## Egypt national day

## Toward a stronger strategic partnership

Dr. Walid M. Abdelnasser AMBASSADOR OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC

July 23 every year marks the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt. It is a day that offers Egyptians the opportunity to reflect on their past ward to an even brighter future, and as always, it allows at the state of Egyptian-Japanese relations and continue our joint action to solidify the partnership between our two countries

I would like, on this occasion, on behalf of H.E. President Mohamed Hosny Mubarak, and the government and people of Egypt, to convey my deepest respect to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and to Prime Minister Taro Aso. I would also like to express my gratitude to the government and people of Japan for the sincere friendship they have consistently accorded Egypt throughout the years.

We have witnessed during the past 12 months a series of developments that have contributed to the enhancement of our relationship with Japan, including the important visit to Egypt by H.I.H. Princess Takamado in late June and early July this year, the first visit by a member of the Imperial family to Egypt since May 2000. Many of these came amid the momentum generated by the meeting that took place between President Mubarak and Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda in June 2008, which propelled both countries to embark on a set of new initiatives aimed at further deepening the solid foundations of their partnership.

The framework for our ongoing cooperation was concretized by the Egypt-Japan

gypt Tourism Promotion Year in Japan 2009
日本におけるエジプト観光振興年 オープニングレセプション EGYPT

Inaugural night: (From left) H.E. Ambassador Dr. Walid Abdelnasser, H.I.H. Princess Takamado and

Tourism Counselor Ibrahim Khalil pose for photographs at the launch of "Egypt Tourism Promotion

Year in Japan 2009" on Jan. 29 at The Imperial Hotel in Tokyo. TOURIST OFFICE, EMBASSY OF EGYPT IN TOKYO



**President Hosny Mubarak** 

Partnership Program that was adopted during President Mubarak's visit to Tokyo in 1999 with a view to further enhancing the cooperation between our two countries. This program has been and remains the driving force behind our efforts to strengthen our

bilateral relationship. Furthermore, our long-standing tradition of engagement with Japan has underpinned Japan's recognition of Egypt's geopolitical importance, and pivotal role in the security and stability of the region, and enshrined Tokyo's willingness to strengthen its partnership with Egypt as its strategic hub in the Arab world and Africa.

sumed the presidency of the Nonaligned Movement starting this month, Egyptian-Japanese cooperation will have even more positive ramifications for world affairs.

We have been working to elevate bilateral consultations. In this regard, we held the first session of the Strategic Dialogue between our two countries, which encompassed a broad array of political, economic and cultural issues of bilateral, regional and international interest, in Cairo this May between Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone and his Egyptian counterpart, Ahmed Abuelgheit.

Egypt and Japan are moving forward with a number of bilateral projects that will leave an enduring imprint on the history of our bilateral cooperation. We are, for example, proceeding with the construction of The Grand Egyptian Museum, which will be completed with generous assistance provided by the Japanese government in the form of a long-term loan of almost

We also signed the agreement establishing the Egypt-Japan University for Science and Technology (E-JUST), the first Japanese University outside Japan, in Cairo on March 26. Building on the momentum generated by E-JUST, we jointly and successfully concluded the "Japan-Egypt Year of Science and Technology in 2008" that laid

the ground for further collaboration between our two countries in this sphere.

Last year witnessed total Egyptian exports to Japan climb to more than \$1.6 billion, whereas the overall volume of trade between both countries surpassed \$3.4 billion. While we are satisfied with this growing trade relationship, we are nonetheless eager to further expand this relationship, particularly Japanese investment in Egypt.

Egypt welcomed about 108,000 Japanese tourists last year, making it a primary destination for Japanese travelers overseas. However, these figures reflected a slight decline compared to 2007, due to the negative repercussions of the global financial crisis.

2009 was declared the 'Egypt Tourism Promotion Year in Japan." In this context, an inauguration ceremony was held in Tokyo under the auspices of H.I.H. Princess Takamado on Jan. 29. The second event took place March 26 in the form of a media gather-



Imperial event: Egyptian Ambassador Dr. Walid Abdelnasser with Prime Minister Taro Aso and his wife at the Akasaka Imperial Gardens, Tokyo, on April 16 during the annual spring garden party hosted by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko

ing attended by numerous Japanese participants together with Osama Saraya, editor

third event was represented by three performances by the Reda folk dance group, the

of a tour by the Egyptian Arab Takht classical Arab music ensemble, with performances

#### in chief of the daily Egyptian oldest in Egypt and the Arab newspaper Al-Ahram. The world, from April 1 through 6.

Egypt: 'an old and important friend of Japan'

Masahiko Komura PRESIDENT, JAPAN-EGYPT PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

As president of the Japan-Egypt

League, I would like to extend congratulations to H.E. President Mohamed Hosny

government and people of Egypt on the occasion of the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Egypt, which had been enjoying high economic growth until last summer, faces such difficulties as declining foreign currency revenues due to the worldwide recession since last autumn. Nevertheless, it has maintained economic growth of more than 4.0 percent and we would like to express our respect to the government of Egypt, which achieves such steady economic growth under the leadership of President

Egypt is a leading country that plays a significant role in working Middle East and Africa, and an old and important friend of Japan. I have visited Egypt many times, including during my

tenure as minister of foreign affairs. I am glad to note that exchanges of high-level missions between us for the past

In October, Dr. Hani Helal, minister of higher education and scientific research, came to Japan, and held a meeting with Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone to accelerate bilateral cooperation in the field of science and technology. He also attended the STS (Science and Technology in Society) forum in Kyoto, as well as the Japan-Africa Ministers Conference on Science and Technology. This May, Foreign Minister Nakasone visited Cairo, and held a series of fruitful meetings with President Mubarak, Foreign Minister Ahmed Abuelgheit and other high-level Egyptian government

Recently, from June 29 through July 4, H.I.H. Princess Takamado visited Egypt and held meetings with first lady Susan Mubarak, Maged George, minister of state for environmental affairs, and other eminent people of the government, as well as ceremony for the Prince Takamado Memorial Visitors Center, which is under construction in Aswan. This was

the first Imperial visit to Egypt since 2000, when Their Imperial Takamado were there. I am convinced that these visits will contribute to further deepening our bilateral relations. Various cooperative projects

have been implemented

between the two countries for the past year. Especially, we are development of cooperation in the field of science and technology. With regard to the Egypt-Japan University for Science and Technology (E-JUST), which aims to establish a university with Japanese-style education and research serving the needs of human resource development in Egypt, Arab and African regions, the "Agreement concerning the Establishment of the Egypt-Japan University for Science and Technology, which establishes the framework of cooperation between the two governments, was concluded and came into force this month. I understand that the university is due to open in September. I welcome this valuable development for deepening our relationship.

designated as the "Japan-Egypt Year of Science and Technology in 2008," based on an agreement between our

governments. Throughout the year many events and programs were held in the field of science and technology, and this commemorative year concluded with a lecture by Dr. Mamoru Mori, executive director of the National Museum of Engineering Science and Technology, and a famous former astronaut. We are continuing to promote vigorous cooperation and exchanges in

Moreover, the government of Egypt has designated this year as the "Egypt Tourism Promotion Year in Japan 2009' and many events promoting tourism are being arranged by the Embassy of Egypt in Japan. I hope more and more Japanese people will become familiar with Egypt through these events.

The Japan-Egypt Parliamentarians Friendship League and I are determined to make our utmost efforts to further enhance this excellent bilateral relationship

Last but not least, I would like to express my best wishes to President Mubarak and the people of Egypt for lasting good health and prosperity, as well as my deepest appreciation for the tireless efforts of H.E. Dr. Walid Mahmoud Abdelnasser, ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Japan, for our two countries.

### Warmest Congratulations

January 29, 2009

to the People of the Arab Republic of Egypt on the Occasion of the 57th National Day



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### Projects, initiatives create lasting ties

MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

On the occasion of Egypt's National Day, I would like to

extend my heartfelt congratulations to President Hosny Mubarak, and the government and people of Egypt.

Egypt's Ambassador to Japan Dr. Walid M. Abdelnasser, the Tourist Promotion Office at the embassy and EgyptAir organized the "Egypt Tourism Promooriginally came about as the result of a proposal by Minister of Tourism Zohair Garanah during his visit to Japan in February 2008.

As secretary general of the Japan-Egypt Parliamentarians Friendship League and a graduate of Cairo University, I greatly appreciate these activities and I wish the promotion every success. I also would like to mention

the "Japan-Egypt Year of Science and Technology 2008," the success of which was crowned by the signing of an agreement establishing the Egypt-Japan University for Science and Technology

26, after 18 months of talks between the Egyptian Embassy in Japan and Japanese authorities. This initiative was originally raised by Dr. Hani Helal, minister of higher education and scientific research, and Fayza Abulnaga, minister of international cooperation.

I am confident the project will strengthen our technological cooperation and contribute to training talented young Egyptians in the future.

Lastly, I would like to express my best wishes to President Mubarak and the people of Egypt for continued good health and prosperity.



Up from the deep: The "Egypt's Sunken Treasures" exhibition opens June 26 at the Pacifico, Yokohama. NORIYUKI AIDA, ASAHI SHIMBUN

### A stronger strategic partnership

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

in 13 Japanese cities in May. On Friday, June 26, I had the honor of opening the "Egypt's Sunken Treasures" exhibition in Yokohama, displaying Egyptian monuments discovered under the waters of the Mediterranean Sea in Alexandria. In addition, an

Egypt Tourism Promotion Week was organized to introduce Egyptian culture to the

Japanese public. From July 9 to 12, Egypt was the theme country at the 16th session of the Tokyo International Book Fair. In addition to displays of books in different languages and fields from Egyptian publishers, workshops were organized on issues of mutual interest. It provided ample opportunity for Egyptian and Japanese publishers to herald a new era of translation between the Japanese and Arabic languag-

In the remaining period of the year, Egypt will have special representation at JATA's Conference and Exhi bition (Sept. 18 to 20); a Panorama of Egyptian Cinema will take place in the context of the Tokyo International Film Festival (Oct. 18 to 25); and the first session of the Egypt-Japan Forum will be convened, with the participation of public figures in different fields from both countries (Nov. 29 to Dec. 1). This forum was agreed upon during the last visit of President Mubarak to Japan. The accomplishments men-

tioned above are the culmination of a long history of interaction between Egypt and Japan that began more than 148 years ago, and has been sustained ever since by the dedicated efforts of the governments and peoples on both sides. We have come a long way in nurturing what we consider to be a unique relationship between Egypt and Japan, and we believe that the prospects that we both are interested in exploring are unlimited.



OF EGYPT IN TOKYO

**Congratulations** 

to the People of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Hills in Tokyo on April 4. SHIGEKI NAKANO FOR TOURIST OFFICE, EMBASSY

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# **Congratulations**

to the People of the Arab Republic of Egypt on the 57th Anniversary of the Revolution



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