

# Iran National Day Special

## Strengthening bilateral ties, furthering relations

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AMBASSADOR OF IRAN



Feb. 11 marks the 41st anniversary of the Iranian revolution and the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the past year, the world and the Persian Gulf region saw numerous incidents. Iran and Japan both suffered floods and typhoons. Both countries have been struggling in the course of counterterrorism. Iran has been holding essential roles in the fight against terrorism and extremism.

### Hormuz peace endeavor

At the United Nations General Assembly in September 2019, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani reaffirmed Iran's strategic vision toward the Middle East.

He then proposed strategic initiatives based on the principle of collective benefit and the general rule of win-win. He also offered to sign a non-aggression treaty with the countries of the region and the Persian Gulf states.

During his visit to Tokyo, the president had a dialogue with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe concerning the details of the Hormuz Peace Endeavor.

He conveyed that Iran considers the security of the region as its own security, and believes that such security should be solved based on dialogue, mutual trust and collective cooperation of regional countries.

Dialogue and diplomacy have been the most effective means of resolving regional conflicts for Iran.

### Bilateral relations with Japan

Last year, Iran celebrated the 90th anniversary of its diplomatic relations with Japan. There were historic events, such

as reciprocal trips by the prime minister and the president, as well as face-to-face meetings in both countries. Iran-Japan relations have been based on trust and friendship for the past 90 years.

Although the volume of economic relations declined sharply last year, bilateral political ties have deepened in good faith and Iran hopes for a fruitful new phase in economic relations in the future.

Numerous meetings between the leaders of Iran and Japan, and the recent visit of the Iranian president to Tokyo indicate the two countries' interests in amicable relations. These meetings imply that both parties have the political will to develop relations in all spheres.

### Economic cooperation

Iran has been one of the major importers of Japanese machinery and electronic devices since the revolution, and Japan has been one of Iran's largest trading partners.

Cooperation between the two countries in the fields of health, environment, oil and petrochemicals, technical and specialized education, as well as trade and commerce, has been beneficial for both.

We hope that as we move past current hurdles, we will witness a jump in economic ties to match the huge capacity for potential.

One of the advantages of Iran on the world stage is its geographical location, centrality and connectivity in the Middle East and on the European land route to Asia.

A major policy of Iran is to strengthen transport infrastructure and to strive for geographical connectivity through its south-to-north corridors.

Chabahar Port plays an essential role in this strategy; this strategy welcomes investment from interested countries, including Japan, in that port.

Another area of cooperation is tourism in Iran, which is attractive to visitors. Many Japanese tourists have visited Iran

and have been fascinated by the country's past civilizations, arts and architecture, other tourist attractions and Iran's cultural diversity.

### Tourism and culture

Iran is considered as a cradle of civilization. It is among the world's leading countries in various cultural, civilized and economical fields; it also has numerous ancient areas registered as tangible and intangible UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Iran is a major producer of saffron, pistachios, barberry, rugs, turquoise and other goods.

The country also houses the world's first circular city; one of the oldest, deepest and longest underground water canals, the Qanats of Gonabad, where one of the first ancient water clocks was used and still exists; and the world's largest adobe city, Citadel of Bam, an amazing castle site that is registered as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

### Iran's scientific achievements

Iran's growth in science and technology has contributed to a number of advancements. In the field of stem cell science and research, Iran is among the top 10 countries in the world.

Further within the world of scientific knowledge and technology, Iran is among one of eight countries to have an entire nuclear fuel cycle.

Nanotechnology and laser technology are two other fields in which Iran has made valuable achievements; globally, it is highly ranked in terms of scientific production in nanotechnology.

Iran is one of a handful of countries that owns and uses satellites, satellite launchers and carriers that are manufactured domestically. It has also carried out several successful satellite launches.

### Health care

Many patients from regional countries find advanced medical care in Iran, which

is their preferred destination for treatment and surgery. Production of new drugs, such as those for AIDS, diabetic foot ulcers, anemia and thalassemia, are examples of achievements in the pharmaceutical field.

Lastly, I take this opportunity to cordially wish for the Japanese government and nation to have a successful 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Hassan Rouhani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at a joint press conference in Tehran in June 2019. EMBASSY OF IRAN IN JAPAN

## Congratulations on the Cordial Relationship between Iran and Japan.

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## Congratulations on the Occasion of the Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Iran

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