

Kuwait national day

Progress, growth mark 50 years of independence

Abdul-Rahman Humood Al-Otabi
AMBASSADOR OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT

2011 is of particular importance to the State of Kuwait. This year marks the 50th anniversary of independence, the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Japan, the 20th anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait from the brutal Iraqi occupation and the fifth anniversary of the assumption of power by His Highness Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah the amir of the State of Kuwait.



lations between both countries.

While the State of Kuwait is celebrating the golden jubilee of independence, it affirms its fundamental principles of supporting the persistent efforts toward the progress and development that aims at developing the human capabilities in order to make a more efficient contribution to international development.

Since its independence, the State of Kuwait, blessed with abundant wealth, took the initiative to support nations with scarce resources in their fight against poverty and illiteracy. And in order to sustain this support, the State of Kuwait established the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development in 1961, which started its activities by supporting Arab states and then extended its support to all developing nations. Today, more than 100 countries benefit from the services provided by the Kuwait Fund for

Economic Development with loans totaling \$14.5 billion, equivalent to 1.3 percent of gross national product (GNP) and twice the rate set internationally.

On the other hand, the State of Kuwait has adopted the principles of democracy. After its independence in January 1962, a law was enacted to establish a Constituent Assembly in charge of "drafting a constitution that defines the system of government based on the principles of democracy and inspired by the reality of Kuwait and its objectives." The constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly in a session held on Nov. 3, 1962, and was approved, without any amendments, by the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Abdullah al-Salem al-Sabah on Nov. 11, 1962. Consequently, Kuwait entered a new era of constitutional legitimacy. Since then, democracy has prevailed in Kuwait, raising it to the ranks of civi-



Amir of the State of Kuwait
Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad
al-Jaber al-Sabah

lized nations.

Kuwait entered the third millennium with a new pioneering spirit set by His Highness the amir that aims to make Kuwait a financial and global trading center. With this noble goal, the State of Kuwait adopted a comprehensive development plan extending



Crown Prince of the State of
Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf
al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah

for the next five years with a budget of \$115 billion for infrastructure development, construction of ports and railways, building new cities and improving the level of basic services provided to citizens and residents alike. In this regard, the State of Kuwait is proud of being among the top

rank between the Arab nations and the world in terms of quality of education, quality of life, health care, gender equality, economic situation and political freedoms, according to ratings published by international organizations, agencies and other nongovernmental organizations.

The State of Kuwait has never hesitated to fulfill its international and regional duties, and it always calls for development. In this sense, Kuwait considers that the challenges facing today's world require a lot of effort to introduce reforms and continuous improvements to the entities of the United Nations, its agencies and programs in order to enable it to cope with the rapid changes in international relations and in order to improve their performance.

Kuwait has welcomed the decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations, entitled "systemwide coher-

ence," that established a new entity to promote international efforts for gender equality and the empowerment of women, and the post of under-secretary general was created for that purpose.

On the other hand, the State of Kuwait considers that the time has come to take the required steps to improve and develop the work of the Security Council, after more than 17 years of discussions regarding these reforms, and to enable it to have more transparency and increase the number of its members based on standards that provide equitable and balanced representation and more efficiency in assuming its duties and responsibilities.

Kuwait has experienced the bitterness of dictatorship, but the country shook off the dust by itself. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the liberation from the barbaric Iraqi invasion. It is a painful memory that we, along with our

brothers in Iraq, have been determined to overcome by establishing the rules for stable relations based on the principles of mutual recognition of sovereignty, independence, good neighboring and noninterference in internal affairs and to solve the disputes by peaceful means, to respect all the resolutions of international legitimacy and to implement the remaining commitments stipulated by the Security Council's decisions. The State of Kuwait is optimistic about the future of the bilateral relations with the Iraqi people and is ready to continue to provide all forms of support to help the Iraqi government in its efforts to establish security, stability and to sustain Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

This year, the State of Kuwait celebrates the fifth anniversary of the assumption of power by H.H. Sheikh Sabah the amir of the State of Kuwait on Jan. 29, 2006. The amir has been at the top of Kuwaiti diplomacy since 1963 and emerged as one of the men who have marked the history of their nations. He has been named the "sheikh (chief) of diplomats" and he has a national vision calling for the adoption of a new vision for national action based on an outlook of the future without denying the past and looking toward the world while preserving localism. This vision puts Kuwait in the rank of nations that are committed to sustaining the progress of civilizations, and based on the values and founding principles of the people of Kuwait over the generations. The amir also has an international vision that comes from his keenness to support and enhance Kuwait's relations with all the nations around the world in various areas of politics, economics, information, culture and others. Accordingly, he paid several visits since he assumed his responsibilities in the 1950s and participated in many conferences and international meetings during which he submitted Kuwait's just issues to the world's public opinion.

Fortunately, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Japan. Japan was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of the State of Kuwait on Dec. 8, 1961, under the government of then Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda. Since then, Kuwait and Japan have been enjoying friendly and deep relationships and we always consider Japan as a leader in many areas. We have learned from Japan how to emerge from the ashes of destruction to be among the developed countries, which in itself, is a lesson to all nations and people.

We always look forward to promoting our relations toward high levels of cooperation and to take the best of Japan's scientific and economic knowhow by concluding agreements in several areas, and the latest was the Agreement on the Prevention of Double Taxation, which was signed in February 2010, as well as the Agreement on the Promotion and Protection of Investments, which is to be concluded this year. The State of Kuwait is keen to treat Japan preferentially as a partner and as a major oil importer. Therefore, as a member country of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Kuwait will do its best to keep oil prices at levels acceptable to both producers and consumers alike.

The State of Kuwait, which celebrates these anniversaries, can never forget the stand of the Japanese government and the people of Japan in supporting Kuwait during Iraq's brutal occupation in 1990 and their efforts during the liberation war. Consequently, the State of Kuwait, its leadership and people, expressed and will continue to express thanks and gratitude to Japan. Finally, the State of Kuwait hopes that Japan, with its private sector, will be an active participant in the future development projects in the State of Kuwait.

In conclusion, both Japan and Kuwait will celebrate this year's auspicious occasion in several events that will reflect the level of bilateral relations between the two countries.



Entertainment: The waterfront setting makes the Al-Kout shopping mall a pleasant place to relax, shop and dine. EMBASSY OF KUWAIT



Traditional vessels: Kuwaitis used to fish with many kinds of ships to live off the resources of the sea. EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

**Heartiest Greetings and Congratulations
to the State of Kuwait
on the Occasion of
the 50th Anniversary of National Day and
the 20th Anniversary of Liberation Day**



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Heartiest Greetings and Congratulations
to
**H.H. The Amir,
H.H. The Crown Prince, H.H. The Prime Minister
and The People of The State of Kuwait**

On the Occasion of the
50th Anniversary of the National Day of Kuwait,
20th Anniversary of Liberation Day, and
5th Anniversary of Assumption of Power by H.H. The Amir



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



HEARTIEST GREETINGS
AND CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE STATE OF KUWAIT
ON ITS 50th NATIONAL DAY,
20th ANNIVERSARY
OF LIBERATION AND
5th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ASSUMPTION
OF POWER BY H.H. THE AMIR



AOC Holdings, Inc.
ARABIAN OIL COMPANY, LTD.
FUJI OIL COMPANY, LTD.

私たちにとって
最高の褒め言葉は、
「また来たくなる」です。

笑顔も、挨拶も、お掃除も、誰かが願って、
それが大切なのだとわかっています。
でも、そのひとつひとつを本気でやるかやらないか、
とても小さな差の積み重ねかもしれないけれど、
やがてそれは大きな差になると、私たちは思います。
中平がよく使っていたので、
アランがよく使っていたので、
「また来たいよ、ココロから使っていたらいいな、
誰か来てくれた人のココロを満タンに、
それが、コスモ石炭の願いなのです。」

近くにあるから、ではなく、好きだから行く場所へ。
"ココロも満タンに"宣言。

加藤夏希さん
「サービススタッフ体験記」
Webで公開中
ココロも満タンに 動画

**WE EXTEND OUR CORDIAL FELICITATIONS
TO THE AMIR AND THE PEOPLE OF
THE STATE OF KUWAIT
ON THIS AUSPICIOUS OCCASION
WISHING FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF
FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN KUWAIT AND JAPAN**

JAPAN-KUWAIT SOCIETY

Chairman: Kuniyasu Takeda



Illuminations: The new building of the Ministry of Information, with the national symbol projected on the facade, and the 372-meter Liberation Tower (right), completed in 1993, are landmarks of Kuwait. EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

Diplomatic relations, cultural ties continue to flourish after 50 years

Kuniyasu Takeda
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-KUWAIT SOCIETY

On this auspicious occasion of the 61st National Day of the State of Kuwait, I am pleased to offer on behalf of the members of the Japan-Kuwait Society our sincerest greetings and congratulations to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, and His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser al-Mohammed al-Ahmad al-Sabah, as well as to the friendly people of Kuwait.



I am pleased to witness the distinguished leadership Kuwait demonstrates in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for the stability and prosperity of the entire Middle East.

While the diplomatic relations between Japan and Kuwait are taking a smooth course to date, I am happy to note that our two countries will mark the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties in December. Official and private visits have multiplied, proving the steadfast joint efforts of collaborative activities in sci-

ence, technology and culture, to say nothing of the close diplomatic and economic ties. The official visit to Japan in June last year by H.E. Dr. Muhammad al-Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Kuwait, was one of the milestones of our expanding relations. The deputy premier co-chaired the first joint committee meeting of the governments of Japan and Kuwait, with H.E. Katsuya Okada, then minister of foreign affairs, co-chairing as his counterpart. The two-nation committee, organized to discuss ways of developing friendly ties, exchanged views on extensive bilateral topics including commemorative events to highlight the 50th anniversary of Japan-Kuwait diplomatic relations.

In the cultural sphere as well, Kuwait sent the largest delegation to The Eighth Seminar of the Dialogue among Civilizations between Japan and the Islamic World, held in Tokyo in February last year, showing its enthusiastic attention to intercivilizational issues. H.E. Dr. Adel al-Falah, undersecretary of the Ministry of Religious Endowment and Islamic Affairs, headed the group of Kuwaiti intellectuals and delivered a speech on behalf of the Islamic coun-

tries. The dialogue, aimed at establishing multilayered relations between Japan and the Islamic world, recorded constructive discussions on the subjects including cross-cultural collaborations, youth exchanges and the pursuit of common values among civilizations.

Behind the excellent official relations, the Japan-Kuwait Society has laid the groundwork for academic and cultural exchanges between our two peoples for the past 46 years. With cultural and Islamic subjects as focal points, we have published a number of books in Japanese to acquaint readers with Islamic culture and civilization.

Last but not least, I would like to offer my sincerest appreciation to H.E. Abdul-Rahman Humood Al-Otaibi, ambassador of Kuwait to Japan, for his amazingly powerful outreach efforts for enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation between our two nations. I happily notice that his initiative to promote Kuwait's publicity over a broader reach of the Japanese population has proved successful.

Hoping that our excellent relations further develop, I pray for the prosperity and progress of Kuwait and its peace-loving people.

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to the State of Kuwait
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