Kuwait National Day Special

Strategic bonds continue to grow across various areas

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AMBASSADOR OF KUWAIT

On the 65th anniversary of the National Day and the 35th anniversary of the Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait, we reflect with pride on Kuwait's remarkable journey of transformation and comprehensive development since its independence in 1961.

Over the decades, Kuwait has played a leading role in promoting peace and dialogue at both the regional and international levels, while leaving a clear and enduring footprint through its humanitarian, charitable and development initiatives across the globe. This principled approach reflects Kuwait's steadfast commitment to international law and its firm dedication to the values of dialogue, cooperation and peace.

As we commemorate the 35th anniversary of Kuwait's liberation, we extend our sincere gratitude and deep appreciation to our allies and friends, including Japan, which played an exceptional role within the framework of international efforts that contributed to the liberation of Kuwait.

This year also marks the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Japan, in December 1961. Over the past year, several significant developments have further reinforced and deepened these long-standing bilateral ties. Most notably, the visit of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah in May last year represented a pivotal milestone.

The visit culminated in the elevation of bilateral relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership and the signing of multiple agreements and memorandums of understanding in key sectors, including electricity and water, renewable energy, diplomatic training, direct investment and development cooperation. These achievements reflect the shared determination of both countries to broaden the horizons of friendly cooperation.

The crown prince's visit also included participation in the Osaka Expo, where Kuwait's pavilion distinguished itself by showcasing the nation's achievements in the fields of the economy, energy, the environment and education. The pavilion presented Kuwait's cultural heritage and national identity in an innovative and interactive manner, attracting wide interest from Japanese and international visitors alike.

The past year also witnessed a series of high-level visits and milestones, among them was the visit of His Highness former Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, during which His Majesty Emperor Naruhito conferred upon him the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun. In addition, Japan's minister for foreign affairs visited Kuwait to participate in the Gulf Cooperation Council-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting during Kuwait's chairmanship of the previous GCC session. In October, the governor of Tokyo also visited the State of Kuwait as part of efforts to enhance cooperation between the capitals of both countries.

These engagements, alongside numerous reciprocal visits and consultations, including the fifth round of bilateral political consultations held in Tokyo in August, underscore the growing momentum, strategic trust and expanding depth of our bilateral partnership.

In the economic field, Kuwait and Japan enjoy dynamic and long-standing cooperation, particularly in the energy sector, which continues to serve as a cornerstone of our partnership. In 2024, overall bilateral trade between our countries reached approximately $9 billion (¥1.4 trillion).

Looking ahead, both sides aspire to further expand and diversify economic and trade ties, particularly by encouraging greater participation of Japanese companies in major development projects in Kuwait, within the framework of Kuwait Vision 2035, which seeks to transform Kuwait into a regional financial and commercial hub.

We look forward to convening the sixth round of the Kuwait-Japan Water and Electricity Policy Dialogue, an important platform for meaningful exchange and a catalyst for expanding opportunities for enhanced cooperation. The dialogue will focus on advancing practical collaboration and sharing expertise in water management, electricity infrastructure and renewable energy projects, with the aim of promoting sustainable development and further strengthening the long-term strategic partnership between our countries.

Japan stands at the forefront of advanced technology and innovation, especially in clean energy, robotics, artificial intelligence, smart agriculture and health care. Kuwait is well positioned to leverage this expertise through strengthened partnerships and collaboration, supporting its economic diversification efforts and advancing a more knowledge-based, resilient and sustainable economy.

Kuwaiti-Japanese relations are built on a long-standing history of mutual solidarity during pivotal moments. Japan adopted an honorable and principled stance in support of Kuwait during the 1990 invasion and contributed effectively to international efforts aimed at liberating our country during that decisive period.

Likewise, the State of Kuwait demonstrated the depth of this humanitarian partnership by leading global efforts to provide support and assistance to Japan in the aftermath of the devastating 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami, in a sincere expression of the values of loyalty and human solidarity shared by the two friendly nations.

Cultural, educational and people-to-people exchanges also form a central pillar of the relationship. The State of Kuwait offers annual scholarships to Japanese students to study Arabic, fostering deeper mutual understanding and strengthening ties between our peoples. The positive outcomes of these exchanges are reflected in generations of Japanese students who return home equipped with Arabic skills and a deep appreciation of Kuwaiti culture, serving as bridges of friendship between Kuwait and Japan.

On the diplomatic front, Kuwait and Japan share a firm belief in the values of peace and a strong commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. This is reflected in their joint efforts to promote dialogue and stability and to underscore the vital importance of respecting the sovereignty of states, demonstrating a clear alignment of views regarding adherence to these international principles.

Under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the crown prince, we look forward with confidence and optimism to broadening and deepening our partnership and cooperation between the State of Kuwait and Japan.

Through close collaboration with our Japanese partners, we aim to strengthen our historic friendship, promote peace and dialogue, enhance the resilience of our economies through strategic initiatives, address emerging global and regional challenges and advance sustainable development for the benefit of both nations and their peoples.

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

Views from the iconic Liberation Tower showcase Kuwait City's skyline that stretches along the horizon to the Kuwait Towers. EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

The Kuwait Towers are iconic components of Kuwait City's skyscraper-studded skyline. EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

His Majesty Emperor Naruhito speaks with His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah in May 2025. EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

Sami Ghassab Al-Zamanan (left) and State Minister of Foreign Affairs Ayano Kunimitsu (second from left) and other diplomats meet at the Kuwait Embassy. EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

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and
Congratulations
to the State of Kuwait
on the Occasion of
the Anniversaries of
National Day and
Liberation Day

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to the State of Kuwait
on the Occasion of
their 65th National Day and
the 35th Anniversary of
their Liberation Day

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WE EXTEND OUR
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TO THE AMIR
AND THE PEOPLE OF
THE STATE OF KUWAIT
ON THIS AUSPICIOUS OCCASION
WISHING FOR THE FURTHERANCE
OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN
KUWAIT AND JAPAN

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Congratulations
to the People of
the State of Kuwait
on the Anniversary of
their National Day and
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Heartiest Greetings and Congratulations to
H.H. The Amir, H.H. The Crown Prince
and The People of The State of Kuwait
On the Occasion of the
65th National Day of Kuwait and 35th Anniversary of Liberation

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation
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