

Tunisia National Day Special

Trust, solidarity underpin Tokyo-Tunis ties

MOHAMED ELLOUMI
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF
TUNISIA



On the auspicious occasion of the 66th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Tunisia, it gives me great pleasure to address the distinguished readers of The Japan Times. I would like

also to convey my best wishes to all my compatriots in Japan.

Japan is a reliable friend and a strategic partner for Tunisia with which we have a historical relationship dating back to the early days of Tunisia's independence. This year, we are also proud to celebrate the 66th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and friendly ties with Japan in June 1956.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been hard on all of us; however it demonstrates again the values of solidarity and humanity that our two peoples share in countering this global enemy. In this regard, I would like to thank the Japanese government and the friendly people of Japan for their support to Tunisia in fighting the coronavirus crisis,

as they have been doing in supporting our economic and social development efforts through several projects in various fields. May our Japanese partners and friends from various spheres find in these words a message of sincere gratitude and deep appreciation.

Tunisia has irreversibly chosen a path of freedom and democracy. Sharing the same values, Tunisia and Japan, together with the international community, will continue to work together, to pave the way toward a post-COVID-19 world order, based on human solidarity, multilateral cooperation, respect for the rule of law and mutual trust.

To that end, the eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, which will be hosted by Tunisia on Aug. 27 and 28, will be a real chance to tackle these challenging global issues, since it will be the first TICAD to take place since the international community experienced the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tunisia is keen to make this event a successful physical gathering. A presidential decree on the organization of TICAD 8 has been issued to establish a National Organizing



Left: The El Jem Amphitheater, built around 238, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. Right: The Avenue Habib Bourguiba Clocktower stands in Tunis, which will host the eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development. EMBASSY OF TUNISIA



ing Committee for this event.

As part of this preparatory process, our embassy has set an ambitious program with all the stakeholders. I am confident that this conference will offer an unprecedented occasion to strengthen our bilateral cooperation and create more business opportunities. It should also confirm the major role that Tunisia, thanks to its assets, including a strategic location and highly qualified human resources, can play in triangular

cooperation as a privileged gateway connecting Japan to Africa.

In conclusion, I reiterate my strong wish to see a large and powerful Japanese delegation in Tunis for TICAD 8, led by Prime Minister H.E. Fumio Kishida.

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

Relations to gain strength from African development confab

NOBUO KISHI
CHAIRPERSON, JAPAN-TUNISIA
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP
COMMITTEE



On the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Tunisia, it gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest congratula-

tions and best wishes to the people and the government of the Republic of Tunisia.

Japan has a close friendship and cooperative relations with Tunisia that have developed over many years in various fields, and we seek to continue strengthening these relations on the basis of the mutual respect and common interest

that binds our friendly peoples.

The Japan-Tunisia Parliamentary Friendship Committee, which I have the honor to chair, represents one of the best examples of our strong bilateral relationship and a number of cooperative frameworks uniting us across all domains.

In this regard, Japanese-Tunisian relations will gain important momentum this year, as our two countries are eagerly preparing for the eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8), to be held on Aug. 27 and 28.

I am convinced that TICAD 8 will constitute a concrete opportunity for Japan and Tunisia as well as other African countries to further deepen their cooperative ties in different sectors.

I would like to express, once again, my congratulations on this occasion with a fervent hope for a long-standing Japanese-Tunisian friendship.

Congratulations

to the People of

the Republic of Tunisia

on the Anniversary of

Their Independence

 Mitsubishi Corporation

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SARAYA Beauté et Santé
Henchir Sradka, Dar Chabaane Fehri,
P.O. Box 46, 8011, Nabeul, Tunisie

Tel: +216 36 133 170
<https://saraya.world/>

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NS Semicon Co.,Ltd.
<http://www.nssemicon.com/>
info@nssemicon.com