

Iran national day

Japan ties' mutual respect model for global relations

Seyed Abbas Araghchi
AMBASSADOR OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC
OF IRAN TO JAPAN

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

On the auspicious occasion of the 30th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, I would like to hereby convey through the columns of The Japan Times my sincerest greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and to the government and people of Japan.

I also welcome this opportunity to congratulate my coun-

trymen on this happy occasion.

At the heart of the Middle East, there lies a thousand-year-old country with a very rich culture, which till 1935 was called "Persia." In that year, the name was changed to Iran, upon the decision of the Iranian government. Iran is situated in southwest Asia and borders the three CIS states, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Turkmenistan, as well as the Caspian Sea to the north, Turkey and Iraq to the West, the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to the south, and Pakistan and Afghanistan to the east.

Iran is one of oldest countries in the world. Extending



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, supreme leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran



Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

nearly 8,000 years, and throughout history Iran has been of geostrategic significance because of its unique location in Eurasia. Iran is a founding member of the United Nations, NAM, OIC, OPEC

and ECO. Iran is a regional power in southwest Asia, and occupies an important position in the world economy due to its large reserves of petroleum and natural gas. Iran is also among the few countries that comprise the "Cradle of Civilization." The name Iran is a cognate of Aryan and literally means "Land of the Aryans." Despite intermittent aggression launched against Iran during the past few centuries by bloodthirsty marauders such as Genghis Khan, Alexander the Great and Saddam Hussein of Iraq, the peace-loving Iranian nation has remained committed to peace, tranquillity, the pursuit of knowledge, divinity and justice.

On Feb. 11, 1979, the selfless sacrifices of Iranian people under the able leadership of the late Imam Khomeini, came to fruition, paving the way for the establishment of a just political system inspired by Islam, and people's rights and wishes. Over the past 30 years, Iran has made tremendous strides in various fields and consequently the Iranian nation has been able to firmly stand up to foreign aggression, and at the same time contribute to regional and international peace and security.

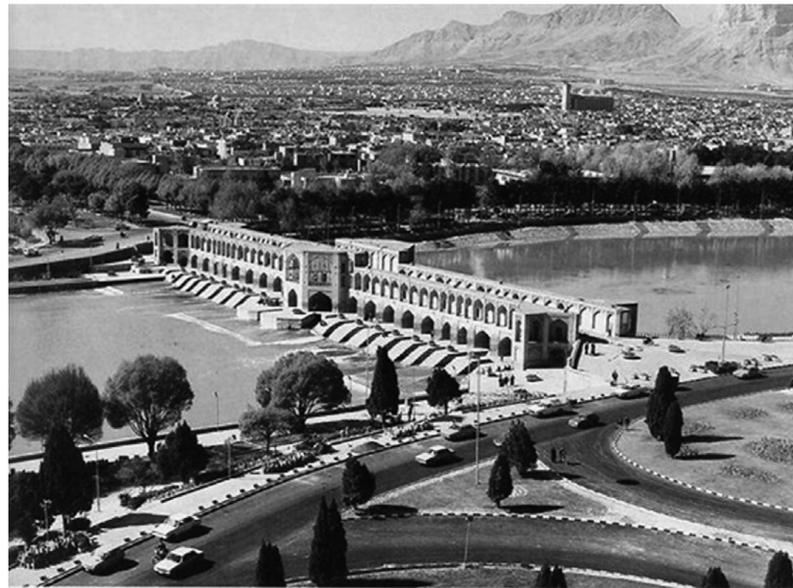
The Islamic Republic of Iran as a state with enormous clout has elevated its status to

a major regional power in international developments. The government of Iran in continuation of its development policy is observing the guiding principles of its "Twenty-Year Perspective" and its four five-year development plans. With the implementation of these plans, Iran will become an economic powerhouse in the region by 2025, which will in turn contribute to its technological and scientific progress.

The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes justice, compassion and human dignity as well as mutual respect as its foreign policy guiding principles. Historically, Iran has always sought to have amicable relations with neighboring countries bilaterally and multilaterally. Iran's foreign policy is based upon rejection of all forms of domination. From the standpoint of the Islamic Republic of Iran, gaining independence and liberty as well as dispensation of justice comprise the inalienable rights of all peoples in the world.

In brief, the foreign policy doctrine of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based upon the following principles.

- 1. Justice**
Injustice is the root cause of tension and conflict in political and economic interactions, and gives rise to social oppression. Therefore, one cannot expect to achieve a sustainable peace without administering justice in international relations. If international relations are based on justice, all nations will be treated equally in the eyes of international law and consequently no nation can dominate or violate another nation's rights.
- 2. Morality**
Laying great emphasis on spirituality and morality is equally essential. The difficulties confronting states in promoting bilateral relations can



Spanning the centuries: Khaju Bridge across the Zayandeh River in Isfahan, Iran, was constructed around 1650. EMBASSY OF IRAN

be attributed to not observing spirituality and morality in their dealings, whereas variations in the values of nations should be respected.

3. Human dignity
Human dignity is used to signify that all human beings are blessed with intrinsic worthiness and deserve unconditional respect, regardless of age, gender, health status and social or ethnic origin. Should this be violated by a bully, it can be considered as discrimination. In other words, every individual is respected merely by the fact that he or she is a "member of the human family."

Given that states are also represented by individuals, no big power should reserve the right to bully other states, if it does, it has outrageously violated human dignity.

4. Mutual respect
International relations theory holds that states have the right to be free from foreign intervention. Since morally

autonomous citizens hold the rights to liberty, the states that democratically represent them have the right to exercise political independence. Mutual respect for these rights then becomes the touchstone of international relations theory. If mutual respect is observed in interstate relations, it is bound to promote international peace and security.

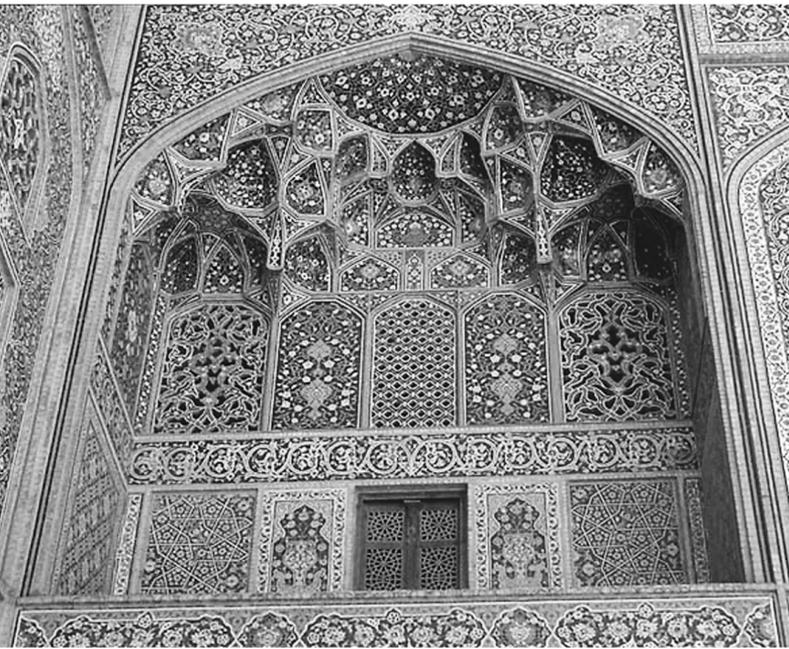
Besides mutual respect, if the basic guiding principles of Iran's foreign policy, that is, justice, compassion and human dignity, are fully abided in international politics, nations can be hopeful of a more durable peace. As long as the international system is characterized by an absence of justice, compassion and human dignity, such a system cannot remedy all the malaise it imposes on interstate relations. The current composition of the U.N. Security Council can be cited as a case in point.

The Islamic Republic of

Iran is confident in the knowledge that if Japan and Iran consult and cooperate closely with each other in this regard, they are likely to come up with practicable solutions to such challenges. Iran has always viewed Japan as an ideal partner in that it symbolizes the potential ability of Eastern nations for modernization. It has the technology Iran requires and Japan needs the oil Iran wishes to sell.

Furthermore, Iran and Japan are ancient civilizations whose relations span centuries. These long-term bilateral relations have remained solid in spite of dramatic international upheavals. Both states have enormous responsibility for safeguarding such mutual ties. Given that 2009 marks the 80th anniversary of the establishment of Iran-Japan diplomatic ties, both sides should take measures to further promote bilateral relations.

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Everlasting beauty: The interior of Isfahan's Imam Mosque, which is widely regarded as a masterpiece of Persian architecture.

Congratulations on the Occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Iran

Mohsen Manafi Niazi
PRESIDENT, PERSIAN WORLD CO., LTD.
REPRESENTATIVE,
IRAN JUDO FEDERATION IN JAPAN



On this great occasion, I would like to convey our heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

For decades, Iran and Japan have maintained close relations in cultural, political, economic and other spheres. Since 1994, Persian World Co., Ltd., as the biggest supplier of premium handmade Persian carpets in Japan, has been committed to further development and strengthening of such cooperation between the two countries by revealing the beauty of Iranian culture to Japanese people through unique carpet masterpieces.

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IN THE NAME OF ALLAH On the Occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Glorious Islamic Revolution of Iran



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Solons work to expand relationship

Taro Nakayama
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-IRAN
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

On behalf of the Japan-Iran Parliamentary Friendship League, I would like to convey my heartfelt congratulations on the 30th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.



Japan and Iran historically have had amicable relations. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic

relations. Bilateral ties have expanded through dialogue between the leaders of the two countries from June 2008 and also through the exchange of high-level visits, in particular the successful visit of the special envoy of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Japan.

I hope that through the further cooperation of parliamentarians of the two countries, we witness the expansion of Japan-Iran ties in all areas.

I send my best wishes to the people of Iran for their further prosperity and continued development of our cordial ties.



Cultural heritage: A gold rhyton (drinking vessel) from Iran's Achaemenid period

Japan ties' mutual respect

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The Iranian government has always welcomed the unsparing efforts of Japan aimed at promoting peace, stability and prosperity in Asia, the Middle East and other regions. Being mutually aware of each other's political and economic importance, both sides should hold wide-ranging consultations to explore solutions to emerging regional and international challenges.

The volume of trade between the two countries was around \$20 billion in 2008. Iran is one of the main oil suppliers of Japan and 12 percent to 14 percent of Japan's crude oil requirements are supplied by Iran. Japan has been one of the main suppliers of Iranian industrial and technical needs. Potential for new fields of cooperation between the two countries exists, and I do hope that with the guidance and continued support of the Japanese government we witness further participation of the Japanese private sector in Iran. Culturally speaking, both nations are deeply rooted in ancient civilizations. Iran as one of the cradles of ancient civilizations enjoys enormous

influence in Asia and the Middle East. The geostrategic position of Iran has transformed it into a major confluence of Asian cultures and traditions.

In the Sassanid era, the Silk Road was not only an ancient international trade route but also a splendid cultural bridge linking Iran as the country of "flower, poetry and mysticism" and Japan as the country of the "rising sun." In recent years, cultural exchanges between the two countries have gained momentum. With a view to further promoting these relations, Iran and Japan have intensified their cultural communications by organizing exhibitions, events and film festivals, for joint movie production, as well as academic exchange and Persian-language seminars, etc.

As I mentioned earlier, since this year marks the 80th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, and the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the cultural agreement between Iran and Japan, I am confident in the knowledge that the cordial bilateral relations between our two countries would be further promoted in various fields and at different levels.



Congratulations on the Occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Iran

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