

Dynamic and resilient partnership deepens

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As the United Arab Emirates celebrates its 54th Eid al Etihad anniversary, marking the founding of the nation in 1971, this milestone reflects the enduring and multifaceted partnership

between the UAE and Japan.

Over the decades, relations between our nations have deepened, grounded in mutual respect, shared values and a forward-looking vision under the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Japan, as one of the UAE's earliest and most trusted partners, has collaborated with us across economic, technological and cultural spheres — fostering a relationship that continues to grow in depth, diversity and global relevance.

Trade and investment remain a cornerstone of the UAE-Japan relationship. In 2023, total trade between our nations reached about \$47.4 billion, with nonoil trade accounting for nearly \$15.6 billion. In 2024, total trade — including petroleum-related products — expanded to around \$49.6 billion, while nonoil trade increased to approximately \$17.5 billion.

Today, the UAE stands as Japan's leading trading partner in the Middle East, representing a significant share of Japan's exports to the region and ranking among its top partners worldwide.

Currently, more than 4,000 Japanese citizens reside in the UAE, contributing actively to various sectors, while around 340 Japanese companies operate successfully across the Emirates. These include major corporations and innovative start-

ups engaged in energy, infrastructure, health care and advanced technology.

Japan's cooperation with the UAE includes a signed agreement to establish a heavy-ion radiotherapy facility in Abu Dhabi — the first of its kind in the Middle East — to treat cancer. Meanwhile, the UAE's hydrogen refueling infrastructure is built to international standards and is compatible with Japanese-made fuel cell vehicles, reflecting the two countries' shared ambitions in advanced health care and clean-energy mobility.

Reciprocal business collaboration continues to thrive. Emirati companies are increasingly active in Japan, particularly in technology and sustainable development. The UAE's participation in major Japanese innovation platforms, such as SusHi Tech, highlights our growing role in digital transformation, while Japanese businesses play a central role in UAE-hosted mega events, such as the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference and Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week. These events provide opportunities to exchange expertise, strengthen industrial partnerships and promote sustainable growth in line with shared goals for the future.

In addition, high-level visits and official exchanges in 2025 have further enhanced bilateral relations. Delegations from both sides have signed numerous agreements and memorandums of understanding, covering sectors such as smart cities, digital transformation, artificial intelligence-driven health care, and space exploration. A key example is the memorandum of understanding between Tokyo and Abu Dhabi on smart cities and sustainability, marking a qualitative step in advancing joint innovation and improving quality of life for future generations.

Beyond economics, the UAE and Japan share deep human and cultural ties that continue to flourish. As of July 1, UAE

citizens can travel to Japan visa-free for short-term stays of up to 90 days — an extension from the previous 30 days. This is a clear testament to the growing trust and friendship between our nations and a development that has encouraged tourism, education and business exchanges, fostering closer people-to-people connections.

Cultural and academic collaboration also plays a vital role. A landmark achievement in 2025 was the opening of the Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak Centre for Arabic Language at Keio University in Tokyo. The center was established through the generous initiative of Her Highness Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak, the mother of the nation, chairwoman of the General Women's Union, president of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood and supreme chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation.

At Expo 2025, the UAE Pavilion stood as one of the most visited and admired national pavilions, attracting nearly 5 million visitors over the six-month exposition. The pavilion, under the theme "Earth to Ether," embodied the UAE's vision of connecting its rich heritage with its aspirations for the future. The architectural design — inspired by the date palm — a symbol of life and resilience in Emirati culture — captured attention for its harmony between tradition and modernity.

Looking ahead, the UAE and Japan are moving toward a comprehensive economic partnership agreement — a milestone expected to deepen economic ties, trade and investment and establish a stable, rules-based framework for shared prosperity. This reflects a shared vision for a future defined by technological advancement, sustainability and mutual growth.

On this special occasion, the UAE expresses its sincere appreciation to its Japanese partners for their steadfast friendship and cooperation. As we celebrate our

54th Eid al Etihad anniversary, we reaffirm our commitment to further strengthening this dynamic relationship anchored in innovation, cultural understanding and the enduring spirit of partnership that continues to unite the UAE and Japan.

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



The striking architecture of Address Beach Resort adds a futuristic touch to the skyline over Jumeirah Beach. GETTY IMAGES

Congratulations
to the Government and People of
the United Arab Emirates
on the Anniversary of their National Day



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