

# Saudi Arabia National Day

## Expanding circle of cultural exchange between longtime bilateral partners

Dr. Abdulaziz A. Turkistani  
AMBASSADOR OF SAUDI ARABIA

Sept. 23 marks the 80th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Taking this opportunity, on behalf of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the deputy premier, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, I would like to convey my sincere and heartfelt greetings to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and the people



of Japan.

When the modern kingdom was founded in 1932, the Arabian Peninsula was an agricultural society that depended on farming and commerce — especially date exports and trade generated by pilgrims coming to Mecca and Medina. It lacked the infrastructure needed to support the kind of economic growth envisioned by its founder, King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al-Saud.

The discovery of oil in commercial quantities in 1938 changed that. Soon after World War II, steady oil exports provided the funds to build a basic infrastructure of roads, airports, seaports, schools and hospitals.

In 1970, Saudi Arabia introduced the first of a series of ongoing five-year develop-



King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud



Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud

ment plans to build a modern economy capable of producing consumer and industrial goods that previously had been imported. The country's infrastructure was expanded,

allowing industry and commerce to flourish.

At the same time, the national oil company, Aramco, invested in new production facilities, pipelines, plants and shipping facilities and continued exploring for new deposits to maximize earnings from the oil sector, which were needed to fund further growth.

The result has been a steady economic transformation of the country. Today, Saudi Arabia is one of the fastest-developing countries in the world.

Petroleum is an integral part of the Saudi economy: Saudi Arabia is the world's largest producer and exporter of oil. In recent decades the kingdom has increasingly diversified its economy and today produces and exports a variety of industrial goods all over the globe.

To diversify our economy, a skilled and educated workforce is most crucial to longer-term success and the growth of a nation. The King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, and his Scholarship Program, are



Holy prayers: The city of Mecca is considered the holiest place of Islam and the site of the annual Muslim Hajj pilgrimage.

EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

main pillars for our success. This scholarship for Saudi students enables them to learn more about and experience new technology abroad. About 300 Saudi students are studying to complete their higher education in universities and colleges throughout Japan.

Japan, the country which was able to stand up high from the destruction and ashes which World War II left behind, has become a world economic power and a leading country in the field of science and technology.

These achievements, which Japan and Saudi Arabia have realized due to the great values and manners enjoyed by their people, earned the two countries more respect and appreciation worldwide. I am quite confident that cooperation between both countries in the 21st century will make this world a better place for living in peace, security and prosperity.

Recently, epoch-making developments can be seen especially in the field of cultural exchange. In June, the King-

dom of Saudi Arabia, as a theme country, participated in Tokyo International Book Fair 2010, which received 87,000 visitors during its four-day exhibition at Tokyo Big Sight.

The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia will be holding a photo exhibition in October, with a view to representing various images of Saudi Arabia to Japanese friends. The exhibition features about 130 photos that Saudi Arabian people took in Saudi Arabia, which will be the first exhibition held at the embassy by the embassy. We have great hopes that the exhibition attracts many visitors.

Besides, Japan is selected as a guest of honor for the 2011 Al-Janadriah, the National Festival for Heritage and Culture, which is organized and held annually by the National Guard at Al-Janadriah in the desert north of Riyadh. Al-Janadriah has acquired an international reputation for bringing Arab and Islamic culture to an increasingly wider audience.

Saudi Arabia and Japan have given priority to economic ties for decades. However, clearly, there comes a time when we may further boost our cultural exchange and I am fully confident that it will contribute to our mutual success.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is the birthplace of Islam and has two sacred sites, Mecca and Medina, welcomes annually about 2.5 million Muslims during the pilgrimage period. Moreover, in Saudi Arabia, with a history dating back to the Stone Age, about 1 million years ago, ancient civilizations remain throughout the country.

In August, the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) added the At-Turaif District in ad-Dir'iyah to its official list of World Heritage sites. At-Turaif District is the second Saudi location to be placed on the World Heritage list, following the addition of Mada'in Saleh in 2008.

The kingdom is opening its doors for tourists with our traditional hospitality so that discerning visitors can enjoy and experience everything from archaeological wonders and historic sites to a great diversity of modern attractions, scenic beauty and the remarkable wildlife in our country.

May I extend my gratitude to all of our Japanese friends who have exerted great efforts in promoting our relations in any way.



Festivity: The Ardha dance, traditionally performed by the Bedouin tribes of the Arabian Peninsula before going to war, is now a key feature of celebrations and cultural events.

**Photo Exhibition of Saudi Arabia**  
History, Culture, Nature

サウジアラビア写真展  
「歴史・文化・自然」

2010年10月6日(水)～15日(金)

時間: 10:00-16:00

会場: サウジアラビア大使館3F

入場無料

www.saudiembassy.or.jp

主催: サウジアラビア大使館 後援: 日本サウジアラビア協会

### Photo Exhibition of Saudi Arabia

The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Tokyo will be hosting an exhibit of photos of the country from Oct. 6 to 15. The opening hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Admission is free. For more information, call the embassy at (03) 3589-5241.

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE PEOPLE OF  
THE KINGDOM OF  
SAUDI ARABIA  
ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THEIR NATIONAL DAY

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TO THE PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM OF  
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TEL: 03-5543-5102 FAX: 03-5543-5901

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# Saudi Arabia National Day/world

## Cooperation, development ties continue to gain in depth, strength

Hiromasa Yonekura  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-SAUDI ARABIA SOCIETY

On this occasion of the 80th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I would like to offer on behalf of the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society our best wishes to The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-



Saud, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

I am pleased to see that the ties between Japan and Saudi Arabia have been growing stronger year after year since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1956. Our relations, once centered on trade in oil and industrial products, have expanded to encompass investment, technological

cooperation, human resource development, cultural exchanges and sports.

During this past year, there were further positive developments in the relationship between the two countries. The 11th Japan-Saudi Arabia Business Council, the joint effort to further promote bilateral economic relations, was held in Riyadh last February, gathering approximately 100 delegates from Saudi Arabia and around 110 from Japan. The

Saudi Arabian delegates gave presentations on the National Industrial Strategy of Saudi Arabia and the progress in the privatization of the water business. The Japanese delegates reported on the Japan-Saudi Arabia industrial cooperation task force, as well as the Saudi Electronics and Home Appliances Institute (SEHAI), which opened in September 2009, and made presentations on environmental technology for construction and the electronic money business.

In May, great news came: During his visit to Japan to attend the 10th Saudi-Japanese Joint Committee Meeting, H.E. Khalid bin Mohammed Al-Gosaibi, the minister

of economy and planning, received the Japanese decoration Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, which recognized his significant contributions as the minister to strengthening the Japan-Saudi Arabia bilateral relations.

Saudi Arabia was appointed as a theme country for the 17th Tokyo International Book Fair (TIBF), Asia's leading publishing trade fair, held from July 8 to 11. The Cultural Department of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Japan participated in the event, introducing various aspects of Saudi Arabian culture to the Japanese people and many visitors from around the world, and pub-

lishing the books titled "Islam Living in Japan — Its Past, Present, Future" and "Saudi Arabia and Japan — Its True Faces and Bonds."

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society. I sincerely hope that our bilateral relationship will thrive further for years to come, and we at the Japan Saudi Arabia Society will continue to work to promote mutual understanding and enhance the friendship and partnership between Japan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Congratulations on the National Day and our best wishes for the continued peace and prosperity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



Growth spurt: The former fishing town of Al-Jubail, backed by billions of dollars in investment, is the largest ongoing civil engineering project in the world. EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA



Riyadh icon: Al-Faisaliah Tower was the first of the startling new structures to rise above the Saudi Arabian capital's skyline. The building includes a five-star hotel, four exclusive restaurants, a shopping mall, offices and apartments. The needle point pinnacle is 267 meters above the ground. EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

### Congratulations

to the People of The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
on the Occasion of the 80th Anniversary of  
Their National Day

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Warmest Congratulations to  
Custodian of  
The Two Holy Mosques  
King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz  
of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and his people  
on the Occasion of the 80th Anniversary of  
their National Day

**JAPAN-SAUDI ARABIA SOCIETY**

Chairman: Hiromasa Yonekura

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