

Jordan National Day Special

Celebrating 70 years of friendship and *kizuna*

LINA ANNAB
AMBASSADOR OF JORDAN



On May 25, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan marks its 78th Independence Day. This year we also mark the silver jubilee of the accession to the throne of H.M. King Abdullah II, and the platinum

jubilee of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Jordan and Japan.

Over the past seven decades, our *kizuna* (enduring bonds) have thrived and expanded to advance social, economic, defense and political cooperation.

The historical and warm friendship between the royal and imperial families was

evident with the honor of welcoming Their Imperial Highnesses Princess Takamado and Princess Tsuguko of Takamado in 2023 at the wedding of Jordan's Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II.

Under the king's leadership, our bilateral relations were upgraded in 2018 to a strategic partnership, ushering in a new era of even stronger ties. The official visits to Japan by the king in 2023 and by Prime Minister Bisher Al Khasawneh in February underscore the importance of our partnership.

In 2023, an agreement with Japan's Digital Agency, as well as the Jordan-Japan Business Forum for foreign investors, boded well for widening our economic horizons. Additionally, cultural exchanges, such as the friendship agreement between the Hitachi-no-Kuni Trail in Ibaraki Prefecture and the Jordan Trail, and the high school exchange

program with Tokyo, paved the way for deepening people-to-people connections. We look forward to boosting our cultural bonds at the 2025 World Expo in Osaka.

On the global stage, Jordan and Japan share an unwavering commitment to peace and stability. Central to this is finding a permanent and just resolution to the war in Gaza through ending the occupation of Palestinian territories and establishing a sustainable political pathway toward achieving peace. An independent, sovereign Palestinian state formed on the basis of the two-state solution — in line with international law and relevant U.N. resolutions — is the only way to achieve true peace.

Situated in a region rife with conflict and instability, Jordan's role as a beacon of peace and tolerance is indispensable. Hosting nearly 10% of the world's refugees, Jordan embodies compassion and solidarity, pro-

viding a haven for those fleeing persecution, violence and the ravages of war.

We also welcome Japan's resumption of funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

As we mark Jordan's Independence Day, I would like to extend our deep gratitude to the government and people of Japan for their friendship and steadfast support in fostering closer bilateral ties.



King Abdullah II delivers the keynote address at the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva on Dec. 13, 2023.
ROYAL HASHEMITE COURT

Economic, cultural ties continue to expand

MIKIO SASAKI
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-JORDAN ASSOCIATION



On behalf of the Japan-Jordan Association, I am honored to extend my warmest congratulations to the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the 78th anniversary of their National Day.

I would like to extend my deepest respect to His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein for his strong leadership in advancing stability and security in the Middle East.

Jordan and Japan have expanded cooperation across various fields, building upon the long-standing intimate friendship between our royal and imperial households. In recent years, we have witnessed a greater deepening of ties between our nations, marked by significant events such as the attendance of members of Japan's imperial family at the wedding celebration of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hussein, as well as active high-level exchanges, including those between prime ministers.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Jordan and Japan, giving us the opportunity to celebrate and cherish the enduring friendship and strong bonds between our nations. I am confident that this milestone will further solidify the profound friend-

ship between us and ensure the continued development of our economic and cultural relations in the future. I earnestly hope that the cooperation between Jordan and Japan, based on our strategic and friendly bilateral relations, will continue to flourish and contribute even more to the peace and stability of the international community.

In closing, I would also like to express my sincerest appreciation to the ambassador of Jordan for her enduring support and wish for both our countries the continued development of our deep friendship.

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 Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
on the Occasion
of Their National Day

JAPAN-JORDAN ASSOCIATION

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 **Mitsubishi Corporation**