

Egypt national day

Partnership with Japan enters new phase

Dr. Walid Mahmoud Abdelnasser
AMBASSADOR OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF
EGYPT

July 23rd marks the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt. It offers Egyptians the opportunity to reflect on past achievements and look forward to a brighter future, and allows us to express satisfaction at the state of Egyptian-Japanese relations and continue joint action to further consolidate our partnership.

I would like, on this occasion, on behalf of H.E. President Mohamed Hosny Mubarak and the government and people of Egypt, to convey the deepest respect to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and to H.E. Prime Minister Naoto Kan. I would

also like to express gratitude to the government and people of Japan for the sincere friendship they have consistently accorded Egypt.

We witnessed, over the past year, developments contributing to enhancing our relationship. They came amid momentum generated by the meeting of June 2008 between President Mubarak and then Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, aimed at further solidifying the foundations of both countries' partnership.

The framework for our ongoing cooperation has been the Egypt-Japan Partnership Program, adopted during President Mubarak's 1999 visit to Tokyo. Our long engagement has both demonstrated Japan's recognition of Egypt's geopolitical importance and pivotal regional and global role, and reflected Tokyo's commitment to strengthen strategic partnership with Egypt in the Arab



President Hosny Mubarak

World and Africa. As Egypt assumed the presidency of the Nonaligned Movement from July 2009, Egyptian-Japanese cooperation had even more positive ramifications for world affairs, demonstrated by the latest NPT Review Conference held in New York in May 2010.

To pursue bilateral consul-

tations already existing between Egypt and Japan, we held a 15th round of political consultations and a sixth round of cultural consultations in December 2009 and April 2010, respectively.

Egypt and Japan are cooperating on projects that will leave an enduring imprint on our bilateral relationship. We are proceeding with the construction of The Grand Egyptian Museum, to be completed by mid-2012. Also, both countries agreed last February to establish the largest wind farm in the region.

Egypt-Japan University for Science and Technology (E-JUST), also open for Arab and African students, was inaugurated in June. On the same day, a bilateral scientific and technological cooperation agreement was signed.

Last year witnessed a relative decline in both bilateral trade and Japanese tourism flow to Egypt due to negative

repercussions of the global financial crisis. We are determined to reverse this trend to further expand and diversify trade. Moreover, the first half of 2010 promised a larger flow of Japanese tourists to Egypt this year. Although satisfied with the increase in private Japanese investments in Egypt in 2009, we work for their further increase and diversification.

During Tourism Promotion Year of Egypt in Japan in 2009, both governments agreed to increase direct daily flights of Egypt Air between Cairo and both Narita and Kansai airports by almost 140 percent, giving a boost to tourism, trade and cultural and human exchange. In 2009 as well, Egypt had a special representation at the Japan Association of Travel Agents' (JATA) Annual Conference and Exhibition; a Panorama of Egyptian Cinema took place in the context of the Tokyo In-



Captivating riddle: The Great Sphinx of Giza is the largest monolith statue in the world and the oldest known monumental sculpture. BERTRAND GARDEL / EGYPT PHOTOLIBRARY

ternational Film Festival; and the first Japan-Egypt Forum convened to discuss issues of common interest.

This year was declared Year of Media Promotion of

Egypt in Japan to increase awareness about Egypt, both ancient and contemporary, in Japan. Among its activities was the visit of engineer Ibrahim El Moallem, a prominent Egyptian publisher, in February, upon the invitation from the Japan Foundation, to discuss a translation project between Egypt and Japan. A following visit was by His Eminence the Grand Mufti of Egypt Dr. Ali Gomaa in March, upon the invitation from the Japanese government, to meet with the Japa-

nese foreign minister; leaders of different religions in Japan; and to present Egypt's official Islamic institution's contribution to promote tolerance, peace, moderation and environmental protection. A third visit was that of Dr. Abdel-Moneim Said, CEO of Al-Ahram Press Foundation, upon the invitation from the Japanese government, also in March, to discuss with senior Japanese officials and scholars how to further promote not only

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Key relationship: Ambassador Dr. Walid Mahmoud Abdelnasser meets Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada and Sadako Ogata (left), president of JICA, in Tokyo in May. EMBASSY OF EGYPT



Celebration: Ambassador Dr. Abdelnasser and his wife, Dahlia (left), raise their glasses with Koichi Takemasa, state secretary for foreign affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ogata during a reception to celebrate Egypt National Day at the ambassador's residence in Tokyo on July 20. YOSHIKAKI MIURA

E-JUST project will nurture talented young Egyptians

Yuriko Koike
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 the people of Egypt.

It is worth mentioning the remarkable activities of the Egyptian-Japanese University of Science and Technology (E-JUST), which was established based on the mutual cooperation between the Egyptian and the Japanese governments for the purpose of having a long-standing partnership between the two countries to promote human development in the region. This initiative

was originally raised by both H.E. Dr. Hani Helal, minister of higher education and state for science research, and H.E. Fayza Abulnaga, minister of international cooperation. In May this year, H.E. Dr. Hani Helal held an open discussion with E-JUST students within the premises of E-JUST's temporary location in Mubarak City for Science and Technology.

As secretary general of the Japan-Egypt Parliamentarians Friendship League and as a graduate of Cairo University, I highly appreciate these activities and I wish the success of the project. I am confident that the project will strengthen our technological cooperation and contribute to the capacity building of 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.



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to the People of
the Arab Republic of Egypt
on the Occasion of
the 58th National Day



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Close ties: Ogata is presented the certificate of appreciation by Ambassador Dr. Abdelnasser at his residence in Tokyo on July 20. YOSHIKAKI MIURA

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Bilateral relations continue to grow

Masahiko Komura

CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-EGYPT

PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

As the chairman of the Japan-Egypt Parliamentarians Friendship League, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to H.E. President Mohamed Hosny Mubarak, the government and the people of Egypt on the occasion of the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt.



Egypt is a moderate country, with strong leadership, that plays significant roles in realizing peace and stability in the Middle East and Africa, and a long-lasting and important friend as well as an important partner of Japan.

One of the significant developments in the relations of the two countries these days is the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST), which aims to establish a university with a Japanese-style education and research to satisfy the needs of human resource development in Egypt and Arab and African states. E-JUST accepted the first group of students and the opening ceremony was held in June. I am convinced that E-JUST seeks not only to teach Japanese science and technology but

also to give the students the opportunities to master core spirits of Japanese industrial culture such as the Japanese style of discipline and teamwork through its enrichment programs. I sincerely hope that E-JUST will contribute to the further development of exchanges between Japanese people and not only Egyptians but also the people of Middle East and Africa in the fields of science and technology.

Regarding economic relations, last December the Japan-Arab Economic Forum, which aimed to strengthen mutual economic relations between Japan and Arab countries through cooperation in a wide range of fields such as trade, investment energy, technology and human resource development, was held in Tokyo. Around 12,000 government officials and businessmen from Japan and Arab countries, including many Egyptian officials and businessmen, attended this forum. This forum was the first comprehensive economic conference consisting of the public and private sector between Japan and Arab countries. I hope the further development and diversification of trade relations will be achieved between Japan and Egypt through such a forum.

In March, His Eminence Dr. Ali Gomaa, grand mufti of Egypt, the leading figure

of Islam in Egypt, visited Japan at the invitation of the government and made a wide range of exchanges with government officials and religious societies in Japan. I hope that this visit will bring the enhancement of exchanges in the field of religion between Japan and the Islamic world, especially Egypt.

H.E. Dr. Walid Mahmoud Abdelnasser, ambassador of Egypt to Japan, designated last year as the Year of Egyptian Touristic Promotion in Japan, and many events for promoting tourism were arranged. Moreover, the ambassador designates this year as the Year of Egyptian Media Promotion in Japan, and he is making great efforts to promote the exchange of media between Japan and Egypt. I would like to express my deepest appreciation for the tireless efforts being made by the ambassador for promoting the bilateral relations and hope that H.E. Abdelnasser will continue to play an active role. The Japan-Egypt Parliamentarians Friendship League and I are determined to make our utmost efforts to further enhance this excellent bilateral relation.

Last but not least, I would like to express my best wishes to H.E. President Mubarak and the people of Egypt for lasting good health and prosperity.



Great revival: Commemorating the ancient library of Alexandria, lost in antiquity, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina was constructed by UNESCO and the Egyptian government and was officially inaugurated in 2002. BERTRAND GARDEL / EGYPT PHOTOLIBRARY

A new phase of strategic partnership with Japan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Egyptian-Japanese but also Arab-Japanese relations. He also met with heads of Japanese nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), press and media foundations to enhance media cooperation. I had the honor of addressing the opening session of the 26th annual conference of the Japanese Association of Middle Eastern Studies in May. Egypt also

participated this month in the Tokyo International Book Fair.

Egypt and Japan are partners in trilateral cooperation in African and Arab countries. E-JUST and the CARD initiative to double rice production in Africa are only two examples. There is the prospect for further expanding this cooperation.

Moreover, Egypt and Japan

coordinate on multilateral affairs. Bilateral consultations regarding both disarmament and the United Nations issues took place earlier this year. Both countries pursue consultations on environmental issues and intercultural dialogue. I was honored to participate at the eighth round of Japan Islamic Civilizational Dialogue in Tokyo in February, a dialogue which I was honored to participate at its first round in 2002.

The above-mentioned accomplishments are milestones in a long history of Egyptian-Japanese interaction that began 149 years ago and has been sustained by dedicated efforts on both sides. We have nurtured what we consider to be a unique relationship and we believe that the prospects that we both are interested in exploring are unlimited.

Congratulations

to the People of the Arab Republic of Egypt
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