

Saudi Arabia National Day

Working hard to benefit all citizens

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AMBASSADOR OF SAUDI ARABIA

The National Day Anniversary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia comes at a time when the comprehensive development renaissance, the foundation of which was laid by the kingdom's founder King Abdul-Aziz al-Saud, has continued apace during the reigns of his faithful sons and successors down to the present reign of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz al-Saud. Building on the intellectual, institutional and management foundations laid by the founder king, and guided by his ideas and practices in development planning and economic management, his faithful sons have continued the efforts that have resulted in remarkable achievements and successes, reflected in the continued rise of living standards, improvement in the quality of life, comprehensive construction and industrial renaissance, and advanced economic and social services throughout the country.

These achievements are eloquent testimony to the effectiveness of the developmental approach that has been adopted by the kingdom; an approach that combines scientific planning, targeted rationalization and continued support for the private sector within the framework of economic freedom and individual initiative.

Over more than three decades, structural and socioeconomic advances have been achieved, at both the macro and sectorial levels. The Saudi economy has gained enormous strength, increasing its ability to adapt to changes and developments and withstanding global economic fluctuations. Among the results of the development of



Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud

institutional and administrative modernization, we have seen systems development efforts, the facilitation of measures and the occurrence of a significant improvement in the business environment in the kingdom, in addition to an increase in its attractiveness for foreign direct investment. As a result, the kingdom witnessed during the past years a remarkable increase in the size of incoming foreign direct investment, and Saudi Arabia has become the forefront of countries of the Middle East in this area.

Considering the Saudi citizen to be the focus and the ultimate goal of the development, the government of Saudi Arabia has accorded great importance to human resource development. Hence, education has grown remarkably to an unprecedented level due to concern for the provision of all its development requirements. This attention to education and training coincided with a keen attention and intense keenness on the health of the citizens.

Remarkably, when the development process of the kingdom is examined, similarities in some important aspects between its beginnings, in the reign of the founder king,



King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud

and the realities of the moment become evident. The founder king adopted modern methods for developing agriculture and water resources, managed oil exploration, built transportation and communication networks, provided educational services and health care and built the institutions of the state, utilizing expertise from home and abroad. He sent Saudis abroad to specialize in various fields. Saudi Arabia is now keen to expanded use of the achievements of science and technology in all areas, especially production and service, the transfer of knowledge and advanced technology through foreign trade and investment mechanisms by sending large numbers of its citizens abroad to acquire new knowledge and experience in various fields. In furtherance of this trend, the kingdom has made historical strides and embarked on the completion of megaprojects aimed at establishing the bases and foundations of a knowledge-based economy.

More than 60 years have passed since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Japan, during which time these relations have witnessed a quantum leap and surprising development, steady growth and

a remarkable cooperation that covered all the political, economic, cultural, military, educational and health fields responsive to the policies and principles reached through bilateral agreements, negotiations and exchange visits by the relevant officials in both countries. This has made their relationship one of the most important international partnerships over the last 60 years, overwhelmed by sincerity, honesty and commitment to everything that has been agreed upon.

The year 1955 marked the beginning of the establishment of Saudi-Japanese diplomatic relations that have been characterized with stability and good steady growth since their inception with the participation of the Japanese experts and technicians in the kingdom to modernize its infrastructure, mainly through the implementation of industrial power generation and information technology projects in addition to a variety of industrial and other projects. This was quite enough to make Japan, with its companies, expertise and technically trained skilled labor, more qualified to win a significant share of large-scale projects that had been implemented in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It also paved the way for the two countries to agree on concluding more deals based on the kingdom's needs and its development requirements, in the sense that the Saudi-Japanese relationship was, and remains, filled with excellence and distinction.

The latest economic and trade data confirm that the volume of the trade exchange between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Japan reached about 118 billion Saudi riyals (\$31.5 billion) in 2015. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the most-important trading partners with Japan, while Japan is ranked as the third-most-important trading partner with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Anyone reading about the economies of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Japan, both countries' potentials and the status of



Medina, the second-holiest site in Islam EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

each of the two countries in the global economic system, will not be surprised by the solid Saudi-Japanese partnership that has existed over the last six decades, their capabilities to create a productive environment as witnessed by the cooperation between the two countries and how they have become members of the G-20 and among the economically richest countries in the world. The friendship between the two countries, similarities of policies and opportunities of available integration shared by the two countries enabled both governments to draw a road map for their bilateral relations with specifications suitable for both countries that will help in making, at a later stage, a distinguished partnership by enhancing the yearly added value of such a relationship. A number of agreements and committees, mainly the Saudi-Japan Joint Committee that connects both countries, assure both of them will build a genuine partnership that does not exclude any activity so that bilateral cooperation would be comprehensive and addressing the interests of the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Japan.

Following the historical visit to Japan by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud,

deputy premier and minister of defense last September, King Salman paid an auspicious visit to Japan in March. This visit constituted a major event in the course of the Saudi-Japanese relations, a culmination of distinctive relations of friendship between the two countries, translating and reflecting the size and the strength of this relationship. It is of particular importance that it comes as the first visit to Japan by a Saudi King in 46 years since His Majesty King Faisal visited in 1971.

In the political domain, bilateral relations between the two countries witnessed similarities in views regarding their positions toward the global issues and developments over the past 60 years. Both sides confirm their willingness and strong intention to continue this relationship since their establishment by the common strong determination to develop them to achieve the principle of mutual benefits, common interests, policies and denominators that unite them. The pace of the relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Japan marches according to a true outline, characterized by serenity and harmony, heading toward the development and steady growth without being tainted by any reason of suspicion.

Congratulations
to the People of
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
on the Occasion of
the 87th Anniversary of
Their National Day



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THE 87th ANNIVERSARY OF
THEIR NATIONAL DAY



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Warmest Congratulations to
**The Custodian of the Two
Holy Mosques King Salman
bin Abdulaziz Al Saud**
of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
and his People
on the Occasion of
the 87th Anniversary of
Their National Day



JAPAN-SAUDI ARABIA SOCIETY

Chairman: Hiromasa Yonekura



Kingdom Centre in Riyadh EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

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TO THE PEOPLE OF
THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR NATIONAL DAY

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Their National Day

Mitsubishi Corporation

Saudi Arabia National Day

Bilateral cooperation continues to expand

HIROMASA YONEKURA
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-SAUDI ARABIA SOCIETY

On this auspicious occasion of the 87th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I would like to offer on behalf of the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society our best wishes to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, His Excellency the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Japan Ahmad bin Younos Al-Barrak and the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



Looking back on the relationship between Saudi Arabia and Japan over the past several years, we can see that in April 2013 Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Saudi Arabia, and in February of the following year, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud (the current king) came to Japan and met with Abe. Since then the leaders of the two countries have visited each other almost every year.

Following the passing away of former King Abdullah in January 2015, King Salman ascended to the throne, and his son, His Royal Highness Mohammad bin Salman, became deputy crown prince. The following year, on April 25, the Council for Economic and Development Affairs — the kingdom's highest economic planning body chaired by the deputy crown prince — formulated and announced Saudi Arabia Vision 2030, the kingdom's growth strategy that aims to diversify the economy and expand employment.

In August 2016, when then-Deputy Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman visited Japan and met with Abe, they agreed to hold a Japan-Saudi Arabia ministerial conference to discuss specific areas of collaboration toward the achievement of Saudi Arabia's economic reforms set out in Saudi Arabia Vision 2030. Since then, ministerial conferences have been held

twice. Moreover, the two countries have compiled the basic direction for bilateral cooperation, as well as specific collaboration projects under the Saudi-Japan Vision 2030 initiative. Saudi-Japan Vision 2030 serves as a new compass for cooperation between the two countries, seeking to generate synergies between Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and Japan's growth strategy, under which Japan is striving to achieve a gross domestic product of ¥600 trillion. With the participation of 41 Japanese and Saudi Arabian ministries, as well as public and private-sector organizations of the two countries, it established nine priority areas for cooperation, including energy, healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure, investment and culture. We have already seen the Saudi-Japan Vision 2030 accelerating an expansion of bilateral cooperation. For example, in April of this year, under the sponsorship of the Saudi-Japan Vision 2030 Music Exchange Program Committee, a concert was held in Riyadh that featured the performance of an orchestra of Japanese musicians.

Japan-Saudi Arabia relations, which began with cooperation in the energy field, have over a long history grown into a multilayered, strategic partnership that encompasses a significantly diverse range of areas, including industry, technology, the environment, education, science and culture.

Continuous efforts to see each other and to know more about each other are essential to fostering and maintaining friendship, not just in the relationship between people, but also in the relationship between nations. It is also important to maintain mutual visits by government officials and further deepen and expand people-to-people exchange in the private sector. Since its inception in 1960, the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society has been working on various cultural exchange programs, including Arabic language courses, and enhancing understanding among the people in Japan about Islam and Arab culture and society. In 2015, the society published a photographic collection titled "A Visualized 60-year History of Japan-Saudi Arabia Friendship," and this year, in celebration



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shakes hands with Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud in Tokyo on March 13. EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

of King Salman's visit to Japan, it published an Arabic edition of the collection, which was presented, via the embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Japan, to King Salman. We at the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society will continue working on cultural exchange initiatives and contributing, in close cooperation with Ambassador Al-Barrak, to further promoting Japan-Saudi friendship.

Last but not least, I pray for the peace and prosperity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and heartily wish the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman good health and happiness.



Clockwise from above: Al-Masjid al-Haram in Mecca; Masmak Fort in Riyadh and Mada'in Saleh, a UNESCO World Heritage site EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

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Their National Day



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