

# Iran national day

## Iranians celebrate 33 years of progress

Majid M. Shabestari  
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE ISLAMIC  
REPUBLIC OF IRAN

In the name of God.

We are marking the 33rd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution that toppled the dictatorship in Iran and replaced it with an Islamic Republic, whose political system is based on just and democratic Islamic principles and social order in accordance with the people's wishes.



I would like to take advantage of this opportunity and express my sincere and heartfelt greeting to His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito and the Imperial Family, the government and the people of Japan. I also extend my cordial felicitations to my compatriots living in Japan.

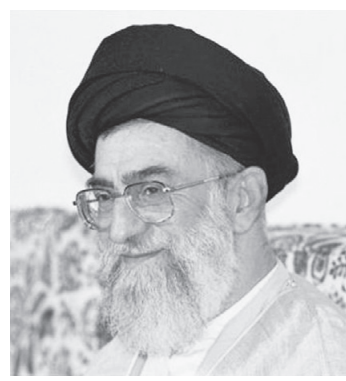
Having always enjoyed amicable relations with the people of Japan, the Islamic Republic of Iran's government and people were deeply shocked to learn the sad news of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit northeastern Japan on March 11, 2011, causing much loss of life, injuries and property damage.

Being an earthquake-prone country, Iran has also suffered from many devastating earthquakes. The Japanese people

and government have always given us a big hand in help and support in such instances. We will never forget the valuable assistance provided by Japan after the Bam Earthquake in which almost the same number of Iranians lost their lives as in the March 11 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. Iran was thus one of the first countries to offer humanitarian assistance and aid to Japan in the aftermath of March 11. Immediately after the disaster, the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed its readiness to provide medicine, hygienic products and food items for the victims. Subsequently, a team from the Red Crescent Society, accompanied by the ambassador, visited the affected areas and presented canned food to the Sendai local authorities, distributed hot meals to local residents in a shelter in Yamada, Iwate Prefecture, and held a charity bazaar in support of the victims of the earthquake and tsunami, as well as distributed Iranian food to the residents of Koriyama, Fukushima Prefecture.

I have no doubt that the resilient and strong people of Japan will rise again and rebuild their country so that it becomes more affluent and prosperous than before.

Thirty-three years ago, on Feb. 11, years of struggle and sacrifices of the Iranian people, under the leadership of the late



**Ayatollah Ali Khamenei,**  
supreme leader of the Islamic  
Republic of Iran

Imam Ruholla Khomeini, resulted in a fruitful victory. Similarly, we have recently seen Islamic awareness (the Arab Spring) spread among the people of Middle Eastern countries and some Persian Gulf states with the aim of achieving freedom and toppling dictators.

The past 33 years have been full of challenges and significant strides in various fields for the Iranian nation. The people of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been firmly standing against foreign aggression and sanctions with awareness and resistance to preserve the country's independence, solve the basic problems of society and develop the country's scientific and technological framework.

Iran is an example of a country that has made considerable



**Mahmoud Ahmadinejad,**  
President of the Islamic  
Republic of Iran

advances through education and training in almost all aspects of research during the past 30 years. The country has made great strides in different sectors, including nanotechnology, biotechnology, aerospace, nuclear science and medical development, as well as stem cells and cloning.

In foreign policy, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in accordance with a firm belief in the noble tenets of Islam for peace and justice on Earth, and by emphasizing the mutuality of interests and noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, is pursuing the following points:

Iranian active and effective diplomacy in foreign policy and continuation of international relations founded upon honor, wisdom, interests, peace and

honor among all nations, and combating insecurity, war and humiliation of nations; condemning all kinds of terrorism and discrimination; a policy of détente in bilateral relations, and removing grounds for threats and intimidation in international relations; active and effective participation in intra-regional and international organizations; elimination of threats and intimidation and combating production, possession and use of weapons of mass destruction.

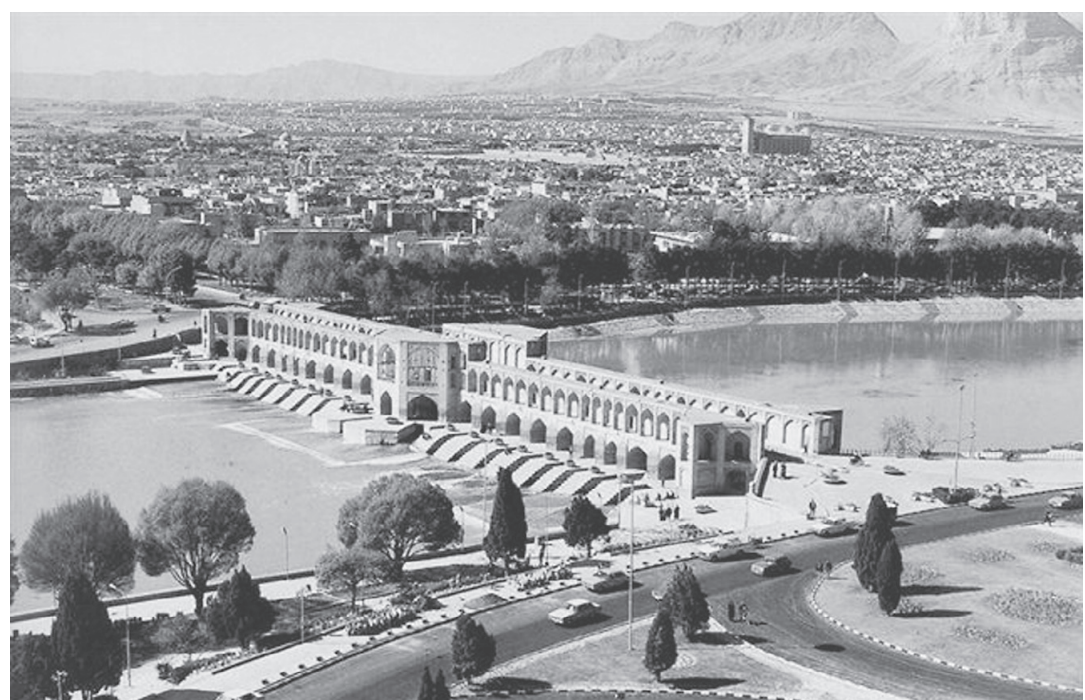
I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to illustrate the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and inform my esteemed readers of the facts regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

Iran's quest for peaceful energy picked up momentum following a study in 1974 carried out by the prestigious U.S.-based Stanford Research Institute, which predicted Iran's need for nuclear energy and recommended the building of nuclear plants capable of generating 20,000 megawatts of electricity before 1994. Now, 37 years later, Iran aims to reach that level by 2020, which may save Iran 190 million barrels of crude oil, or \$19 billion per year, based on today's oil prices.

Therefore, Iran's nuclear program is neither overly ambitious nor economically unjustifiable. Diversification, including the development of peaceful nuclear energy, is a sound and responsible energy strategy for Iran, which has a territory of 1.7 million sq. km and a population of around 75 million. Even the U.S. State Department was convinced of this in 1978, when it stated in a memo that the U.S. was encouraged by Iran's efforts to expand its non-oil energy base and was hopeful that the U.S.-Iran Nuclear Energy Agreement would be concluded soon and that U.S. companies would be able to play a role in Iran's nuclear projects.

Producing fuel for its nuclear power plants is an integral part of Iran's nuclear energy policy. While domestic production of fuel for this number of nuclear power plants makes perfect economic sense, Iran's decision should not be judged solely on economic grounds. Having been a victim of a pattern of deprivation of peaceful nuclear material and technology, Iran cannot rely solely on procurement of fuel from outside sources. Such dependence would in effect hold Iran's multibillion-dollar investment in power plants hostage to the political whims of suppliers in a tightly controlled market.

Let me bring to your attention the fact that Iranian decision-makers believe that develop-



**Arched crossing: Built in the 17th century, Khaju Bridge across the Zayandeh River in Esfahan is one of the finest examples of Persian architecture.** EMBASSY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

ment, acquisition or possession of nuclear weapons would only undermine Iranian security. Viable security for Iran can be attained only through inclusion, and regional and global engagement. There is also a fundamental ideological objection to weapons of mass destruction, including a religious decree issued by the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran prohibiting the development, stockpiling or use of nuclear weapons. We promote the notion of "nuclear energy for all, nuclear weapon for nobody" and the elimination of nuclear weapons from the face of the Earth. We can begin with a movement for a Middle East free of nuclear weapons.

Let me remind my readers that Iran, as a signatory to the Non-proliferation Treaty and a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has every right to develop and acquire nuclear technology meant for peaceful purposes. In addition, the IAEA has conducted numerous inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities but has never found any evidence indicating that Iran's civilian nuclear program has been diverted to nuclear-weapons production. Besides, Iran needs to use nuclear energy in the agricultural, medical (producing medical radioisotopes to treat cancer patients), environmental and industrial fields.

Recently, in the case of Iran's peaceful nuclear program, we witnessed a strange new procedure in the international arena when the U.S. government imposed unilateral sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this regard, many countries took a proper and logical position based upon their national interests and have not followed unilateral American policies against Iran.

Surely, to apply an internal law to other countries is a dangerous precedent and will have



EMBASSY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

unpleasant legal and international consequences.

### Relations with Japan

Iran and Japan are two Asian countries with numerous historical and cultural commonalities. They share civilization bonds and an Asian identity. The transformation of Iran-Japan relations to realize their true potential has long been the vision of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Both nations are perfectly capable of managing all aspects of their relationship with an appropriate degree of care and attention.

Iran has been one of the main economic partners of Japan during the past four decades, and we hope our bilateral relations will be further expanded. Iran has been one of the main oil suppliers of Japan, and around 9 percent of Japan's crude-oil requirements are supplied by Iran. Iran exported 315,000 barrels per day of crude oil to Japan in 2011. Japan has always been one of the main suppliers of Iranian industrial and technical needs. The volume of trade between Iran and Japan reached around \$15 billion in 2011, and hopefully will increase in 2012.

Iran-Japan cultural relations date back to ancient times, including cultural exchanges via the Silk Road. Persian items in the Nara National Museum that were the gifts of Persian nobles to Japan's nobles are good evidence of such exchanges. In recent times, we have witnessed the expansion of cultural ties between our two countries in many fields. The trip by the director general of public diplomacy of Japan's Foreign Ministry to Tehran in Octo-

ber 2011 was a good step toward further expansion of the Iran-Japan cultural relationship. These relations have been expanded to include film industry events, exhibitions and sports events. Recently, Iran loaned a masterpiece by American abstract expressionist painter Jackson Pollock to Japan for the first time, courtesy of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art. This is another sign that Iran considers relations with Japan important.

I would like to add that Iran's cultural heritage of 7,000 years has been demonstrated in famous museums throughout the world. As a result of the prevailing atmosphere, Iran has launched initiatives to encourage people from around the globe to travel to the country to visit world-renowned sites and the many historic monuments around the country, which cater to a wide range of interests.

There is no doubt that by acknowledging the importance and prominent role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf and Middle East, considerable and varied levels of bilateral exchanges and cooperation will not only provide more benefits for Iran and Japan but will also play a well-deserved role in the consolidation and expansion of regional and international peace and security. It goes without saying that the existing capacities in Iran cannot be ignored and that the current circumstances require that Japan, in line with its national interests, considers a longer-term perspective for its bilateral relations with Iran and guarantees its long-term interests in the Middle East.

Thank you.

### Japan and Iran enjoy good relations and will continue to develop them

Masahiko Komura  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-IRAN  
PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On behalf of the Japan-Iran Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to convey my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 33rd anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Japan and the Islamic Republic of Iran always have enjoyed

friendly relations. This relationship dates back over 1,000 years to the days when the excellent culture and art of Sassanid Persia were brought to Japan via the Silk Road. We continue to promote our relations in the form of mutual political, economic and cultural cooperation as we have always done.

The two countries have been further expanding various exchanges. Of particular note was a successful visit to Japan by the Parliamentary Speaker of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the visit, the Parliamentarians' Friendship

League had a fruitful meeting with the Iranian parliamentary delegation, and we hope these contacts continue in the future.

I will exert myself to encourage further understanding between Japan and Iran. I also earnestly hope that the cooperation between Japan and Iran will significantly contribute to peace and stability in the world.

I would like to extend my sincere wishes for further prosperity and happiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iranian people.

## Congratulations

### on the Occasion of the 33rd Anniversary of the Glorious Islamic Revolution of Iran



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Tatsuo Fujimura

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