

# Tunisia National Day Special

## Japanese investments continue to develop

**AHMED CHAFRA**  
AMBASSADOR OF TUNISIA



As we commemorate the 68th anniversary of Tunisia's National Day, I am thankful to The Japan Times for granting me the opportunity to share our celebrations.

Throughout the years, Tunisia and Japan have nurtured a robust friendship and established cooperative ties across various areas. Our multifaceted partnership continues to flourish, driven by trust and mutual respect.

Japan stands as one of Tunisia's long-standing partners in technical cooperation. Since the 1970s, the Japan International Cooperation Agency has financed numerous projects aimed at enhancing economic and social development in Tunisia. With the Tunisian government enacting new laws to remove obstacles to investment and revitalize its economy, over 22 Japanese companies have already committed to investing in Tunisia. I anticipate this number will continue to rise.

Moreover, bilateral relations have experienced significant momentum in recent years, evidenced by exchanges of visits between senior officials and the scheduling of bilateral meetings. Notably, the 11th

session of the Tunisian-Japanese Joint Committee took place in Tunis on June 16, 2023, and the third round of the security dialogue between our countries was held on Dec. 5 and 6, 2023, in Tunisia.

Additionally, our countries signed an agreement on digital transformation on Oct. 10, 2023. Tunisia has confirmed its participation in the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, underscoring the importance of this event in showcasing Tunisia's civilizational dimensions and diverse aspects.

In conclusion, I extend my warmest wishes to all members of the Tunisian community in Japan, for whom this day holds special significance.



Tunisia's famous pottery is seen in Nabeul, a sister city of Seto, Aichi Prefecture.  
EMBASSY OF TUNISIA

## Aiming to grow bilateral bonds

**HIROAKI TABATA**  
SECRETARY-GENERAL, JAPAN-TUNISIA  
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP  
ASSOCIATION



On the Republic of Tunisia's National Day, I would like to extend my sincere greetings to the government and the friendly people of Tunisia.

Our two countries are bound by deep ties and trust. I am very proud to celebrate the 68th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations, recalling the long-standing bilateral

partnership that we achieved.

I would also like to congratulate His Excellency Ahmed Chafra on his appointment as the new ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to Japan.

The eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, which was held in Tunisia, was a great success and we reaffirmed the partnership between the governments of Tunisia and Japan. We are looking forward to seeing you all at TICAD 9 in Yokohama next year.

The Japan-Tunisia Parliamentary Friendship Association will continue to strengthen our bilateral relations in various fields. As secretary-general of this association, I wish all Tunisian people continued good health and happiness on this special day.

## Hopeful to bolster sister city ties

**MASAYUKI KAWAMOTO**  
MAYOR OF SETO



First, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the people of the Republic of Tunisia in welcoming Tunisia's National Day.

The city of Seto, Aichi Prefecture, and the city of

Nabeul are both known as producers of pottery that represent their nations. On April 21, 2004, we formed a sister city relationship that became the first between Japan and the Republic of Tunisia. After forming this relationship, Tunisian ceramics artists were welcomed to Seto and exhibitions and concerts were held

to introduce the culture of Tunisia and Nabeul to residents.

Since then, the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have made continuing these international exchanges difficult. However, we eventually found ways to hold exchanges even during the pandemic by means of online services. Now our cultural exchanges are beginning to resume.

April will mark the 20th anniversary of our sister city relationship. It is our hope that we will be able to enjoy exchanges in various fields and develop deeper relations between Japan and the Republic of Tunisia.

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

**Congratulations**  
**to the People of**  
**the Republic of Tunisia**  
**on the Anniversary of**  
**Their Independence**

**SARAYA**

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石巻市  
City of Ishinomaki

**Congratulations**  
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Japan-Tunisia Friendship Association