

Tunisia National Day

Win-win relationship sought as horizons expand

KAIS DARRAGI
AMBASSADOR OF TUNISIA



Seven years after the Jasmine Revolution, Tunisia has succeeded in laying the foundations for a functioning democracy through dialogue and compromise. Having managed to transform the conflicts associated with any transition into a constructive process, Tunisia's nascent democracy has matured, and its democratic values are now irreversible.

Concurrently, Tunisia has won the battle of ideas against extremism and has largely defeated terrorism. It is now as safe as any European country and it has made a much-anticipated comeback as a welcoming and alluring destination for Japanese tourists.

Tunisia is now directing all energies toward building a new inclusive economic model to unlock the country's potential and consolidate its comparative advantages as a business-friendly site for



Remains of Carthage, the city-state founded in the 9th century B.C., located on the eastern side of the Lake of Tunis. OFFICE NATIONAL DU TOURISME TUNISIEN AND EMBASSY OF TUNISIA IN JAPAN

investors.

The government has launched an ambitious program of reforms to bring public finances back on a sound footing, to support higher and inclusive growth and to enhance the competitiveness of the country.

Above and beyond urgent reforms, Tunisia has embarked on a radical rethinking of its growth model that will lead to a para-

digm shift from the public sector toward a competitive private sector as the main engine of growth and job creation. Such a shift will equally involve an upgrading into high-value-added processes and diversifying into technology-based and skill-intensive sectors.

Recent figures point to a steady macroeconomic improvement. After two years of stagnation, gross domestic product

growth has reached 2.2 percent in 2017, while in the medium term, it is expected to reach 2.8 percent in 2018 and 3.5 percent in 2019.

With these encouraging signs of economic recovery, Tunisia is determined to regain its position as an emerging economy in the region, as it holds the assets to become an attractive hub with a diversified economy, qualified workforce and a strategic location in the heart of the Mediterranean, linking Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

With Japan, our relations have reached a stage of maturity and promise. We are looking forward to forging a solid partnership driven by our shared values, based on our mutual interests and oriented toward results.

A central component to the partnership we are envisaging will be the opening of new perspectives for stronger trade exchanges, joint ventures and investments that could generate fresh opportunities for our respective business communities.

We are now opening a new chapter for investment and new horizons for a mature win-win partnership.

Friendship and shared values

NOBUO KISHI
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-TUNISIA
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE



The celebration of the National Day of Tunisia offers me the opportunity to express my satisfaction at the development of Japanese-Tunisian relations and reaffirm my commitment to the enhancement of the friendship between our countries.

2017 was a remarkable year for our relations, marked by the visit to Japan of Tunisia's Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Khemaies Jhinaoui. I was heartened to learn from him, when we met in November with other members of the Japan-Tunisia Parliamentary Committee, about Tunisia's progress in consolidating its democratic institutions and undertaking reforms to establish an open and business-friendly environment.

I was also heartened by Tunisia's success

in reinforcing security and safety, leading Japan to relax its travel advice for Tunis and major tourist resorts. I hope a great number of Japanese will have the chance to appreciate Tunisia's many World Heritage sites, the variety of its landscapes, rich gastronomy and unique flavors.

The recent increasing interest of Japanese companies in the emerging Tunisian market is also very encouraging. Whether in major infrastructure projects, or in manufacturing, Tunisia is positioning itself as a regional hub and a platform for Japanese companies to expand in European, African and Middle Eastern markets.

We are eager to build a new win-win partnership with Tunisia to reinforce economic bonds and boost a new investment momentum for Japanese and Tunisian companies.

Japan will continue to support Tunisia's democratic efforts as it looks to chart a new course for strong and sustainable development. Both countries will continue to build on their shared values and long-standing friendship to contribute to world peace.

Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Tunisia
on the 62nd Anniversary
of Their Independence



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