

Kuwait national day

Kuwait, Japan stay committed to friendship, partnership

Abdul-Rahman Humood Al-Otaibi
AMBASSADOR OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT

On Feb. 25 and 26, the State of Kuwait celebrates two events: the 49th anniversary of its National (Independence) Day and the 19th anniversary of its liberation from the Iraqi invasion. On these occasions, I am delighted to extend the sincere congratulations and wishes to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the crown prince, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Muhammed Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, the prime minister of Kuwait, and the people of Kuwait. I wish that our country will continue its progress, growth and prosperity.

It is also my pleasure on the occasion of the birthday of His Imperial Highness Emperor Akihito and on the new year of 2010 to extend best wishes on behalf of the leadership and the people of Kuwait to the emperor, Empress Michiko, the Crown Prince Naruhito, the Imperial household, the Japanese government and the friendly Japanese people. We are equally delighted to congratulate Japan on conducting successful elections last August that led to the establishment of a new government headed by Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama.

Over the years, the world has suffered and encountered a number of crises on various levels. The State of Kuwait isn't exempt and as an independent state is affected by regional and international events. With the wisdom of Kuwaiti leadership and its deep-rooted foundation of principles established in its 1962 constitution, Kuwait has succeeded in maintaining its stability and development in the face of these crises. Article 12 of our constitution calls for a balanced and moderate foreign policy on two tracks.

The first track concerns political and security issues. We have four goals to achieve here:

1. To support the efforts of the international community in maintaining international peace and security.
2. To be committed to international legitimacy.
3. To be committed to cooperation both on the regional and international levels.
4. To contribute to economic and human development with the cooperation of international organizations.

The second track concerns economic and development issues. On this level, the State of Kuwait has been endeavoring, via the Kuwait Fund for the Arab Economic Development, to support the efforts of the international community toward the stability of countries that are in the development stage through programs for growth and prosperity. The Kuwait Fund, which is considered an arm of Kuwait's foreign policy, completed its 48th anniversary of continued work to help Arabic and other developing countries in their efforts to fulfill development goals and improve the living standards of their people. The fund has boosted its cooperation for development with 104 countries, including 16 Arab states and 88 more developing ones, by extending about \$12 billion in the form of soft loans and technical assistance.



Amir of the State of Kuwait
Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed
Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Additionally, the State of Kuwait has extended initiatives to stimulate the economic growth and raise the standard of living in order to reduce poverty in the countries that are affected by the increasing prices of staples. For that goal, the \$100 million Good Life Fund was established and \$300 million were appropriated through the Islamic Bank for Development to fight poverty in Africa.

The State of Kuwait continues to focus on the development process worldwide and in the Arab World in particular. Kuwait was the first country to call for holding an Arab economic summit. Responding to this call, the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit was held in Kuwait on Jan. 19 and 20, 2009. One of the results was that His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah called for a development initiative that aims to allocate financial resources of \$2 billion to finance and support small- and medium-size projects. The State of Kuwait donated \$500 million to launch this initiative.



Crown Prince of the State of
Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf
Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

The State of Kuwait also emphasized, in a speech by His Highness the Amir, at the economic summit of the heads of states of the Organization of Islamic Conference at its 25th annual meeting in Istanbul last year, that Islamic countries must work together to develop their economies and focus on the agriculture sector to produce and provide food to their people.

The State of Kuwait likewise focused on dealing with the impact of the international economic crisis that hit the world and affected many countries, mostly the developing ones, which saw their development goals hit obstacles and face rising economic and social problems such as increased unemployment, slow economic growth, collapsed fi-

ancial markets, and shrinking international and regional trade. The State of Kuwait called for international efforts to recover from this crisis.

By the same token, the State of Kuwait has confirmed its principled stance toward the fighting of poverty and famine and the spread of contagious diseases.

His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Muhammed Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, prime minister of the State of Kuwait, said in his speech at the latest U.N. General Assembly meeting that "we need combined extraordinary efforts to fight the problems of terrorism, poverty, famine and dangerous diseases such as HIV, malaria and H1N1 that have all spread globally."

The issues of climate change and the greenhouse effect have also gained the attention of the State of Kuwait. We participated actively in the U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP15) in Copenhagen last December and confirmed our role to bring about the conference's successful negotiations to reaching an agreement that was adopted for the interests of humanity based on the principles of the framework of the current agreement for climate change, particularly, the principle of the common responsibility between developed and developing countries to prevent the negative effects of protective trade policies on various kinds of fuel on international trade and adopting technical solutions, such as blocking and storing carbon, to achieve ambitious greenhouse cuts.

The State of Kuwait also confirmed its objection to any move to change the principles of that agreement framework and the Kyoto Protocol. To reduce gases' emissions, the State of Kuwait advanced voluntarily its steps to rehabilitate its oil and industry sectors.

Regarding alternative and new energy, the State of Kuwait hosted the Congress on

Alternative Energy Applications, a conference attended by participants from 70 countries, under the auspices of His Highness the amir. The State of Kuwait has also given full attention toward scientific research on clean energy. To this end, the Kuwaiti Institute for Scientific Research was assigned to carry out a well-planned clean energy research mission in cooperation with other international research centers.

From a different angle, last year saw outstanding democratic development in the State of Kuwait, winning the attention of the world when parliamentary elections were held and Kuwaiti women won 4 of 50 seats. In this regard, Kuwait is proud to be at the top of the Arab States' list and ranks 33rd worldwide according to the report on human development issued by the UNDP. The State of Kuwait had the highest level in the Arabic countries in the fields of education, health and people's freedom.

With our friend Japan, we are preparing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations in 2011. In fact, our relations were started long before that and before independence when we cooperated with the Arabian Oil Company. In this context, the State of Kuwait reaffirms its commitment to maintain the flow of energy sources to Japan with prices that suit the interest of producers and consumers. Kuwait plays an important role in balancing this pricing process at OPEC.

From another perspective, the decoration of H.E. Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and minister of defense of the State of Kuwait, by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito last November with the Order of the Rising Sun is a recognition of his considerable efforts in strengthening and promoting the distinguished bilateral relations connecting the State of Kuwait with Japan, as well as his appreciated endeavors in the environment protection area.



Multipurpose structure: Completed in 1979, Kuwait Towers in Kuwait City is a tourist attraction with a restaurant and observation sphere while also serving as an electricity and water control tower. EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT

This Imperial Honor, traditionally reserved for heads of states and top official dignitaries, was given out of Japan's high consideration of the significant logistic services the State of Kuwait provided for the Japanese Self-Defense Forces from 2004 until 2008 while these forces had been on the ground for humanitarian assistance of post-Saddam Hussein Iraq. As it stands as an unforgettable emblem of the distinguished historical diplomatic, political, economic, cultural and social relations between the State of Kuwait and Japan, that very high-profile decoration will surely help drive these relations deeper and stronger in the celebratory book of constructive and positive bilateral cooperation between the State of Kuwait and Japan.

The State of Kuwait is progressing in implementing development projects approved

by its parliament on Jan. 14, 2010, with a budget of 37 billion Kuwaiti dinars (\$128 billion). This plan will undoubtedly open the horizon for competition among international companies. Japanese companies, with their good reputation on the regional and international levels, are invited to bid for these projects.

The Gulf Cooperation Council summit held in the State of Kuwait last December approved strategic projects, such as an electricity network link among GCC countries and a railway project. We hope to see Japanese technology being utilized in these projects.

I would like also to express our gratitude to Japan for its crucial role in hosting the first Japan-Arab Economic Forum last December. We hope to see officials of the public and private sectors in our region boost our exchanges and discuss the opportunities of mutual cooperation.



Night view: The Kuwait City skyline lights up Kuwait Bay. The Liberation Tower (far left), at 372 meters, is one of the world's tallest free-standing structures.

HEARTIEST GREETINGS
AND CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE STATE OF KUWAIT
ON ITS 49th NATIONAL DAY
AND 19th ANNIVERSARY
OF LIBERATION



AOC Holdings, Inc.
ARABIAN OIL COMPANY, LTD.
FUJI OIL COMPANY, LTD.

Kuniyasu Takeda
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-KUWAIT SOCIETY

On behalf of the members of Japan-Kuwait Society, I would like to offer our sincerest greetings and congratulations to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Muhammed Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, as well as to the friendly people of Kuwait.



Relations between Japan and Kuwait have taken a smooth course to date since the two countries established diplomatic ties in December 1961. Both official and private visits have multiplied, proving the steadfast joint efforts of collaborative activities in

science, technology and culture, to say nothing of the close diplomatic and economic tie-ups.

Symbolic of such friendly relations was the conferment of decoration in November last year to Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and minister of defense, for the outstanding contribution he made to promote interactions between the two peoples. Sheikh Jaber was received by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito and accorded the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun.

In the cultural sphere as well, the 7th Forum on Inter-Civilizational Dialogue between Japan and the Islamic World was held in Kuwait in March. Cosponsored by the Embassy of Japan in Kuwait and the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Kuwait under the patronage of Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf, the forum was attended by promi-

nent leaders including Minister of Justice Hussain Al-Huraiti, high officials, professors and researchers from Japan and the Islamic world.

In the field of energy, the 3rd Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable was held in Tokyo in April. The meeting was attended by energy ministers of 21 Asian countries and representatives of two international organizations. Kuwait was represented by Sheikh Ahmed Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, minister of oil and minister of information. Among the Asia-specific energy issues discussed particular attention was focused on the measures for energy efficiency improvement and renewable energy resource development. The fourth roundtable will be held in 2011 in Kuwait.

With Japanese "manga" (comic books) and "anime" (animation) gaining popularity among young people across the world, the Embassy of Japan in Kuwait organized the Lecture and Demonstration on Japanese Animation in October, inviting Kuwaiti enthusiasts of "manga" and "anime." The lecture was given by Go Nagai, creator of fantastic robot animations such as "Mazinger Z" and "Grendizer," which were broadcast in Kuwait in the 1980s and are still popular in the Middle East.

On the sidelines of the excellent official relations, the Japan-Kuwait Society has laid the groundwork for academic and cultural exchanges between our two peoples for the past 45 years. With cultural and Islamic subjects as focal points, we have published a number of books in Japanese to acquaint the readers with more knowledge of Islamic culture and civilization.

In closing, I offer my profound wishes that our excellent relations be maintained, and pray for the prosperity and progress of Kuwait and its peace-loving people.



Heartiest Greetings and Congratulations
to
**H.H. The Amir,
H.H. The Crown Prince, H.H. The Prime Minister
and The People of The State of Kuwait**

On the Occasion of
the 49th Anniversary of the National Day of Kuwait
and the 19th Anniversary of Liberation Day



Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (Far East) (K.S.C.)

WE EXTEND OUR CORDIAL FELICITATIONS
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

JAPAN-KUWAIT SOCIETY

Chairman: Kuniyasu Takeda