

## world/UAE national day

## New chapter opens in partnership

Saeed Ali Al-Nowais  
AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED ARAB  
EMIRATES

On this very auspicious occasion of our 39th National Day, I am most honored and privileged to convey, on behalf of the government and people of the United Arab Emirates, my heartfelt greetings and good wishes to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the government and the great people of Japan. I also extend my sincere felicitations to H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, president of the UAE, ruler of Abu Dhabi; H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, vice president, prime minister and ruler of Dubai; and to T.H. the members of the Federal Supreme Council of rulers of the emirates.

For the past 39 years, the relationship between the UAE

and Japan has experienced close cooperation in various fields. In fact, both countries have been sharing a genuine enthusiasm to promote further dialogue at all levels, widening the scope of cooperation and deepening the friendly ties. The UAE has become one of Japan's major trading partners, with trade exchange in the past year reaching \$29.23 billion, the seventh largest market for machineries and the second for oil suppliers.

Despite the financial crises that afflicted the world economies last year, the UAE economy has managed to maintain its resiliency, robustness and strong fundamentals, with high expectations that it will resume strong growth within the current fiscal year.

This year again, we opened a new chapter in the partnership between our two countries. The most notable is that Emirates airline and Etihad Airways, the national carriers of the UAE, launched nonstop flights to Narita last March, followed by

the start of Etihad's service to Nagoya in February. The success of this initiative came in line with the guidance of the UAE's prudent leadership and the country's desire for extending the bonds of friendship to the Japanese people. Both airlines have been achieving a remarkable breakthrough in the Japanese aviation market since their inaugurations. I strongly believe that as an air bridge, these new routes will significantly increase the number of Japanese travelers to the UAE and provide an enormous momentum for boosting the economic and tourism activities as well as cultural and educational relations between the UAE and Japan.

Cooperation in educational and cultural relations between the UAE and Japan have been experiencing a great boost, with the numbers of UAE students studying in different Japanese universities more than doubled in recent years. This also reflects the emphasis and importance that the UAE leadership places on education.

It is also important to remember that H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed al Qasimi, ruler of Sharjah, an outstanding cultural figure, inaugurated Japan's first exhibition of Arabian archaeology, "The Arabian Heritage from Shar-

jah, the UAE," in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, in April, with the cooperation of Kanazawa University. The one-year tour includes exhibitions in Okayama, Niigata, Nara and Yokohama until March 2011. Paintings, calligraphy and other artworks inspired by UAE Arabian traditions and heritage are displayed at the venue. The best example is a collection of historic maps from the 15th to 19th centuries owned by H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed al Qasimi. The touring exhibition has been presenting visitors with a rare opportunity to have a firsthand experience of UAE culture, history, tradition and national identity.

In terms of energy policy, I assure you that the UAE government will maintain its position as a secure, safe and reliable energy supplier to Japan. Last September, the UAE supplied Japan with 20.5 percent of its total need of oil, making the UAE the second-largest oil and gas supplier to Japan.

In August, over 300 Japanese government officials, policymakers and business executives from the private sector met in Abu Dhabi for the 35th Japan Cooperation Forum for the Middle East, organized by the Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East (JCCME) and co-hosted by Abu Dhabi.



Landmark: Inaugurated in January, the Burj Khalifa, at 828 meters high with more than 160 stories, is by far the tallest building in the world. EMBASSY OF THE UAE

The forum was crowned with great success after both sides pledged to work closely to propel the bilateral relations into new dimensions.

Finally, I would like to seize this auspicious opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the esteemed

Japanese organizations that have been working relentlessly to elevate our valuable relations to a higher level. On behalf of UAE nationals, I would like to convey our sincere wishes to the people of Japan and the world for everlasting peace, prosperity and happiness.



Magnificent: The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi is one of the largest examples of Islamic architecture in the world, with capacity for 40,000 worshippers. EMBASSY OF THE UAE

## Cultural, educational ties help strengthen long relationship

Hiroshi Araki  
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-UAE SOCIETY

On the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the founding of the United Arab Emirates, I offer my cordial congratulations to UAE President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, members of the Federal Supreme Council and the people of the UAE.

In the 39 years since the 1971 founding of the nation, Japan and the UAE have been promoting exchanges and relations in various areas, including not only the energy sector in terms of the economic field, but in education, culture and sports as well.

In particular, this year symbolizes the deepening relationships between the two countries as Etihad Airways added its first flight to Japan from Abu-Dhabi to Nagoya in February, thanks to the many years of strenuous efforts of all parties involved. In addition, the new flight routes to Narita established by Etihad Airways and Emirates the following month

shows just how much the relationship between Japan and the UAE is deepening.

It is through such developments that we hope citizens from both countries increase their interest toward each other. It is my sincere hope that exchanges increase not only in the field of tourism but in various other fields as well.

In addition, the arrival of the Emirate of Sharjah Sultan Mohamed Al-Qasimi to Japan — his first visit since taking office — has sparked exhibitions on the archaeology and historical and cultural heritages of the Arabian Peninsula all across Japan, a first for the country. It is with great happiness that I observe how these exhibitions are increasing Japanese people's interest toward the UAE.

Our society, the only civilian Japan-UAE friendship organization in the country, was established in 1974 and is working actively to improve relationships between the two countries in various fields such as culture, arts, sports and education.

We intend to make further efforts toward still better bilateral relationships in cooperation with all parties involved.

Yasuo Fukuda  
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-UAE  
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

On behalf of The Japan-UAE Parliamentary Friendship League, may I offer some words on the occasion of the 39th founding anniversary of the United Arab Emirates. I offer my heartfelt congratulations on the increasing progress and prosperity of the UAE under the outstanding leadership of President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, inheriting the wish of the late President H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, the UAE's founding father.

In addition, may I offer words of mourning for the late emir of Ras al-Khaimah, Sheikh Saqr bin Mohammad al-Qassimi, who passed away last October. At the same time, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to his successor and current Sheikh Saud bin Saqr al Qasimi.

Despite the so-called Dubai Shock that unfolded late last year, relations between Japan

and the UAE have been progressing across many different fields. On top of the cooperative relationship in the oil sector between the two countries, which has been going strong for more than 40 years, renewed collaboration in the reusable energy, aviation, education, investment and various other sectors has begun to bear fruit as well.

In the fields of tourism, events such as the F1 racing tournament Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, the soccer tournament 2010 FIFA Club World Cup and the Burj Khalifa — the world's tallest skyscraper — have all proven to spark renewed interest toward the UAE among the Japanese people.

By April next year, the international agency IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency) will be convening its first general meeting. I sincerely hope that the collaborative relationship between the two countries continues to develop in the reusable energy field as well.

The opening of the preschool and acceptance of children of UAE citizenship by the Japanese School in Abu Dhabi — which started in 2005 — current-

ly has nine students of UAE citizenship who learn not only from a Japanese education system but Japanese culture right alongside students of Japanese nationality. It is my strong hope that these children who are learning together side by side will one day fulfill the role of acting as a bridge between the two nations.

I believe that the relationship between Japan and the UAE will continue to become increas-

ingly intimate. While I offer my congratulations on this auspicious occasion of the UAE's 39th founding anniversary, may I take this opportunity to express my sincere hope that Japan and the UAE will continue to develop, in particular with the earnest efforts of the people of both countries. In this regard, The Japan-UAE Parliamentary Friendship League is prepared to continue to offer its support in whatever ways it can.

### Congratulations to the Government and People of the United Arab Emirates on Their 39th National Day



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