

Iran's islamic revolution day

Peace, justice must be rights of all nations

Dr. Seyed Abbas Araghchi
AMBASSADOR OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC
OF IRAN

In the name of God.

On the occasion of the auspicious 32nd anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, I am honored to extend, on behalf of the Iranian government and people, sincerest greetings and best wishes to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor Akihito and the Empress Michiko, as well as to the government and people of Japan. I also extend my heartfelt felicitations to my compatriots living in Japan.



Iran is home to one of the world's oldest major civilizations. The first Iranian dynasty formed in 2800 B.C. and Iran was unified into an empire in 625 B.C. Iran is a highly diverse country in topography and climate, with an area of more than 1,648,000 sq. km in southwest Asia and a population of around 76 million, mostly young and well-educated.

Feb. 11, 1979, is a glorious day in the history of Iran. The date marks the victory of democratization and political reform over dictatorship and despotism. On this day, the people of Iran, under the leadership of the eminent late Imam Ruholla Khomeini, defeated tyrannical rule and sent the Shah, the American-supported dictator of Iran, into exile. With Islamic and democratic inspirations, the Islamic Republic of Iran was established as a new model of democracy in harmony with Islamic values and principles. This has enabled the nation to achieve enlightenment and progress in political, economic, scien-

tific and cultural areas. In fact, Iran's Constitutional Movement (1905) and Islamic Revolution (1979) clearly show the pioneering role of the Iranian people in the intellectual movements in the Middle East and the Islamic world, the impacts of which are obvious today.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, from its very inception, has diligently sought to extend and promote its relations with other nations based on a firm belief in the noble tenets of Islam for peace and justice on Earth, and by emphasizing the mutuality of interests and noninterference in internal affairs of other countries. Today, Iran is a major power and an influential player in the Middle East that endeavors for the peace, stability and prosperity of this important and sensitive region. Iran has also promoted regional and international cooperation as the basis of its foreign policy and within the context of values generated by Islam.

The foreign policy doctrine of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based upon justice, morality, human dignity and mutual respect. We believe that injustice is the root cause of tension and conflict in political and economic interactions, gives rise to social oppression and weakens the incentives for cooperation. Sustainable peace without administering justice in international relations cannot be achieved. All nations should be treated justly and equally in the eyes of international law, and no nation has the right to dominate or violate another nation's rights. At the same time spirituality and morality are equally essential. Human dignity is used to signify that all human beings are blessed with intrinsic worthiness and de-



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

serve unconditional respect, regardless of age, sex, health status and social or ethnic origin.

And finally, all states have



Mahmoud Ahmadinejad,
president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

ized by an absence of justice, compassion and human dignity, such a system cannot remedy all the malaise it imposes on interstate relations.

company BP. This resulted in a harsh reaction by the British government, which took the issue to the Security Council and imposed economic sanctions and a naval blockade on Iran to prevent the export of oil.

Today, once again Iran and the issue of energy are brought up, this time not oil but nuclear energy. Iran needs petroleum revenues in order to continue its economic development and progress. Therefore, for its domestic use Iran should utilize new sources of energy that are environmentally friendly and do not cause global warming. Hence, the peaceful nuclear program of Iran is very serious and well-planned, since more than half a century ago. According to this program, the Iranian government should generate 20,000 megawatts of nuclear energy in the coming decade by building 10 to 15 new nuclear power plants.

Regrettably, Iran's desire to access peaceful nuclear technology has faced hostile and monopolistic opposition by certain powers that by imposing sanctions try to deprive Iran from its legitimate rights under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). They failed to understand, however, that sanction policy is an unsuccessful experience and by itself is a part of this problem, not a solution for it. It is also a grave injustice to punish a nation for its scientific and technological achievements in a perfectly peaceful context and in accordance with its NPT rights and obligations.

Iran in its nuclear program follows the example of Japan and, like Japan, is interested in becoming an advanced country in nuclear technology only for peaceful purposes and within the framework of international rules and obligations.

Iran in its nuclear program follows the example of Japan and, like Japan, is interested in becoming an advanced country in nuclear technology only for peaceful purposes and within the framework of international rules and obligations. It is unfortunate that the good will of Iran in opening new avenues of cooperation has not met a suitable answer. As was reemphasized, once again, by Dr. Saeed Jalili, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, in recent Geneva and Istanbul talks with the EU3+3 (Britain, France and Germany, and China, Russia and the U.S.), the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully prepared to engage in meaningful cooperation on matters of mutual interest and concern, including nonproliferation and disarmament.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has never sought and will in no way try to have ac-



Dialogue spurs mutual prosperity

Seiji Maehara
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Japan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, that are located in East and West of Asia, enjoy a long-lasting



history and common cultural basis that goes back to their interactions through the Silk Road.

The relationship between the two countries has traditionally been amicable.

The two countries have currently extended multilayered dialogue and cooperative relations in various areas.

I hope that these dialogues contribute to further bilateral ties and secure peace and stability in the world.

the right to be free from foreign intervention. Mutual respect is the touchstone of international relations theory and is the only way to promote international peace and security. As long as the international system is character-

The current composition of the U.N. Security Council can be cited as a case in point.

Dear readers, in 1952 Iranian people nationalized their oil industry and brought it back under their own control from the hands of the British

cess to nuclear weapons. The defense doctrine of Iran is not founded on nuclear calculations since Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the highest religious authority in the country, has declared that all kinds of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, are illegitimate and contrary to Islamic beliefs. Iran, therefore, is promoting the notion of "nuclear energy for all, nuclear weapons for nobody" and is for the elimination of such weapons from the face of the Earth. To begin with, we believe that the Middle East should be made a region free of nuclear weapons, and the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to fully cooperate in this direction.

Relations with Japan

As the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Japan I am pleased to remind readers that Iran and Japan have both contributed to human civilization and benefit from a rich Asian culture and identity. The two nations have had commercial and cultural exchanges over the centuries, and in addition to vast political interactions, the ample economic and commercial capacities have been used for economic development and the well-being of the two sides.

A salient example in this regard is the Nissho Maru incident in 1953. In May 1952 the representatives of Japanese companies and the Iranian government had important discussions. As I mentioned earlier, at that time Iran had nationalized its petroleum industry and the eco-

conomic sanctions and naval blockade imposed by the British government had prevented Iranian oil exports. On the other hand the economic miracle of Japan was on the way and this industrial giant increasingly needed oil in quantity and a safe supply. The conclusion of the discussions was that the Idemitsu Kosan oil company (which was a small firm at that time) was charged to buy Iranian oil in spite of British sanctions. On May 9, 1953, defying the British, the Nissho Maru oil tanker belonging to Idemitsu reached Yokohama port carrying Iranian crude oil. On the same day the Tokyo Civil Court rejected the British government's demand of the seizure of the oil shipment.

The year 1953 and the Nissho Maru incident is registered as an important point in the history of Japan and since then Iranian oil has become a significant factor in Japan's

economic development. Japan's audacity in that period guaranteed an important source of oil supply for its industries. During the nearly six decades after the Nissho Maru incident, the relationship between Iran and Japan has been growing, based on mutual respect and interests.

From the early days of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian government gave special attention to the promotion of the friendly bilateral relationship with Japan. In the past decade the cooperation of the two countries has been extended into many fields, such as trade, infrastructure, energy, tourism, culture, science and technology, sports and movie production.

In 2010 we witnessed sizeable cooperation and interactions between Iran and Japan in different areas. During many exchanges of visits, the high-ranking officials of the

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Amicable bilateral relationship leads to further fruitful results

Masahiko Koumura
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-IRAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP
LEAGUE

On behalf of the Japan-Iran Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to convey my heartfelt congratulations on the anniversary of the victory of the revolution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.



Historically, Japan and the Islamic Republic of Iran have enjoyed amicable relations. This relationship dates back over a thousand years to the days when excellent culture and art of Sassanid Persia were brought into Japan by way of the Silk Road. We can see the best example in the Persian glass bowl treasured at the ancient Shosoin Treasure House in

Nara. The two countries have been further expanding various dialogues between them. Of particular note was a successful visit to Japan by H.E. Ali Larjani, speaker of the parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in February 2010.

During his visit, the Parliamentarians' Friendship League had a fruitful meeting with the Iranian parliamentary delegation.

I will exert myself to encourage further understanding between Japan and Iran.

I also earnestly hope that the cooperation between Japan and Iran will significantly contribute to peace and stability in the world.

I would like to extend my sincere wishes for the further prosperity and happiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iranian people.

Congratulations on the Occasion of the 32nd Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Iran



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Ties with Japan still have room for expansion in many sectors

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two countries held constructive dialogue on bilateral and international issues and new grounds for expanding mutual cooperation were investigated. In this regard, the visit of the speaker of the Islamic

Consultative Assembly of Iran to Japan after a 25-year lapse from the previous visit, the visit of the minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran to Tokyo, the continuation of political dialogue between the deputy foreign ministers of the two coun-

tries, the visit of the president of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce and the accompanying business delegation to Tokyo are worth mentioning.

Trade between Iran and Japan has increased substantially in recent years. In 2010 the volume of trade between the two countries increased up to b30 percent and reached around \$14 billion.

As President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad underlined in a meeting with Tokyo's new ambassador to Tehran, the Iranian side has the willingness to further boost its trade with Japan much beyond the current level. There are many unused capacities for the expansion of bilateral ties and the emergence of new opportunities on the international scene has necessitated further consolidation of our two countries' relations.

I would also like to mention that in 2010 numerous cultural events were held, including the exhibition of antique Persian silk carpets at the Yokohama Silk Museum, an exhibit of Iran-Japan relations historical documents, an exhibition in Nara of carpets from Iran, a seminar on the 130th anniversary

of the visit of the first emissary of Japan's government to Iran, performances of Iranian traditional music, screenings of Iranian movie screenings, and especially the running of "Zoorkhaneh" or the "Sport of the Heroes" event in Tokyo and Osaka last December. These programs had important effects for the further mutual understanding and knowledge of the people of Iran and Japan.

Despite considerable and varied levels of bilateral exchanges and cooperation, there are still many unused capacities that can provide more benefits for the two sides but also will have deserved roles in the consolidation and expansion of regional and international peace and security.

It goes without saying that the existing capacities in Iran cannot be ignored and the current circumstances require that Japan, in line with its national interests, considers a longer-term perspective for its bilateral relations with Iran and guarantee its long-term interests in the Middle East.

Thank you.

Deeply rooted bonds endure

Emiko Okada

CHAIRWOMAN, JAPAN-IRAN CULTURAL EXCHANGE ASSOCIATION

It is a great pleasure for me to extend my sincerest felicitations to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the auspicious occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Every autumn a large number of Persian antiques, such as bowls, tissues and other structures, that were transferred to Japan during the Nara Period (710 to 784) are exhibited in the Shosoin

Treasure House in Nara.

The people of Japan see a bond with Iran's culture and civilization through these treasures, brought to Japan by way of the Silk Road.

The exchange of such art objects and the interactions of the people and cultures are deeply rooted in the hearts and minds of the people of the two nations and are immune against ups and downs in economic or political conditions.

I sincerely wish further prosperity to the Iranian nation and hope that it continues its spiritual and cultural affluence that are as luminous and solid as silk.



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on the Occasion of
the 32nd Anniversary of
the Islamic Revolution of Iran

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