

## Clear, diverse, optimistic road map leads nation

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AMBASSADOR OF JORDAN

Today, as Jordan celebrates the 65th anniversary of its independence, I would like to take advantage of this special occasion to express on behalf of His Majesty King Abdullah II, the Royal Family, and the government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan the sincerest of our wishes to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and to the government and great and friendly people of Japan for continued peace, progress and prosperity.



This year's anniversary will be remembered with a different taste, filled with deep sadness for those who lost their lives in the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11 and with heartfelt prayers for the speedy recovery of all those who are suffering, comforted by our steadfast confidence that this great nation will soon rise above this epic disaster powered by the resilience, solidarity and commitment of its people, who have proven over the ages that Japan is the place where miracles happen.

From the first moment we learned of the earthquake and its unimaginable effect, His Majesty the King issued his directives to the Jordanian government to extend all possible assistance to

Japan to help the relief efforts, especially in the medical field, since Jordan is internationally known for its advanced medical capabilities that have enabled it to have a prolonged and diverse presence in many relief efforts throughout the world, especially via field hospitals and medical teams in harsh and disaster areas such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Gaza and Haiti.

After close cooperation with various parties in Japan, our first medical team arrived in Fukushima City on April 23 and departed on May 13. Throughout their stay they worked at evacuation centers in Fukushima Prefecture, and arrangements are currently undergoing for the receiving of the second team, who we hope will be here as soon as possible.

Since the establishment of the diplomatic relations between our two friendly countries in 1954, our ties have developed progressively and steadily, covering wide spectrums of issues of mutual interest. We now see eye to eye on most if not all positions and viewpoints supporting many causes such as justice, peace, human rights and democracy.

The highlight of these ties has always been the frequent Royal Visits to Japan that stand as witness to the uniqueness, strength and importance we attach to our bilateral relations, and our determination to see them grow further in the future. We also appreciate how Japan assisted and continues to assist the eco-

nomical and social development policies of Jordan. Japan's assistance has touched every Jordanian and covered many fields such as economic and technical assistance, sending Japanese experts and volunteers, and inviting Jordanians to Japan for training and cultural exchange.

The Royal Visit last year laid the foundation for moving the relation to its next level, one that will significantly widen the participation of the Japanese private sector in the mega-projects Jordan is planning to start implementing in the coming few years in areas such as clean and renewable energy, nuclear energy and water desalination, and advanced regional railway networks. These projects are designed to have their benefits cover many countries in the Middle East region, and will aid the efforts supporting stability and peace, and provide additional basis for a more sustainable development, one that will create jobs and increase hope for a better future.

From the first day His Majesty the King assumed constitutional powers in 1999, Jordan has witnessed a high-speed transformation in all aspects of life. His Majesty's visions, initiatives and personal involvement have guided the development process and lifted Jordan to where it is now. Today we find ourselves advancing rapidly through the achievements and opportunities Jordan presents and the gateways we offer to the rest of the region. Our firm sta-



Royalty: Jordan's King Abdullah II and Queen Rania with their children EMBASSY OF JORDAN

bility and security continue despite what the region is witnessing these days. This is due mainly to the steadfast belief of the Jordanian people in their political system and the comprehensive reform process spearheaded by His Majesty who regularly meets political, economic and civil society leaders of Jordan to ensure that these processes and the road map collectively formulated meet the aspirations of our people. The solidarity and commitment of all Jordanians for a better future enabled this small country to become a calm and potential-laden modern oasis, where justice, human rights, freedom and democracy are celebrated, and where dedication, hard work, and optimism made possible the achievements of remarkable results in many fields,

leading Jordan to becoming an advanced education and medical center in the Middle East.

Our road map for the future is clear, diverse and optimistic, and includes transforming Jordan, in the coming few decades, from a country that imports 96 percent of its energy requirements to an energy exporting country using energy produced from clean and green sources such as solar, wind and peaceful state-of-the-art nuclear power generation. Another key project will be the Red Sea-Dead Sea water conveyor designed to save one of the World Heritage sites, the Dead Sea, from extinction. At the same time, the project will help ease the freshwater shortage problem in Jordan and neighboring countries through huge desalination plants powered by Jordan's new green energy. This is in addition

to many other key projects such as regional railway networks, and software and information technology, and expanding our internationally reputed pharmaceutical sector through joining forces with other leading international corporations.

Jordan has also become a center for many international conventions and forums, such as meetings of the World Economic Forum, where 1,300 movers and shakers of global politics, business and culture convene every other year on the shore of the famous Dead Sea to discuss and exchange views on many economic, political, social and cultural issues, and explore new ideas and solutions for the challenges facing our globe.

Those who seek history and world wonders can spend magical times at the 2,000-year-old city of Petra, entirely carved in rose red stones and is a living testament of the civilized achievements of our ancestors, so impressive that it was chosen as one of the "new world wonders," second only to the Great



Wonder: Half-built and half-carved into the rock by the ancient Nabataeans, the historic city of Petra is a UNESCO World Heritage site and Jordan's most-visited tourist attraction. EMBASSY OF JORDAN

Wall of China.

I would like to conclude by thanking The Japan Times for

giving me this opportunity to share my thoughts with their distinguished readers.



Nature: Fed by the Jordan River, the Dead Sea has a high salinity, as these salt crystals along the coast reveal. EMBASSY OF JORDAN

**Congratulations**  
to the People of  
the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
on the 65th Anniversary  
of Their National Day



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