

# Libya revolution day

## Mutual interest keys important friendship

Anagih A. B. Anagih  
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.L., PEOPLE'S  
BUREAU OF THE GREAT SOCIALIST  
PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

On the auspicious occasion of the 41st anniversary of the Great Sept. 1 Al-Fateh Revolution of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and on behalf of The Brother Leader Moammar Gadhafi, myself and all my colleagues at the People's Bureau of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in Tokyo convey our sincere greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the government and friendly people of Japan.

I take the opportunity on this happy occasion, on behalf of myself and my colleagues at the Libyan People's Bureau, to congratulate all the Libyan nationals residing in Japan and invite dear readers to celebrate with Libyans throughout the world our Revolution Day of the Great Al-

Fateh Revolution.

At the same time, I would like to express my respect and appreciation for The Japan Times editorial staff and employees for allowing us throughout the years to reach out to the readers and share with them developments in my country, Libya.

At the onset, I would like to point out briefly the recent developments, promising investment opportunities, and cultural and touristic advantages that continue to enhance bilateral relations in various fields, and which have enabled Libya to retain a leading position in the world today.

On the bilateral level, there is no doubt that the role played by the Libyan People's Bureau and its able members in tandem with the relevant host Japanese ministries, organizations and institutions, as well as the gifted Japan-Libya Friendship Association, is of pivotal importance to this discourse.

Indeed, the Japan-Libya



The Brother Leader Moammar Gadhafi

Friendship Association's successive chairpersons and Executive Committee continue throughout the years to play an exemplary role in maintaining and enhancing bilateral relations.

The activities of the Japan-Libya Friendship Association are highly appreciated by the

Libyan authorities. The greatest proof is the welcome extended by Brother Leader Gadhafi to the successive chairpersons whenever they visit the Great Jamahiriya.

The latest welcome reception was during the visit of Yuriko Koike as the chairperson of the friendship association and as head of a 26-member economic and business mission in November 2009. Koike also met eight key members of the Libyan Cabinet within a span of three days. These important Cabinet members deal with crucial sectors such as the economy, finance, energy, environment, planning, etc.

This rapport created by these frequent visits is well appreciated in Libya. Here, too, the coverage of the mission in major Libyan and Japanese media is a testament to the Libyan governmental and people-level interest in Japan and vice versa.

Chairperson Koike kindly expressed words of welcome

to Brother Leader Gadhafi during the satellite lecture to the professors and students of Meiji University on Dec. 15, 2009. This gracious support was very well received by the attendees, as well as the general public, through nationwide coverage on all of the major news networks in Japan, Libya and beyond.

At this point, we should note that Meiji University is worthy of a special acknowledgment for their keen initiative in issuing the invitation to the leader. President Hiromi Naya as well as Professor Kunio Fukuda, president of the Institute of Peace and Disarmament, and the student volunteers meticulously organized a historic event. This was the first of its kind in Asia and will certainly resonate for years to come in support of bilateral ties.

Meiji University professor Fukuda's cooperation dates back many years. Perhaps most vividly remembered is his support during April 2005

## Discourse improves with high-level meetings

Yuriko Koike  
CHAIRPERSON, JAPAN-LIBYA FRIENDSHIP  
ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of the 41st anniversary of the Al-Fateh Revolution, as chairperson of the Japan-Libya Friendship Association, I am pleased to send my warmest wishes and congratulations to the leadership and the people of Libya.

After I became the chairperson of our association in June 2009, I had an opportunity to visit Libya in November 2009 as the head of an economic delegation with 26 business executives. The warm welcome we received in Libya was extraordinary. We had the



privilege of meeting with The Brother Leader Moammar Gadhafi and eight key ministers of the Libyan government and exchanged frank opinions about the future relationship between our two countries. We also discussed the importance of cooperation between Libya and Japan for the development of Africa. Brother Leader asked for Japan's support in building a model environmentally friendly city in Libya.

At the end of that year, I had an opportunity to welcome Brother Leader during an event hosted by the Institute of Peace and Disarmament of Meiji University, which he joined through satellite.

Around the same time, an arrangement to establish the first joint venture company between the Libyan government and the Japanese manufacturing

companies was signed.

Early this year, Libya played a pivotal role in the decision to reject a proposal at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This news was welcomed by the people of Japan.

These are only the beginnings of the successful relationship between Japan and Libya. I strongly believe that the partnership between our two countries will bring mutual prosperity, and as the chairperson, I assure that our association will continue to promote further exchanges between Libya and Japan.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation of our partner, the Libyan People's Bureau in Tokyo, for their continuous support of our activities.

in extending welcoming remarks as a co-coordinator of the lecture held at the United Nations University of H.E. Saif al-Islam Gadhafi during his visit to Japan as an official Japanese government guest to the Aichi 2005 Expo.

We sincerely hope that professor Fukuda will continue to maintain his interest in Libya, undoubtedly an important element in bilateral relations, and which can lead to solid academic ties between our two countries and their educational institutes. Meiji University as well as other leading Japanese universities, such as the University of Tsukuba, should build upon the momentum created by recent exchanges with Libyan academics, including the visit to Japan of the chancellor of Al-Fateh University.

Mitsubishi Corp., a commercial entity, is aggressively forging research and development (R&D) relations with Al-Fateh University through their generous contributions to scientific research on solar

panels that are now operating at the main power terminal of the university.

In addition, the role of Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) and its collaboration with the General People's Committee for Education and Scientific Research is also to be praised for helping to produce concrete results.

On the economic front, there has been an increase in the number of Japanese companies that have set up their operations in the Great Jamahiriya. The endeavors of 27 companies, so far, to exercise economic partnerships with Libyan agencies is gaining ground.

In fact, in December 2009, Sekisui managed to establish a joint venture with the Libya Africa Portfolio for investment (LAP) with an ultimate goal of entering the African market and to supply it with high-quality glass reinforced plastic pipes (GRP). This is a specific example of cooperation between Libya and Japan

for the sake of African development.

Other examples in different fields abound, such as some automakers establishing sales and technical centers in Libya. These developments have been closely followed by Libyan high officials and the general public as witnessed by the high media interest.

Japanese companies should build upon this momentum to further increase their share in the Libyan economic development boom, which is comparable to Japan's own economic achievements, as well as those of their counterparts in Asia and other leading countries.

In April, Dr. Mahmoud Gebril, secretary general (Cabinet level) of Libya's National Economic Development Board (NEDB), visited Japan to seek fundamental partners in the further economic development of Libya. The meetings with several interested governmental and private organizations, from sectors

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Local favorite: Algeria Square in Tripoli offers fine coffee shops and fabulous views. LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU

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# Libya revolution day/world

## A captivating mix of Islam, culture, modernity, history

Libya is a fascinating mix of history, culture and desert life. Tripoli, the capital, is a showcase for the rest of the country. Interesting sights include a castle, many bazaars and souks as well as museums and mosques.

The country's Islamic heritage can be seen at Sirt, Darnah and Ajdabiya, and a glimpse of local Libyan life can be observed in the desert cities of Ghadames, Ghat, Ahwat, Ojla.

The first site that most tourists visit when arriving in Libya is Tripoli. It is a city of Islamic civilization, Arab art and handicrafts, where every monument narrates a tale.

The dominating site of Tripoli is the Al-Saraya Al-Hamra Castle, which occupies the east quadrant of the old city. The castle museum displays archaeology and artifacts of ancient Libyan history covering the Phoenician, Greek and Roman periods.

Tripoli is also vibrant with lush gardens filled with olive trees, palms, grapevines,

and orange groves.

The state religion of Libya is Islam (Sunni Muslim). The official language is Arabic. English and Italian are also spoken. Libya has a Mediterranean climate. Winters are mild and wet and summers are hot and dry.

Founded by the Canaanites in the sixth century B.C., the UNESCO World Heritage site of Sabratha is located on the beautiful Mediterranean coastline. The Amphitheater in Sabratha is a major tourist spot with a wide variety of public baths, temples and fountains.

The historical town of Leptis Magna east of Tripoli offers incredible archaeological sites. It was originally a port, built by the Phoenicians in the first millennium B.C. Among the things worth seeing in Leptis Magna are the Severan Arch built in honor of Emperor Septimus Severus, the Hadrianic Baths, a detailed basilica and an amphitheater.

One of the best tours that Libya offers is a visit to Ghadames in the desert south of

Tripoli. Built in an oasis, Ghadames, "the pearl of the desert," is one of the oldest pre-Saharan cities and a beautiful specimen of a traditional settlement.

The old town's unique architecture consists of white-washed mud walls and narrow and obscure walkways. Worth seeing are the D'jmaa al-Kabir mosque, where the minaret can be climbed for a wonderful panorama of the city; Mulberry Square, or the old slave market; and the House Museum, which displays unique mercantile furnishings. Nearby are the Zallaf Sand Dunes, abode of the native Tuareg tribe.

Benghazi is Libya's second-largest city. It is located on the easternmost part of the Gulf of Sirt. Ras Alteen, a nearby beach with pristine white sands, is a spot where tourists can relax. Other historical sites include the battlefield of Tobruk and the town of Cyrene. In nearby Suluk stands the mausoleum of Omar Mokhtar, hero of the Libyan Resistance during the Italian occupation.



Old meets new: Tripoli, Libya's capital, boasts gleaming new buildings (above) and the Al-Saraya Al-Hamra Castle (below), which has become a museum that houses historical artifacts in its 47 galleries, preserving aspects of the old world. LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU



## Avenues of cooperation remain 'nearly endless'

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across the board, were frank and worthwhile.

Indeed, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry H.E. Masayuki Naoshima, in a face-to-face meeting, expressed deep interest in the participation of Japanese companies and promised to lend full governmental support. This will no doubt provide a solid basis for enhanced cooperation in fields that Japan has experience and expertise.

It is important to note that this year, like past years, Libya continues to be a leader on the world stage. The Great Jamahiriya is the cur-

rent chair of the Arab League Summit. This means that this coming October a summit meeting will be held in Libya. Under the brilliant leadership and the strong initiative of Brother Leader Gadhafi, this summit will also include the African continent's heads of state.

It is not a secret that the wise leadership of Libya is guided by action rather than words. The evidence is that this kind of summit meeting, as proposed by the Brother Leader Gadhafi, of Arab and African heads of state, has not happened in decades.

Indeed, African development is in dire need of further action and support. In this sphere, Japan, too, with its own Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development (TICAD) framework, can work in tandem

with the Great Jamahiriya to produce real breakthroughs on the continent. Such substantive actions and policies will produce tangible benefits to the African people.

The avenues of cooperation between Libya and Japan are nearly endless, and many opportunities exist for bilateral and multilateral collaboration to expand. Japan is invited and very much welcome to further this discourse for the mutual benefit of our two great nations and peoples, as well as that of the entire African continent.

Finally, I once again take the opportunity on behalf of myself and that of my colleagues here at the Libyan People's Bureau in Tokyo to declare that the Great Sept. 1 Al-Fateh Revolution Day is indeed a celebration for all humankind.



Oasis: Gabr Oun Lake, in the Sahara Desert, is a popular tourist attraction. LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU

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