

Egypt National Day

A history of strong bilateral ties

ISMAIL KHAIRAT
AMBASSADOR OF EGYPT



It is a great pleasure to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the July 23, 1952, Revolution with the friendly people of Japan. The July revolution was an iconic day in Egyptian modern history that enabled

Egypt to retain its independence and free will, establish its republican system and launch its national development plans. In part due to the 1952 revolution, Egypt was among the founders of the African Unity Organization (now African Union) and the strongest supporter to the independence of many Arab and African countries.

Egypt-Japan relations

Historically, Egypt has been one of the first countries in the Middle East and Africa to develop bilateral relations with Japan, dating back to 1864 when the members of the second Japanese mission to Europe (Ikeda Mission) visited Egypt and had their famous photo before the Sphinx.

Recently, our relations witnessed an unprecedented leap following Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi's historic visit to Japan in March 2016. The visit was marked with key high-level meetings and discussions with his Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the speaker of the House of Representatives and CEOs of top Japanese companies, among other notable public and private sector leaders. A testament of the trip's success was the president's opportunity to deliver a historic speech before the Diet marking him as the first Arab and second African leader to have such a privilege.

Following the visit, the relations between Egypt and Japan continue to flourish in all fields. The Japanese government is continuing its reputable record of supporting mega-projects in Egypt, providing an additional



During his visit to Japan in March 2016, Egypt President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi visited Miyamae Elementary School in Tokyo's Meguro Ward. EMBASSY OF EGYPT

loan to build the Grand Egyptian Museum that is planned to be the largest in the world.

Furthermore, our nations have begun to implement the "Egypt-Japan Partnership in Education," through which the Japanese "Tokkatsu" basic education system is being introduced in 200 schools across Egypt. Additionally, 2,500 Japanese scholarships will be granted to Egyptian students and researchers predominantly from health and education sectors over the coming five years.

Investment and tourism

Egypt's demographic profile and recent legislative strides have made it an attractive investment destination. Egypt boasts a large and growing domestic population of approximately 90 million people of whom 65 percent are of working age. With regards to the investment climate, Egypt's government has adopted several measures and passed legislations meant to attract investments such as the liberalization of the currency market and the issuance of a new investment law that includes various incentives and facilities to speed up investment procedures.

Recognizing Japan's appreciation for ancient Egyptian history, the Egyptian government is implementing several initiatives to restore the momentum of Japanese tourism to Egypt. To begin with, the successful operation of charter flights between Tokyo and Luxor last year allowed thousands of Japanese tourists to spend their winter holidays in the majestic destinations of Luxor, Aswan and Abu Simbel in Upper Egypt. Furthering our commitment to ease travel between our countries, it gives me great

pleasure to announce that EgyptAir, Egypt's flagship carrier, will resume its direct flights between Cairo and Tokyo in October on a weekly basis. I am confident the resumption of direct flights between the two capitals will further strengthen the tourism and investment flow from Japan to Egypt.

Development cooperation

Japan has been a continuous partner in promoting several key cultural, economic and educational projects. We highly appreciate Japan's landmark projects in Egypt that are critical to developing the Egyptian economy such as the Cairo Opera House, the Friendship Bridge over the Suez Canal, the Cairo University Pediatric Hospital and the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST), in addition to the ongoing projects including the Education Partnership, the Fourth Subway Line and the Grand Egyptian Museum, which will be partially opened in 2018.

Finally, while my tenure is coming to an end, I seize this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the Japanese people and officials who warmly and generously hosted my family and me for the last three years.



EgyptAir will operate direct weekly flights between Cairo and Tokyo from Oct. 29.

EGYPTAIR

Working together for safety and security

YURIKO KOIKE
GOVERNOR OF TOKYO AND FORMER
CHAIRPERSON OF THE JAPAN-EGYPT
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

On May 22, I was honored to meet visiting Speaker of the Egyptian House of Representatives Aly Abdel Aal Sayed Ahmed and his delegation at the Tokyo Metropolitan Government office.

During the meeting, I told him that I



have great hopes for the Egypt-Japan Education Partnership, an initiative launched in 2016 that sets out to invite more than 2,500 Egyptian students to Japan. I consider the program a symbol that further strengthens bilateral ties. As a graduate of Cairo University, I will strive to promote exchanges between the young people of both nations.

Furthermore, I expressed appreciation for the country's support for the victims of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and the 2016 Kumamoto earthquakes, while offering my condolences to those who died from a terrorist attack in Egypt in April. I explained that Japan has provided support for ensuring safety and securing stability in the Middle East. I also renewed my determination to promote cooperation with Cairo, one of our sister cities, in various fields, including antiterrorism measures.

I sincerely hope for the prosperity of Egypt and the Egyptian people.

Congratulations to the People of the Arab Republic of Egypt on the 65th Anniversary of Their National Day



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