

# Egypt National Day Special

## Friendly, bilateral relationship continues to develop

**AYMAN ALY KAMEL**  
AMBASSADOR OF EGYPT



On the occasion of the 68th Anniversary of the July 23, 1952, revolution, I would like to seize this opportunity to express, on behalf of President of the Arab Republic of Egypt Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi, the Egyptian government and the Egyptian people, our profound admiration and deep respect to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, all members of the imperial family, the government and the people of Japan for the continued friendly relations that exist between Egypt and Japan.

I am proud to say that I represent a country that holds a unique position in the history of humanity, past and present. Its

status, role and influence, derive essentially from the particular geostrategic location, diverse Afro-Arab culture and distinct Mediterranean civilization. Egypt remains a cornerstone for peace, security and stability in the Middle East, thanks to its balanced foreign policy.

The July revolution was an iconic day in Egypt's modern history that enabled the country to retain its independence and free will, establish its republican system and launch its national development plans, and lead the way for supporting the independence of many Arab and African countries.

Following two national uprisings in the span of two years, (on Jan. 25, 2011, and June 30, 2013), we are pleased to see that Egypt's political road map has been successfully accomplished and the process of institutional reform has been constitutionally achieved in record time, enabling the country to regain its key position worldwide.

In light of Egypt's Vision 2030, the

country has managed since 2016 to embark on a national comprehensive reform program, backed by International Monetary Fund support, to address different structural and financial challenges, aimed at putting the Egyptian economy on the right track in accordance with global economic trends.

The success of the economic reform program has been reflected in Egypt's macro-economic indices over the past six years. During the first half of fiscal 2019-20, before the coronavirus outbreak, the country achieved a growth rate of 5.4 percent, and the unemployment rate had decreased to 7.7 percent from 11.5 percent in January 2018. The inflation rate was reduced to 5 percent, foreign reserves exceeded \$45 billion through February, and the balance of payment ran an overall surplus of \$410.9 million, compared to a total deficit of \$1.8 billion in the same period a year earlier.

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 visited Egypt and took their famous photo next to the Sphinx.

Relations between the two countries continued to develop steadily over the years, until it witnessed an unprecedented leap since January 2015, when Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe visited Egypt. This considerable development was followed by an important official working visit by our president to Japan in March 2016, and another two consecutive visits in 2019, in his capacity as the chair of the African Union, to attend the Osaka Group of 20 summit in June, and The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Yokohama in August.

Since the 1970s, Japan has been a con-

stant partner in promoting several key cultural, economic and educational projects in Egypt 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), the first Japanese university of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa region.

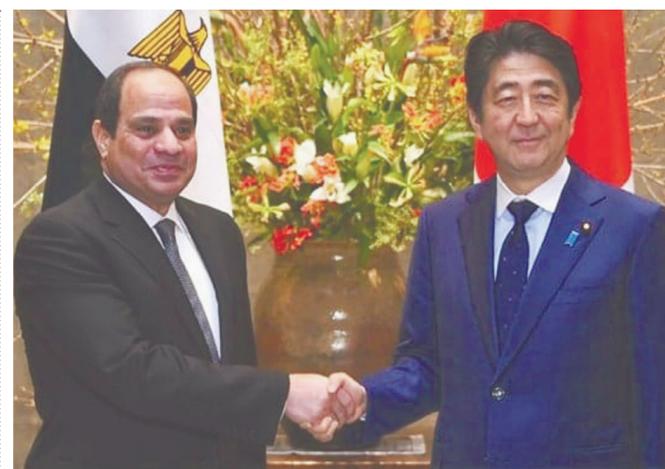
The Japanese government, represented by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, continues its reputable record of supporting megaprojects in Egypt, particularly the Grand Egyptian Museum, planned to be the largest archaeological museum in the world showing thousands of artifacts from a single civilization. The museum was scheduled to open in October, but due to the pandemic, it has been rescheduled to open in 2021. In this context, both sides established the Grand Egyptian Museum Joint Conservation Center in 2010, as a restoration and a research hub applying the highest international standards.

Furthermore, the cooperation project, Egypt-Japan Education Partnership, through which the introduction of the Japanese extracurricular school activities system — known as *tokubetsu katsudō* or *tokkatsu* for short — in 200 schools across Egypt is advancing steadily. Over 2,500 scholarships are being granted to Egyptian students and researchers predominantly from the health and education sectors from 2019 to 2022.

Finally, I would like to convey my best wishes to all my compatriots in Japan on the occasion of the national day of Egypt and express my gratitude to the friendly people of Japan.

Long live the friendship between Egypt and Japan.

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



President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi shakes hands with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Osaka on June 27, 2019, during his visit to Japan to attend the Osaka Group of 20 summit. PRESIDENCY OF EGYPT



Expected to be the largest archaeological museum in the world displaying thousands of artifacts from a single civilization, the Grand Egyptian Museum has been rescheduled to open in 2021 in Giza. COURTESY OF GEM / EHAIF



The Pyramids of Giza and the Great Sphinx of Giza GETTY IMAGES

## Exciting prospects for business exchange

**JUN KARUBE**  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-EGYPT BUSINESS COUNCIL



Congratulations to our Egyptian friends as they approach their National Day on July 23. This is a welcome occasion for recognizing anew the impressive vitality that drives continuing

progress for Egypt. This day is an occasion, too, for reaffirming the Japanese role in nurturing that vitality.

Nurturing mutual vitality through business exchange has been the mission of the Japan-Egypt Business Council since the council's founding in 1978. We and our forebears have tackled that mission through evolving circumstances over the past 42 years, and the past two years have been a period of especially productive exchange.

The Japan-Egypt Business Council dispatched a trade and investment mission to Cairo in March 2019 in cooperation with the Japan External Trade Organization.

There, we convened a joint conference with our Egyptian counterpart, the Egypt-Japan Business Council, and held an Egyptian-Japanese investment forum.

Our visit to Egypt was in advance of The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7), which convened in Yokohama in August. We took the opportunity at our joint conference to examine Egypt's crucial positioning in African development and to identify priority sectors for cultivating trade and investment. President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi and Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouli honored us with their attendance at the conference. They and other senior Egyptian officials envisaged a strong and highly encouraging commitment to promoting Egyptian-Japanese business.

The discussions in Cairo engendered gratifying momentum that carried over to productive dialogue in Osaka in June 2019 and in Yokohama in August. Our council sponsored a business roundtable in Osaka in conjunction with the Group of 20 summit there. The president again graced us with his presence and inspired us with encouraging remarks. He pledged to do everything in his power to eliminate business impediments encountered by Japanese companies in Egypt. He also

expressed admiration for Japanese education, and his government is spearheading an initiative for adopting elements of Japanese pedagogy.

In Yokohama, the Japan-Egypt Business Council sponsored an investment and trade seminar in conjunction with TICAD 7. Influential government officials and business leaders from Egypt described measures under way for improving the business environment in their nation. They fielded questions and suggestions from representatives of Japanese corporations, and the seminar was a huge success in highlighting important possibilities for expanding Egyptian-Japanese business.

We at the Japan-Egypt Business Council will continue working to fulfill our namesake mission. Fostering business ties is ultimately a matter of fostering human relationships, and I take heart at the progress we have witnessed in broadening cultural and personal exchange, as well as business interchange, between our nations. In that spirit, I express our profound sympathy to all Egyptians who have been affected by the coronavirus. Let us pray for an early end to this global ordeal. And let us build an increasingly robust relationship for our nations in a post-pandemic world.

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

**DNC.**  
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**Mitsubishi Corporation**

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The Egyptian team's welcome reception by Tenri city and Nara prefecture

**TENRI CITY**  
beyond  
2020  
HOST TOWN

In June 2018, Tenri was registered as a host town of Egypt's Judo team for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.

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