

Tunisia National Day Special

A partnership based on trust, mutual respect

AHMED CHAFRA
AMBASSADOR OF TUNISIA



As we commemorate Tunisia's 69th National Day, I extend my sincere gratitude to The Japan Times for this opportunity to share this occasion with its esteemed readers.

I am honored to celebrate the enduring friendship and robust partnership between Tunisia and Japan. Our deep-rooted ties, built on mutual respect and trust, have evolved into a dynamic relationship. Diplomatic relations officially began in June 1956, just months after Tunisia's independence. Since then, Japan has consistently supported our growth. Our partnership now covers infrastructure, industry, scientific research and economic cooperation. Approaching the 70th anniversary in 2026, we take pride in our progress and anticipate further collaboration. This year is also the 50th anniversary of the Japan International Cooperation Agency's bureau in Tunisia. Since 1975, JICA has played a key role in advancing development projects, profoundly impacting Tunisia's socioeconomic landscape.

Tunisia and Japan enjoy unprecedented momentum, with growing high-level exchanges and coordination on global challenges. Both remain committed to promoting peace, stability and sustainability. We are working with the Foreign Ministry on key events, including the 12th Tunisian-Japanese Joint Commission and the fourth Tunisia-Japan Security Dialogue. We also look forward to attending major events in Japan, such as the ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Yokohama and the World Expo in Osaka. We have over 22 Japanese companies in Tunisia and encourage further investment. Talks began in December on an investment agreement that offers incentives, and several greenhouse gas reduction programs back our shared commitment to sustainability. As we celebrate our National Day, we reaffirm our commitment to friendship and cooperation with Japan. I extend my warmest wishes to the Tunisian community and to the lasting bond of friendship between Tunisia and Japan!

Marking a half century of progress

AKIHIKO TANAKA
PRESIDENT, JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY



I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of the Republic of Tunisia on their National Day. This occasion provides a fitting opportunity to celebrate the enduring partnership between Tunisia and the Japan International Cooperation Agency as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the JICA Tunisia office.

For half a century, we have collaborated on advancing Tunisia's socioeconomic development in key sectors such as transportation, energy and water. The Rades-La Goulette Bridge, spanning the Lake of Tunis, stands as a symbol of our cooperation. Two power plants we supported now contribute 10% of Tunisia's total energy production. Our joint efforts in enhancing water management systems and industrial development have significantly improved the quality of life for Tunisians and strengthened the friendship between Tunisia and Japan. The upcoming ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in August presents an excellent opportunity to further our partnership in the region. I am eager to see Tunisia's leadership, which graciously hosted TICAD 8 in 2022, open new avenues for cooperation among Tunisia, JICA and neighboring countries. JICA's vision of "Leading the World with Trust" is more relevant than ever as the world faces compounded crises. On this National Day, we celebrate Tunisia's achievement and our steadfast trust and friendship, looking forward to a brighter future together.



An artist's image of the front of the Tunisia Pavilion at the Osaka Expo
EMBASSY 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

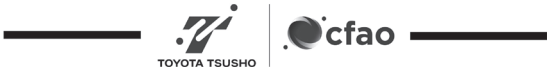
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