

Kuwait national day

Playing an active role to overcome global challenges

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

Feb. 25 marks the 51st anniversary of the Independence Day of the State of Kuwait. On this blissful day I humbly avail myself to relay the cordial greetings of the Amir of the State of Kuwait His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, prime minister, the government and people of Kuwait to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial Family, the government and people of the friendly nation of Japan, along with my felicitations to my fellow citizens residing in Japan. This auspicious celebration coincides also with the 21st anniversary of the liberation of the State of Kuwait from the brutal invasion by the former Iraqi regime.



Last year was a year of great sorrow and sadness. The Great East Japan Earthquake and the resulting tsunami and nuclear crisis have left vast devastation and sorrow in Japan as well as in the heart of the people of the State of Kuwait. What Japan has been facing since March 11, 2011, is unimaginable. But it also brought to the fore of the world's consciousness how unique Japan is in its strength and how determined its people are. And as Japan recovers from the lingering traces of this unmerciful disaster, the State of Kuwait has committed itself to stand side by side with Japan, and we remain pledged to assist the government and

the people of Japan wherever we can. Hence, Amir of the State of Kuwait His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah ordered the donation of 5 million barrels of crude oil in order to alleviate the pain and sufferings of the victims. This support is only a small token of appreciation and gratitude to Japan that has been so generous to others along the years, especially its noble stance in support of Kuwait's sovereignty and rights in the face of the atrocious invasion incurred by the former Iraqi regime.

On the other hand, this national tragedy was a reminder of how much Japan matters in today's world. It highlighted the sense of national unity between the Japanese who astonished the world by their solidarity and discipline, and were models of civility and calm. These noble qualities shall be the strengths that lay the grounds for a prompt recovery for which I pray from the bottom of my heart. A new future awaits Japan and I am fully confident that the coming era will see the rise of this amazing nation that is built by well-meaning and committed people.

Through the long history between Japan and Kuwait, their bilateral relations have been witnessing unflinching rapprochement due to the concurrent principles they share in addition to the roles they have assumed throughout their history in the fast-changing world after World War II. Kuwait and Japan have been actively involved in development assistance around the world, disarmament, peace-building efforts, humanitarian aid, etc.

Here, we commend the position of Japan as an active, key player in the international community contributing incessantly to the development and well-being of the world, especially its efforts through the United Na-

tions. We hope that this friendly country becomes a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council in order to contribute more effectively to the security, peace and development around the world and especially in the Middle East.

And as Japan continues to pursue a constructive role in the Middle East, Kuwait has committed itself, on the bilateral level as well as in its roles as member of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab League, to support Japan as a strong and essential partner in the region and worldwide.

Our strong, deep-rooted relation of friendship and partnership, and the sharing of common interests and complementarities leads me reasonably to claim that what is convergent to Japan's national interests is convergent to Kuwait's national interests as well. From this perspective, we will make our utmost efforts in order to achieve further constructive and mutually beneficial cooperation between our countries that exceeds the traditional oil sector toward wider horizons in economy, culture, education and science, and benefiting from the advanced knowhow of Japan and its cutting-edge technologies in the fields of environment-friendly industries, renewable energy and the use of nuclear technology for peaceful and civil purposes.

In this regard, we cannot help but mention the nuclear crisis at the Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Power Plant following March 11. And as we praise the efforts made to stabilize the crippled plant, we stress the importance of transparency and the prompt solving of the crisis in the near future in order to restore the world's confidence in Japan's nuclear technology, long known for its safety and reliability.

On the energy level, uncertainty in the Middle East, grow-



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



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

ing global demand, and a lack of easy oil are thought to be the main factors behind the spike of oil prices today, in addition to the mounting crisis between Iran and the international community over its nuclear policies and its recent threats to blockade the maritime navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. The State of Kuwait reaffirms its resolute stance on the importance of dialogue in solving this issue peacefully in order to prevent more conflicts from surging in the region and the world as well. At the same time, Kuwait works on stabilizing the prices of oil in the international markets to preserve the interests of both consumers and producers equally.

Long before the independence of Kuwait, our leaders and people have always been keen on building a nation that sets a model for the world. Kuwait has endeavored to pursue a moderate, non-aligned and balanced foreign policy based on supporting the efforts of the international community to establish international peace and security, adherence to international legitimacy, the respect for the sover-

eignty of states and never resorting to the use of force or the threat of its use. And at the fore of this national policy, stands the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who earned diligently the title of the "dean of diplomacy" for his wisdom, firmness, equality and human qualities along with his approach to foreign policy based on tolerance and reconciliation.

Kuwait has forged its path of democracy since its independence in 1961 when the elections of the National Assembly have first been held, and now Kuwait enjoys an energetic political life, an active parliament and a widely influential free press. It had adopted a system of popular participation and consultation between the ruler and the citizens, and this practice became formalized with the enactment of the written constitution in 1962, which was the endorsement of measures to ensure the human rights enshrined in the Shariah and international law, and to ensure their observance.

Based on this idea, the State of Kuwait has always believed in

consolidating the principles of democracy and this is the main reason behind the stability and security that our nation enjoys in an area that is highly volatile. The recent elections of the National Assembly, held Feb. 2, are clear proof of the active and vibrant political life in Kuwait. We are confident that the newly elected lawmakers and government would be a true mirror reflecting the ambitions and aspirations of the people of Kuwait for a more prosperous and striving nation.

Our country has been playing an active role in regional and international diplomacy in order to overcome the ultimate challenges, especially in the Arab region, which has been witnessing great changes toward democracy. In this regard, the State of Kuwait reaffirms its unwavering support for the rights of the brotherly people of the Arab world for equal participation and decent living and their aspirations for peace and well-being and their rights in choosing their own leaders. Moreover, Kuwait believes in the importance of implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy in order to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Although it is a developing nation, the State of Kuwait has adopted a consistent approach since its independence in 1961 to support the developing and less-developed nations around the world by extending humanitarian and developmental assistance, which have exceeded \$15 billion and reached more than 100 countries.

The government of Kuwait also welcomed the reports issued by the U.N. and its specialized agencies regarding the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals adopted in the 2005 international summit



Modern skyline: The city of Kuwait is the main economic hub of the country. EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

and it is proud of the achievements in terms of reducing the numbers of people affected by AIDS, the availability of medication for a higher number of patients suffering from this disease and other infectious diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis. Despite these achievements, challenges are still tremendous before reaching the MDGs by

2015 for many reasons, for instance, the economic and financial global crisis, which has affected major economies around the world leading to a slowdown in economic growth, in addition to the issue of sovereign debt in a number of European countries and the U.S. as well.

Today's world is in dire need **CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**

Deep appreciation for Kuwait's help in keeping Japan's lifelines running

Yoshikatsu Nakayama
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-KUWAIT PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF JAPAN

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 51st anniversary of the National Day of the State of Kuwait. Last year, Japan and Kuwait marked 50 years since the establishment of the bilateral relationship. I would like to express my deep respect and gratitude for those who have made contributions throughout the long history of bilateral relations, in which the two countries have cooperated in developing the economic society.



Last year, in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami, we Japanese received warm sympathy from the people of Kuwait, as well as free crude oil reaching 5 million barrels. In a difficult situation of energy supply in the aftermath of the disasters, the offering of crude oil kept Japan's lifelines running, for which I would like to express again my respect and gratitude for the solicitude and decision of Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the people of Kuwait.

The donated crude oil arrived in our country and the substantial payment is utilized within the reconstruction funds for Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures. The people of these affected prefectures are also thankful for the kindness of the people of Kuwait.

True, there are still piles of challenges, including livelihood support for the people and restoration of economic infrastructure in these areas, but we are steadily moving ahead toward reconstruction. I expect that support from the people of Kuwait will be of great help for our reconstruction work.

Keeping in our mind the assistance from the people of Kuwait, we would like to work to our best for the development of the economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries. Last December, we welcomed a large-scale governmental and business delegation from Kuwait, headed by then Minister of State for Planning and Development H.E. Abdel Wahab Ahmed Rashid Al-Haroun, and the 16th meeting of the Kuwaiti-Japanese Businessmen's Committee was held successfully.

The Kuwaiti-Japanese Businessmen's Committee has been annually held since it started in 1995 as a forum for exchange by businesspeople of both countries to promote trade and investment. Today, the State of Kuwait is planning projects to further develop its railways, ports, oil factories and water treatment plants. I am convinced that Japanese companies will be able to greatly contribute to these economic projects with their cutting-edge technologies.

I sincerely hope that the bilateral relations will be further enhanced in a wide range of areas, including the economic and cultural, and will lead to the development of both countries.

Heartiest Greetings and Congratulations to the State of Kuwait on the Occasion of the 51st Anniversary of National Day and the 21st Anniversary of Liberation Day

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**H.H. The Amir,
H.H. The Crown Prince, H.H. The Prime Minister
and The People of The State of Kuwait**

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51st National Day of Kuwait, and
21st Anniversary of Liberation



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HEARTIEST GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STATE OF KUWAIT ON ITS 51st ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL DAY AND 21st ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION



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Kuwait national day

Excellent relations show in times of need

Kuniyasu Takeda
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-KUWAIT SOCIETY

On this auspicious occasion of the 51st anniversary of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, I am pleased to offer on behalf of the members of the Japan-Kuwait Society our sincerest greetings and congratulations to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as to the friendly people of Kuwait.



To begin with, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the superb leadership and people of Kuwait for the beneficent aid sent to Japan after the unprecedented disaster caused by the March 11 Great East Japan Earthquake and the tsunami. The support included a donation of 5 million barrels of crude oil worth \$500 million and a variety of commodities. The first shipment of the crude oil arrived in October at a refinery in Yokohama, where a commemorative ceremony was held

with Kuwait Petroleum Corp. CEO Farouq Al-Zanki, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan Abdul-Rahman Humood Al-Otaibi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Yukio Edano and Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshiyuki Kato attending.

Ambassador Al-Otaibi rushed to the disaster-stricken areas in northeastern Japan to convey Kuwait's solidarity with the sufferers and delivered food, daily necessities and school supplies, including 240 soccer balls printed with the national flags of Kuwait and Japan. Ambassador Al-Otaibi also organized and hosted a charity bazaar in the embassy site in Tokyo to raise assistance funds for the earthquake and tsunami victims. The one-day event, where a variety of quality Kuwaiti products such as traditional costumes, artifacts, food, sweets and coffee were on sale, attracted many people and achieved a great success with a good deal of proceeds earned for donation.

The friendly gesture of the Kuwaiti leaders and diplomats in the form of a great sum of contribution and material supplies gave the disaster sufferers, children in particular, a sense of strong support and encouragement, and the Japanese public at large a renewed impression that there are strong bonds between the two nations.

The relations between Japan and Kuwait date back to 1958 when an oil exploration concession agreement was signed between the Arabian Oil Co. of Japan and the government of Kuwait. Ever since Japan and Kuwait established diplomatic relations in 1961, the two countries have fostered friendly relations in broad spheres ranging from economy, scientific technology, environment protection and education to cultural exchanges.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Japan-Kuwait diplomatic relations last year, the Japanese Embassy in Kuwait sponsored various events featuring theatrical performances, including traditional Japanese dance, drama, movies and drumming, as well as exhibitions of time-honored artifacts and tourism campaign programs.

In the economic field, the 16th meeting of the Japanese-Kuwaiti Businessmen's Committee was held in December in Tokyo, attended by 120 businessmen from the two countries. The committee has met almost every year alternately in Tokyo and Kuwait since 1995 to exchange views and discuss ways of economic cooperation. Also, a Kuwait Investment Seminar organized by the Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East was held in December in Tokyo, in which more

Japanese participation through investment and technological assistance was urged so that Kuwait's \$108 billion investment plan over 4 years from 2010 can be realized.

I am happy to see that the ties between Japan and Kuwait have grown stronger year after year during the past 50 years of diplomatic relations. Our relations, once centered on trade in oil and industrial products, have now expanded to encompass trade, technological cooperation, human resource development, cultural exchanges and sports.

Behind the excellent official relations, the Japan-Kuwait Society has laid the groundwork for academic and cultural exchanges between our two peoples for the past 47 years. With cultural and Islamic subjects as focal points, we will keep on doing our best to promote friendly relations and mutual understanding between the two peoples.

Last but not least, I would like to offer my sincerest appreciation to Ambassador Al-Otaibi for the selfless devotion he showed when helping the earthquake- and tsunami-stricken Japanese people.

Hoping that our excellent relations develop further, I pray for the prosperity and progress of Kuwait and its peace-loving people.

Bilateral cooperation with Japan flourishing on various levels

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of a global commercial system that is fair, just and balanced in order to fill the mounting gap between the countries and achieve their mutual interests, and help integrate the low-income economies into the global economic system. At the same time, developed nations must fulfill their commitments and raise their official development assistance to the internationally established average of 0.06 percent of the gross national product (GNP).

Despite being a small developing country, Kuwait has an honorable record of providing assistance and contributions to the international community and it didn't spare any effort in extending emergency humanitarian assistance voluntarily to countries that were devastated by natural disasters and in response to calls from the U.N. and its agencies to alleviate the sufferings of the people of those nations.

Believing in the mounting importance of the U.N. in humanitarian work, the government of the State of Kuwait has raised its voluntary assistance for a number of organizations and specialized agencies such as the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the U.N. Central Emergency Response Fund and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). And out of its belief in securing and protecting human rights and its unwavering commitment and respect of the relevant international conventions, the government of the State of Kuwait was elected in May 2011 to the membership of the U.N. Human Rights Council for the period 2011-2014.

Additionally, Kuwait has exerted itself at becoming a bridge that brings different viewpoints closer through many initiatives and international conferences that promote dialogue, reform, development, human rights, etc. Consequently, in 2011 Kuwait hosted the eighth session of the Forum for the Future in which



Traditional vessels: Kuwaitis used to fish in many kinds of ships to live off the resources of the sea. EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

a delegation from Japan led by H.E. Joe Nakano, parliamentary vice minister for foreign affairs, participated actively. This forum is a cooperative initiative among the countries of the greater Middle East, North Africa, the Group of Eight (G-8) and other partners working toward promoting and fostering political, economic and social reform in the region.

Kuwait also hosted the 10th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) in October, a continent-wide annual forum comprising 30 countries and promotes openness and respect for diversity and supports cooperation between its members in energy, agriculture, biotechnology, tourism, poverty alleviation, IT development, "e-education" and financial cooperation. Japan took part in this session through a delegation headed by H.E. Kazuyuki Hamada, parliamentary vice minister for foreign affairs, who was also granted an audience with His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Furthermore, among the high-ranking officials from Japan who visited Kuwait last year, H.E. Makiko Kikuta, parliamentary vice minister for foreign affairs, represented H.E. Prime Minister Naoto Kan during the national celebrations in February.

From the Kuwaiti side, I recall the memorable visit to Japan by His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah when he was then prime minister, and this remarkable visit was complemented in 2008 by the visit of His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, then prime minister. In June 2010, Sheikh Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, then deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, visited Japan to co-chair the first joint committee meeting between the government of Japan and the government of the State of Kuwait, during which both sides agreed to scale up cooperation in the fields of renewable energy, nuclear energy, energy conservation, water business and medical tourism.

These exchanges have resulted in numerous successful achievements, including the signing of the Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income between the Government of Kuwait and the Government of Japan.

Furthermore, the success of the third round of negotiations of the draft agreement on the promotion and protection of investments between our countries paved the way for the final

considerations of this draft and we hope that a final agreement will be reached in the near future because of its importance in opening new prospects for the exchange of direct investments between Kuwait and Japan.

Our cooperation has equally flourished on many levels, of which we cite only a few; the great achievements of the regular meetings of the Kuwaiti-Japanese Businessmen's Committee, which continues to serve as a common platform for active and productive discussions between the business communities in both countries, eventually reinforcing mutual investments and bilateral trade.

The environmental education program Kids' ISO 14000, which was launched in Kuwait in 2007 by the Japanese NGO ArTech, now includes 700 students from 30 schools nationwide. The authorities in Kuwait have been very pleased with the results attained by this initiative and aspire therefore to expand the program even further with an aim of making Kuwait a pioneer in the field in the region. Environmentally as well, we refer to the cooperation between Kuwait's Environment Public Authority and the Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center (OECC) in Japan on finding solutions to environmental issues in Kuwait.

Moreover, we commend the efforts of the Japan-Kuwait Society, which continues to play a key role in deepening the relations of friendship between our countries and furthering the understanding between our societies.

I am totally confident that the bonds between Japan and Kuwait will continue to strengthen in the future, and I yearn unwaveringly for further constructive collaboration between our governments in the interest of our nations and, together, we will move forward with all determination toward a relationship that would become a role model for other nations to follow.

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