

UAE national day

Agreements bring Japan closer to the emirates

Saeed Ali Al-Nowais
AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES

On the very auspicious occasion of the 41st anniversary of UAE's National Day, I am honored and privileged to convey, on behalf of the government and people of the UAE, 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 heartfelt felicitations to H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, president of the UAE, ruler of Abu Dhabi, and 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 and rulers of the emirates.

Since the inauguration of diplomatic relations almost four decades ago, the strong ties between our two countries have continued to witness substantial progress. Despite the very difficult year, characterized by a slowdown in the global economy, coupled with last year's earthquake, both countries have successfully managed to boost bilateral trade during 2011, up

by 37.5 percent, rising from \$36.6 billion in 2010, to \$50.4 billion in 2011, making the UAE occupy ninth place among Japan's trading partners. The overall picture of bilateral trade seems to be very bright and promising. The total value of trade grew by around 8 percent to \$40.15 billion during the first nine months of this year, compared to \$37.22 billion in the corresponding period last year. These figures prove that our solid bonds can endure any type of challenge.

This year again, the relationship between the UAE and Japan has been marked by a series of momentous events. In January, Foreign Minister Koichiro Genba visited the UAE and had fruitful talks with senior government officials including H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE's foreign minister. During his stay, he visited Masdar City, now under construction at the outskirts of Abu Dhabi at the initiative of Masdar, Abu Dhabi's multifaceted renewable energy company. Masdar is currently collaborating with various leading Japanese companies for technical cooperation.

The Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) will be hosted by Masdar in Abu Dhabi in January 2013. The five conferences and related events will focus on the pressing issues such as: energy, water and environment, which

are fundamental requirements of sustainable development. These gatherings will increase our country's position as a recognized global leader committed to a sustainable future. We welcome many of the participants from Japanese concerned authorities and companies to ADSW.

Our bilateral relationship also extends into the field of higher education. Five UAE students from the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology (MIST), a graduate-level institution dedicated to alternative energy and sustainable technologies, completed their internships supported by the economy ministry (METI) at Japanese companies. I believe that this sort of program can develop their overall capabilities and equip them with the right skills to be full-fledged professionals. I strongly hope that there will come a day when they will apply the newfound knowledge and skills to the advantage of their country.

Most recently, the Japan Abu Dhabi Economic Forum hosted its second meeting in Abu Dhabi last month, following the first memorable meeting held in Tokyo in February of this year. It truly indicates a bilateral desire to develop areas of cooperation and common interests with the view of achieving our common goals. The meeting, which brought together about 150 par-

ticipants from the governments and private sectors of both countries, discussed a wide range of issues on top of which was the prospect of deepening economic ties, promoting bilateral trade, investments and building common ground for the private sector of Abu Dhabi and Japan.

It is a real pleasure for me to inform you that the aviation authorities of the UAE and Japan concluded a bilateral air service agreement this year that allows Emirates airline and Etihad Airways, our national carriers, to increase their services to Japan. From summer 2013, both airlines will launch direct flights to Haneda airport in Tokyo, as well as increasing the number of flights to Narita airport near Tokyo to 14 per week, with the objective of meeting the robust demand for air travel between our two countries. The number of passengers of both Emirates and Etihad airlines, which had reached 220,000 in 2009 and 370,000 passengers in 2010, jumped to 410,000 passengers in 2011, according to Japan's Finance Ministry. Our national carriers have been demonstrating the success of their business model in the Japanese market since their inaugurations.

It is worth noting that the UAE and Japan reached an initial agreement on avoidance of double taxation on income and

prevention of monetary evasion in October. Both countries have conducted negotiations toward signing the agreement since November 2006 in order to create a distinctive climate to accelerate mutual economic exchanges. It's hoped that the movement of capital, investments and technology as well as trade, tourism and air transport between the UAE and Japan will be facilitated after ratification by the authorities concerned in both countries.

In terms of the UAE's economy, it is expected to grow by 3.5 percent to 4 percent during 2012, an impressive achievement at a time of growing difficulties for the global economy and the political changes in the Middle East, because our country is one of the most politically stable countries in the region and a relatively safe destination for tourism and investment.

Oil and gas remain, of course, of enormous importance to UAE's industry. Our country has the seventh largest proven reserves of both oil and natural gas in the world, with the majority of the reserves in Abu Dhabi. By mid-2012, the emirate's daily oil production reached 2.8 billion barrels a day, and a targeted production of 3 million bpd has been set for the end of the year.

The UAE boasts its position as a stable, secure and reliable supplier of energy to Japan. The UAE has further maintained its position as the second largest oil supplier to Japan, providing it with almost 23.8 percent of its total oil imports. Also, the majority of liquefied natural gas shipments go to Japan and the UAE is now considered to be Japan's seventh largest LNG exporter. Besides oil and gas, our country has ranked sixth among the largest aluminum suppliers to Japan.

Given its strategic location, greater stability and attractive business environment, the UAE is becoming a favorable home and destination to major Japanese companies operating



Effort: The official logo of the UAE's bid to host the World Expo 2020. For more information, visit the website <http://expo2020dubai.ae/en>.

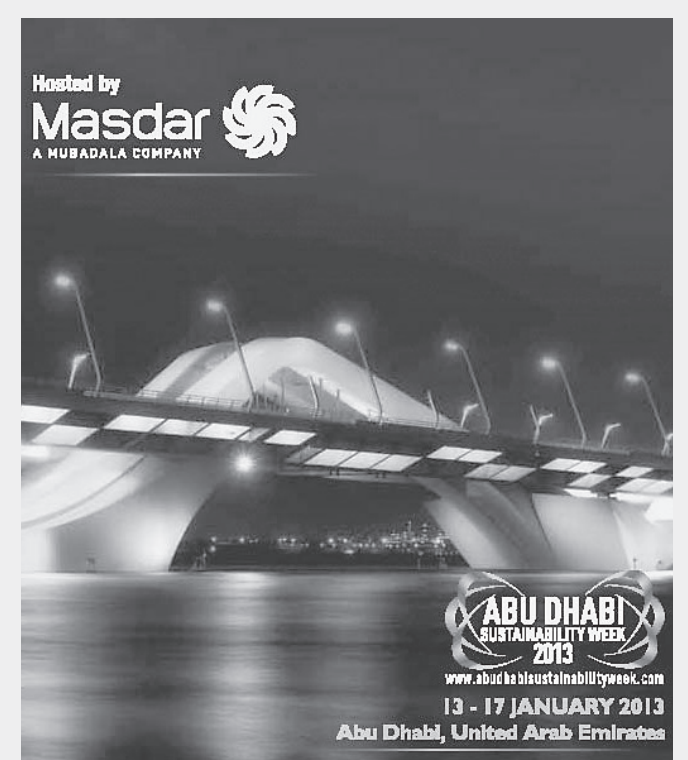
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

in the region. There are 380 Japanese companies and over 3,000 Japanese residents living in the UAE, representing the largest Japanese community in the Middle East and Africa combined.

Now, I would like to seize this opportunity to request a favor of the friendly Japanese people. The UAE is working hard and mobilizing all its potentials to host the World Expo 2020 in Dubai. You are well aware that Dubai is more than capable of hosting such a gigantic event given its excellent facilities and infrastructures. We, therefore, kindly seek Japan's support and backing in realizing our endeavor toward hosting this significant world-class event.

In terms of foreign policy, the UAE has always maintained three fundamental principles; that is to say the noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, good neighborly relations and peaceful approach and solution to international problems. This last principle has been applied to the issue of our occupied islands where the UAE is advocating a solution based on mutual negotiations or a referral to the International Court of Justice. (ICJ)

I am proud and thoroughly satisfied with the diligent and



International: The cover of the official booklet of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week. EMBASSY OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week

Coinciding with the third session of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) General Assembly, taking place in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates will host Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week from Jan. 13 to 17, 2013, comprised of related events as follows:

- International Renewable Energy Agency General Assembly**
 - Jan. 13-14, 2013, in Abu Dhabi
- World Future Energy Summit 2013**
 - Jan. 15-17, 2013, at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center (ADNEC)
- ADIREC 2013**
 - Jan. 15-17, 2013, at ADNEC
- International Water Summit 2013**
 - Jan. 15-17, 2013, at ADNEC
- The Zayed Future Energy Prize Awards Ceremony**
 - Jan. 15, 2013, at Emirates Palace

For more information, visit www.abudhabisustainabilityweek.com.

determined efforts of our two countries to strengthen and deepen the mutual relations, which are steadily producing visible and remarkable results in various fields. I have the utmost pleasure to extend my sincere

gratitude to Japanese organizations that have been working relentlessly to elevate our bilateral relations. Finally, I wish the people of both UAE and Japan many more years of sustainable progress and prosperity.

Bilateral relationship will continue to become more intimate

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 anniversary of the founding 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.

The relationship between our countries has been continuing to grow. The cooperative relationship in oil has continued for over 40 years, and many people have been going back and forth between our countries. Such strong interpersonal networks have laid the

cornerstone for successful cooperation in a wide range of fields including education, investment and renewable energy.

In Tokyo in February and Abu Dhabi in November, the Japan-UAE Business Council was held, participated by business executives of both countries. In October, our countries reached a basic agreement on a bilateral tax treaty, which had been a long-standing issue. It is expected that mutual investment between our countries will expand further.

In December, "urasenke chado" tea ceremony master Sen Genshitsu is planning to visit Abu Dhabi to hold a tea ceremony. I also heard that Yuko Hasegawa, the chief curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, has been invited to Sharjah Biennial 11, an international art exhibition in Sharjah, UAE, in March. Exchange in art and culture is also deepening between our countries.

In addition, the World Future Energy Summit, one of the world's largest

international conferences on renewable energy, and the International Water Summit will be held in Abu Dhabi in January. It is expected more and more Japanese companies will do business in UAE from now on.

Etihad Airways and Emirates will be able to fly to and from Haneda airport in Tokyo from next summer. That will further expand bilateral cooperation in tourism and human exchange. We, The Japan-UAE Parliamentary Friendship League, are very happy for that.

I believe the relationship between Japan and the UAE will continue to become increasingly intimate. On this occasion of the UAE's 41st anniversary, may I also 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.

Deepening interpersonal exchanges between the two countries

Keiichiro Okabe
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-UAE SOCIETY

On the occasion of the 41st anniversary of the founding of the UAE, I offer my cordial congratulations to President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, members of the Federal Supreme Council and the people of the UAE.

Since the founding of the nation in 1971, the country has improved its social stability and has enjoyed robust economic growth under the nation-building ideals and wise leadership of the late President H.H. Sheikh

Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, the UAE's founding father, and of President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, even while the Middle East has been experiencing turbulent change. Our country almost completely depends on overseas exports for oil and natural gases, and in this regard the UAE is one of the main suppliers of such resources to our country, and the relationship between Japan and the UAE have established strong economic interdependence as longtime, important economic partners to each other. In addition, Japan and the UAE have been deepening mutual understanding, year by year, through the promotion and exchanges and relations in various areas, including in cul-

ture, education, tourism, and sports. To provide one example, direct flights between Japan and UAE have been increasing, and starting next year, Etihad Airways and Emirates will begin offering direct flights from Haneda airport in Tokyo. We hope that such developments will further expand interpersonal exchanges between the two countries.

On behalf of the Japan-UAE Society, I also visit the UAE several times a year, and have the great opportunity to meet members of the government including President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. The grand initiatives that the leaders of the UAE advance — the enhancement of energy technology, diversification of domestic indus-

tries, and fostering the growth of human capital — have all moved me deeply as greatly visionary initiatives that stem from long-term country planning. In regard to these above-mentioned initiatives, I believe that there are plenty of possibilities where both Japan's public and private sector can provide the technology and knowhow to cooperate and contribute toward helping the UAE achieve those goals.

The Japan-UAE Society also hopes that, through the cooperation of our corporate members, we will become a bridge between the UAE and Japan. I once again express my earnest hope for the further prosperity of the UAE and even more intimate bilateral relations between the two countries.

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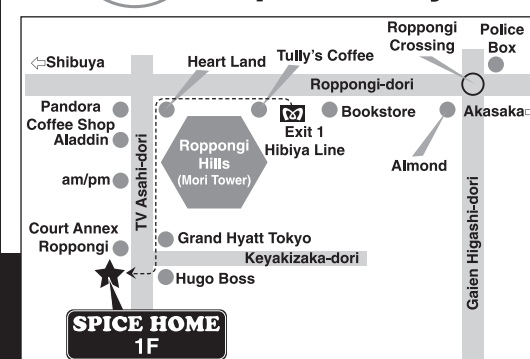
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