

Iran national day

Iran marks 34th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution

Reza Nazar Ahari
AMBASSADOR OF IRAN

Feb. 10, 2013, marks the 34th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. Thirty-four years ago the culmination of an arduous struggle by the Iranian people under the inspiring leadership of Imam Khomeini came to fruit, ending an authoritarian regime, and paving the way for political independence, and the creation of a system based on Islamic principles and the people's wishes.

On this auspicious occasion, I express my sincere greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, members of the Imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the government and friendly people of Japan. I also extend my heartfelt congratulations to my compatriots in Japan.

Undoubtedly, the Islamic Revolution has been one of the most significant events of the 20th century. Even non-Muslim scholars recognized it as a revolution of spirit in an age without the spirit.

During the past 34 years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has confronted many adversaries and plots, including eight years of an imposed war. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always sought international cooperation, and extended its friendship to all nations by emphasizing the mutuality of interests and noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries. "Détente" is the main agenda of our foreign policy, and in order to approach this policy the Islamic Republic of Iran has tried from its inception to give priority to confidence-building through the exchange of visits and the holding of international gatherings. Nowadays, the Islamic Repub-

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

lic of Iran is actively engaged in cooperation with the United Nations, Japan and other countries for the settlement of hostilities, and the preservation of peace in our region and in the world through dialogue and peaceful solutions. Combating terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, and preventing the propagation of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction are other pillars of our foreign policy.

In spite of the aforementioned policies, my country has been subjected to unjust and illegal sanctions even though we are merely following our natural, absolute and legitimate right to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. In this regard the Islamic Republic of Iran has fully cooperated with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and has supported a nuclear weapons-free Middle-East and global disarmament.

Iran has also strongly condemned the carrying out of nuclear tests, and considers the move as a threat to world peace and evidence of the hypocritical double standards set by some countries. These kinds of tests are contrary to the U.N. calls for global disarmament.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is against the production, stock-

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad,
president of the Islamic
Republic of Iran

piling, development and proliferation of nuclear weapons, and considers that the production of new generations of these weapons would particularly inhibit constructive efforts toward disarmament, and rejects production of any and all nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. In view of our logical and firm approach for engagement aimed at resolving the nuclear and other issues of mutual interest on the basis of dialogue and international law, and to prove our good intentions we have been continuing our dialogue with the IAEA and P5+1 for a settlement, and building confidence between Iran and the international community. As I mentioned before, the unilateral sanctions are, strictly speaking, illegal from the prism of international law, simply because they go well beyond the realm of U.N. sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the organization's charter (i.e., as an issue of international peace and security) despite the fact that Iran has never been found to be in breach of its NPT (Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty) obligations.

Relations with Japan

Iran and Japan are ancient civilizations whose relations span centuries. They are two very important Asian countries with numerous historical and cultural commonalities. Although the relations between Iran and Japan go back at least to 1200 years, the victory of the Islamic Revolution has brought about a solidification and intensification of these relations, and during the past three decades Japan has been one of Iran's main economic partners, and at the same time, an important partner for regional and international consultation for the preservation of peace and security. Iran and Japan have also increased

their cooperation in international bodies and have taken common efforts for the economic reconstruction of Afghanistan. In this regard, H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, visited Japan in early July 2012 to attend the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan and had a meeting with H.E. Koichiro Genba, then minister for foreign affairs of Japan. The two ministers exchanged opinions on bilateral ties, as well as regionally and internationally important issues, and agreed to continue the exchanges of opinions in the future.

Another important visit was the participation of H.E. Shamseddin Hosseini, minister of economic affairs and finance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the IMF and World Bank Group annual meetings, and the exchange of views with senior Japanese high officials on the sidelines of the said event.

In 2012 the volume of trade between the two countries reached to nearly \$9 billion and the flow of Iranian oil to the Japanese market continued, although with a slower pace, due to unjust, illegitimate "sanctions". We hope with the commencement of the new government in Japan, we will witness transformation of Iran-Japan relations to realize their true potential, which has long been the visions of Iran's government and people.

Cultural and Tourism

Iran, as one of the oldest civilizations, and a country that extended into Asia and the Middle East, possesses a very rich culture. In general, Iranians, similar to the people of Japan, are art lovers. They express their attitude in architecture, paintings, ceramics, poetry, drama, movies, gardening, etc. According to UNESCO's classification, three of the 12 most important World Heritage sites are located in Iran, making this country one of the most important touristic places in the world. Today the works of Iranian culture and civilization are seen in many museums around the world, but Iran by itself is a vast museum in which you can see hills, archaeological sites such as Persepolis and Pasargadae, old houses, palaces, etc. In the museums of Iran you can see thousands of mementos golden bowls, clay creations from the New Stone Age, and works from the Islamic era such as handwritings, ornaments, miniatures, and many



Long history: Located near the modern city of Shiraz, the ancient ruins of Persepolis, the capital of the Achaemenid Persian Empire (c. 550-330 B.C.), are designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Right: A map of Iran shows the geopolitical significance of the nation, owing to its location in three spheres of Asia (West, Central and South).



splendid colorful carpets and rugs. Iran is also a cradle of security in West Asia, and owing to the hospitality and philanthropy of its people, every year hundreds of thousands of tourists visit the country and leave with good memories.

Recent mutual visits of officials of Iran and Japan, and the signing of an agreement for developing touristic exchanges between the two countries has fur-

ther paved the way for increasing the number of tourists. The main tourist destinations in Iran are Persepolis, Shiraz, Isfahan, Yazd, Kashan, Hamadan, the Caspian Sea area, Kish, etc.

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tokyo is disposed to facilitate the process of rapid visa issuing and providing further information regarding visits to Iran.

Thank you

Japan, Iran work to strengthen further friendly ties in all areas

Masahiko Komura
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-IRAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE


On behalf of the Japan-Iran Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to convey my sincerest congratulations to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the auspicious occasion of the 34th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Among the people of Japan, it is widely known that Iran has a distinguished civilization as well as exchanges between the people of both countries through the Silk Road.

We hope that the nuclear issue is resolved in a peaceful and diplomatic manner through confidence-building efforts between EU3+3 and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I sincerely hope the existing friendly ties between Japan and the Islamic Republic of Iran will be strengthened further in all areas. As president of the Japan-Iran Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I will earnestly endeavor to promote understanding between the two countries.

Once again, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on this auspicious occasion and my best wishes for the prosperity of the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran.




Congratulations
on the Occasion of
the 34th Anniversary of
the Islamic Revolution of Iran

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