This has been the reason our country has become known as the "Pearl of the Gulf region."

Taking this opportunity, we, at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to H.M. King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Prime Minister H.R.H. Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Crown Prince H.R.H. Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa for their vision and support in initiating this new era of Bahrain-Japan relations.

### Modern, open society

For most of the Japanese people staying in the Arabian Gulf, Bahrain is an ideal destination for vacations. Sunny sandy beaches, beautiful green parks, fresh air and vigorous markets await them. The legendary "Garden of Eden" in the Old Testament and "Eternal Land" in the Great Epic of Gilgamesh are the exact words for this paradise on earth. The modern and liberal atmosphere of our country is also attracting the visitors.

The Kingdom of Bahrain is continuously changing. H.M. King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has an ambitious vision of investing in human resources to further develop the country's status as a cultural, financial and technology center in a democratic constitutional monarchy. Indeed, women's roles in the society are already large and education is open to

the entire nation.

Moreover, there are numerous luxurious development projects being undertaken. You may already know about the Bahrain International Circuit, which hosts a race on the Formula One circuit. There are also artificial island resorts, surrounded by beautiful emerald green seas that are increasingly becoming alluring destinations for relaxing vacations. In addition, there is the 25 km King Fahd Causeway linking Bahrain to Saudi Arabia.

Your choice of the Kingdom of Bahrain as a regional base of business, destination for vacation or second home after retirement will enrich your life with more fascination and energy.

### Strong business history

Japan and Bahrain have traditionally maintained a very solid friendship. The relationship dates back to 1934, when the first Bahraini oil shipment to Japan began after the discovery of oil in Bahrain in 1932. Since establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Bahrain in 1972, the relationship has become profound.

The Kingdom of Bahrain, which is at the heart of the Gulf region, is the gateway to the Middle East market. This strategic location provides Japanese companies with the efficient access to every market in the region and high purchasing power.

It is noteworthy that Bahrain's economy has long been the freest in the region for over 20 years. Today the Heritage Foundation's Index of Economic Freedom ranked the country as the 18th globally and Bahrain is the only country from the Middle East and North Africa region to feature in the Top 20. Furthermore, Bahrain gives approval to foreign companies to retain 100 percent foreign ownership and they are also able to benefit from the region's lowest taxes.

To conclude my remarks, I wish the best of continuous prosperity and happiness to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, as well as the country of Japan and its people. I hope for continuing progress in all fields for both countries and the continuance of the special relationship joining both nations.



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**Congratulations**  
to the People of the Kingdom of Bahrain  
on the 45th Anniversary of Their National Day

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