

UAE National Day Special

Looking forward to a bright future

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Last year the United Arab Emirates celebrated our 50th year as a nation and on Dec. 2 we celebrate our journey into the next 50 years. This year is also important for the UAE and Japan

since it marks the 50th anniversary of our diplomatic relations.

It was a difficult year for us, with the passing of President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan, but it also marks a continuation of the UAE journey now under the leadership of His Highness President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan. The UAE and Japan are looking forward to the next 50 years of this journey, where we can explore and diversify our bilateral relations in innovation-driven sectors, including renewable energy and advanced technology. The partnership with Japan is reflected

through positive economic indexes, as well as the value of Japanese direct investment in the UAE, which totaled almost \$5 billion from 2016 to 2020, with growth of 33% from 2015 through 2019. Japanese investments and advanced technologies play a key role in supporting the UAE's diversifying economy. Japanese exports to the UAE were \$5.6 billion in 2020, while Emirati exports to Japan are estimated at \$16.7 billion.

Japan is ranked 10th globally among countries investing in the UAE, and ninth globally in terms of nonoil trade, averaging \$14 billion between 2017 and 2020.

Major scientific achievements in the space sector represent a milestone in UAE-Japan relations. Inspired by the joint Emirates Mars Mission that launched the Hope probe, the Hakuto-R lunar program will see the UAE's Rashid moon rover built by Japanese company iSpace transported to the lunar surface this year. Most recently, the UAE and Japan have launched a strategic partnership agreement to strengthen bilateral cooperation across high-priority sectors, such as trade and investment, science and technology, infrastructure, arti-

ficial intelligence, agriculture, alternative energy, and climate change solutions. The Japanese government also exempted UAE nationals from entry visas, which supports people-to-people exchanges and enhances our cultural dialogue.

This year marked the successful World Expo in Dubai, which drew more than 24 million visitors to experience different cultures and pavilions even during the pandemic. Japan's pavilion was one of the most visited and famous pavilions at the delayed Expo Dubai 2020, and we are planning to come back to Osaka for the 2025 World Expo to welcome Japanese visitors to our pavilion.

The UAE also announced the Net Zero by 2050 initiative, and plans to host the 28th Conference of the Parties global warming meeting in 2023 at the same location as Expo 2020, which has been renamed Dubai Expo City. We want to work closer with all countries around the world.

Net Zero by 2050 is our national drive to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, making the UAE the first Middle East and North African nation to launch this strategic initiative. The UAE is also the first country in the



Middle East to join the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy to build effective cooperation on sustainable development.

Our country has achieved the lowest-cost solar power with the largest solar facilities in the world. Moreover, the UAE supports green infrastructure and clean energy projects worldwide and has investments of more than \$50 billion in renewable energy projects across 40 countries, with plans to invest an additional \$50 billion by 2030.

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

Built in the 19th century, Maria Al Sharqiya Fort sits in the Liwa oasis.

RYAN CARTER, CROWN PRINCE COURT

Congratulations

to the Government and People

of the United Arab Emirates

on the Anniversary of

Their National Day

 Mitsubishi Corporation