

Saudi Arabia National Day Special

Taking pride in our rich, storied culture

NAYEF MRZOUQ ALFAHADI
AMBASSADOR OF SAUDI ARABIA



The celebration of National Day in my country is not only a celebration of history, but also it is a living document of the well-established values that the country has been established

upon in the conscience of a young great nation, and it is the ultimate evidence of what the hands and resources of a devoted human being can make from the general and sustainable.

Under a precious banner and the wise leadership of His Majesty the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, may God protect him, and His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, the citizens and friends of my country carry tremen-

dous pride in the great march made by a responsible modern country, achieving its duties toward human beings, its growth and prosperity, spreading a tolerant, moderate concept that favors the future in the face of advocates of chaos and destruction.

It is 90 years of hope, 90 years of tireless work, and its source is the heart of the kingdom and its ancient history, the title of which is the growth of people around the world.

My country has harnessed efforts, sharpened capabilities, and exerted everything that could make tomorrow a place full of growth and prosperity, and stood side by side with loyal friends around the world, who united efforts during pandemics and crises, since the dawn of its founding by the late King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al Saud, may God have mercy upon him, who started the foundation in the dawn of the previous century in 1902, until the kingdom's leadership of the Group of 20 this year.

It is a march that conquers the general achievement, confronting responsibilities

and laying down bases for new growth every day.

Today, despite the ongoing threat of the coronavirus pandemic, I still see the renewed creativity and enthusiasm in the eyes and hearts of Saudis around the world.

As the people of Saudi Arabia and Japan share the same pride in our storied cultures and illustrious histories, our fruitful common future seems closer and brighter every day.

Since 1955, relations between our two nations have witnessed ongoing growth and development in a variety of areas, including politics, culture, education health and sport.

It is also well known that our nations are linked through strong economic ties, with Japan as one of the most-valued economic partners of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The strength of these economic ties can be seen in ever-increasing levels and volume of trade between our two countries.

We celebrate history and people together, where the Kingdom of Saudi

Arabia's 2030 Vision sets a clear path for tomorrow that invests in the minds and hope of man, and supports students in all walks of science, including its citizens and friends, without discrimination or delay.

We celebrate hope in a country where the date of Sept. 23 every year becomes a witness to the achievement and the dream all together.

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



Al Wahba crater is one of Saudi Arabia's most spectacular natural wonders. EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

Steady growth seen in business, intergovernmental relationships

OSAMU ISHITOBI
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-SAUDI ARABIA SOCIETY



On this auspicious occasion of the 90th anniversary of the National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I would like to extend on behalf of the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society our wholehearted

congratulations 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 Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Japan Nayef Mrzouq Alfahadi and the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

According to the Japanese custom of celebrating longevity inherited from China during the Heian Period (794 to 1185), the 90th year is called *sotsuju*, which means the "celebration of graduation." On the 90th anniversary of its National Day, Saudi Arabia is pressing forward to graduate from a national structure that is dependent on oil. I understand that the Saudi economy and society have transformed at an accelerated pace since unveiling the Saudi Vision 2030 in 2016. At the same time, Japan-Saudi relations have not been confined to oil. Over a long history of more than 60 years, our relations have grown into a multilayered partnership that encompasses industry, technology, the environment, education, science and culture.

The Saudi-Japan Vision 2030 was reached between the two countries on the occasion of the king's visit to Japan in March 2017, and appears to be making steady progress based on the Saudi-

Japan Vision 2030 2.0 Updated that was released in October. As you can imagine, the projects in the vision have come to a temporary standstill due to the effects of the coronavirus that continues to rage globally. The situation is so dire that Saudi Arabia was compelled to make a tough decision for this year's hajj, allowing only people in the country to make the pilgrimage. Before the pandemic, however, a business mission was dispatched to Saudi Arabia in November. It focused on energy efficiency advanced by the Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East and eight private companies and five government agencies took part in the mission.

Their visits and presentations to various organizations were well received, and I understand that an online mission is being considered for the future. If our days of the coronavirus are likened to winter, spring will eventually come and I expect that preparations are being made behind the scenes for its arrival. Since its establishment in 1960, the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society has undertaken various cultural exchange programs with Saudi Arabia, including Arabic language courses. It has also worked to deepen Japanese people's understanding about Islam and Arab culture and strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries. We will continue implementing such cultural exchange programs and exerting efforts to further promote Japan-Saudi friendship, in close cooperation with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Japan, the embassy's Cultural Affairs Department and the Arabic Islamic Institute in Tokyo associated with the embassy.

Last but not least, I pray for the peace and prosperity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and heartily wish the king and crown prince good health and happiness.



The Jeddah Waterfront is a popular Saudi Arabia recreational spot located along the Red Sea. EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA



The Riyadh skyline is marked by distinctive architecture such as Kingdom Tower. EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA



Top and above: The Madain Saleh archaeological ruins date back thousands of years and as Saudi Arabia's first UNESCO World Heritage site are an important cultural asset. EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE PEOPLE OF
THE KINGDOM OF
SAUDI ARABIA
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 90th ANNIVERSARY OF
THEIR NATIONAL DAY

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Congratulations
to the People of
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
on the Occasion of
the 90th 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 90th Anniversary of
Their National Day

JAPAN-SAUDI ARABIA SOCIETY
Chairman: Osamu Ishitobi

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to the People of
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
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Their National Day

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on the Occasion of
the 90th Anniversary of
Their National Day

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

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