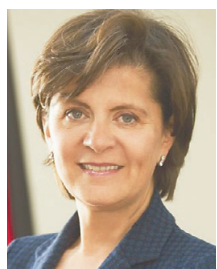


Jordan National Day Special

Leading regional peace, stability

LINA ANNAB
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND
PLENIPOTENTIARY OF JORDAN TO JAPAN



May 25 marks the 76th Independence Day of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. On this day, Jordanians not only reflect on the past and the lessons learned from the sacrifices made for inde-

pendence, but also look to the future with unwavering resolve to continue to be a force of good embodying the values of peace, freedom and justice. Today, these values fuel our calls for building bridges, instead of walls, and for promoting mutual understanding instead of conflicts.

For 68 years and since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1954, Jordan and Japan have enjoyed friendly bilateral relations and warm friendship. Under the leadership of H.M. King Abdullah II, our partnership has steadily evolved and continues to develop driven by mutual respect and shared vision for a more humane and peaceful world where a rules-based international order reigns supreme. The exceptional friendship between the royal and imperial families of Jordan and Japan further solidifies our long-standing relations.

As a cornerstone of safety and stability in a region rife with volatility and conflicts, Jordan plays a pivotal role in fostering peace as well as in fighting extremism and terrorism. Jordan is also a beacon of moderation and compassion that aids those in need, which is evidenced by hosting and providing a safe haven and dignified life to almost 13% of the world's total refugees, giving it the second-highest ratio of refugees per capita in the world.

Jordan values the ongoing support by the Japanese government and people for Jordan's humanitarian efforts as well as for its relentless work to advance the Middle East peace process based on the two-state solution, and to promote stability in the region. Central to achieving peace is the resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as well as the end of the military occupation of the Palestinian territories. Moreover, the status of Jerusalem is crucial to achieving lasting peace and stability. As custodian of Jerusa-



Left: King Abdullah II and Queen Rania pose with the members of the royal family. Right: The city of Al-Salt is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

JORDAN ROYAL
HASHEMITE COURT;
JORDAN TOURISM
BOARD

lem's Muslim and Christian holy sites, His Majesty the King is committed to upholding the historical and legal status quo at these holy places, which is essential for maintaining harmony, and freedom of worship.

We in Jordan are keen on growing our economic ties and on inviting Japanese investments, which currently stand at the forefront

of various vital Jordanian sectors. Jordan's stable political and financial systems and its strategic location at the convergence of three continents serving the Middle East and North Africa, as well as the Arab Gulf countries and beyond, make it an ideal gateway for Japanese investors. We also endeavor and look forward to enhancing our people-to-



people ties through academic and cultural exchanges as well as through tourism.

In our ongoing efforts to bolster our bilateral relations we are immensely grateful to the Japan-Jordan Parliamentary Friendship League chaired by the Honorable Kazunori Tanaka, and to the Japan-Jordan Association chaired by Mikio Sasaki, whose generosity and support enrich the ties between our countries.

It is indeed befitting to celebrate our Independence Day by recalling the solid ties and friendship that Jordan enjoys with Japan and its great people.

Cultural bonds continue to grow

MIKIO SASAKI
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-JORDAN
ASSOCIATION



On behalf of the Japan-Jordan Association, I am pleased to extend my warmest congratulations to the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the 76th anniversary of their

Independence Day.

The strong leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II and the tireless commitment of the Jordanian authorities and people in these turbulent times with COVID-19 is truly inspiring.

On another inspiring note, we witnessed great achievements by the 24 Jordanian athletes who competed in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic

Games held last summer. I am confident that their determination and passionate performances helped to lift people's spirits not only in our countries, but also around the globe.

Jordan celebrated the centenary of its founding last year. Under the leadership of the Hashemite royal family, Jordan has and continues to play an important role in the stability and security of the Middle East and is one of Japan's most important partners. Our bilateral relationship extends to our respective royal households and is the backbone of a proud and long history shared by our nations. I am confident that we can continue to count on this relationship to help make our economic and cultural ties even stronger in the future.

In closing, I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to the ambassador of Jordan to Japan, and to wish progress and prosperity for both Jordan and our many shared friendships.

Congratulations

to the People of
the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
on the Occasion
of Their National Day

JAPAN-JORDAN ASSOCIATION

Chairman: Mikio Sasaki

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

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JT

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Mitsubishi Corporation