

## Kuwait national day

## Taking the initiative in helping nations less fortunate

State provides aid through several mechanisms while gathering international support

Abdul-Rahman Humood Al-Otaibi  
AMBASSADOR OF KUWAIT

On the auspicious occasion of the 52nd anniversary of independence and the 22nd anniversary of the liberation of the State of Kuwait from the brutal Iraqi invasion, I am honored to extend my sincerest congratulations to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the government and the people of the State of Kuwait. I am also honored and delighted to express my respect and salutation to His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito and Her Imperial Majesty Empress Michiko and Their Imperial Highnesses the members of the Imperial family, and the government and the friendly people of Japan. I wish Japan and its people prosperity and well-being, as well as longevity and health to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate H.E. Shinzo Abe on his election as prime minister for a second time, wishing him all the success in shouldering the paramount responsibility of leading the great nation of Japan toward a better future. I am confident that the newly formed government will contribute to strengthening the bonds of cooperation between Japan and Kuwait based on their long history of bilateral collaboration in regional and international matters.

In 2012, the State of Kuwait celebrated the 50-year golden jubilee of the ratification of the

constitution, which came as the culmination of four decades of political development. The constitution consolidated the relationship between the ruler and the citizens, leading to the effective practice of institutional democracy through the separation of power among a legislature, an executive and a judiciary. The constitution also safeguarded the fundamental freedoms and defined general policies of the state and on the relations with foreign nations from the viewpoint of preserving independence, sovereignty and sanctity of Kuwaiti soil based on the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

The constitution also concretized the political aspirations of the Kuwaiti people for peace and working toward attaining it and preserving it, and therefore, they are always keen to develop their relations with all countries on the regional and international levels without any discrimination based on the principle of mutual respect and common interests.

The State of Kuwait is aware of the challenges that today's world is facing on the environmental, social and security levels, and their strong impact on developing and least developed nations. Equally important are the repercussions of the financial crisis and its global consequences, global warming, natural disasters and terrorism. In this regard, the State of Kuwait has been exerting strong efforts to reduce and contain the effects of these challenges and contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Despite being considered as a developing nation, the State of Kuwait has had a resolute standpoint since its independence in 1961, which is to pay particular



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

attention to assisting developing and least developed nations, through several mechanisms and initiatives, including the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, which offers development assistance to countries in the Arab world, Africa, Asia, Central and Latin America, based on their belief in the importance of international cooperation and assisting the least fortunate people.

Furthermore, the State of Kuwait supports the efforts exerted by the United Nations to fight climate change through active participation in the ongoing negotiations on reducing the negative effects of this phenomenon based on the principles and provisions stipulated in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol, and their effective and sustainable implementation, as they are considered legal tools and foundations of international collaboration on this matter, especially the principle of shared responsibility.



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

In reference to this, the State of Kuwait reiterates the importance of taking into account the difference in capacities and national priorities between nations when considering the responsibilities and obligations aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, to support the sustainable development of all countries equally.

In this regard, the State of Kuwait is particularly interested in renewable energy and in diversifying its resources of energy with the purpose of preserving the environment. For that reason, concerned authorities in Kuwait have launched an implementation phase of an ambitious plan to use wind and solar energy in a project aimed at increasing the national reliance on these sources to 1 percent in 2015, then eventually to 15 percent of the total electricity output in the year 2030.

With particular reference to the interest in promoting joint work on both regional and international levels, the State of Kuwait hosted the first Summit of the Asian Cooperation Dia-

logue on Oct. 15 and 16, 2012, during which His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah called for the mobilization of financial resources amounting to \$2 billion for a program aiming at financing development projects in Asian non-Arab nations, thus contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Consequently, the State of Kuwait donated \$300 million to the said fund.

Likewise, the Syria Donors Conference hosted by the State of Kuwait on Jan. 30, 2013, was a success because it exceeded its target of collecting more than \$1.5 billion in aid for the suffering people of Syria. During the conference, and given its long experience in foreign relations, the State of Kuwait displayed able leadership in gathering international collaboration in finding suitable means to alleviate the pain of the Syrian people. The conference was also successful given the number and variety of countries in attendance. The wide attendance was enough proof of the high level of importance the conference was given. Not only that, but the conference saw parties with different takes on the Syrian crisis share the same table.

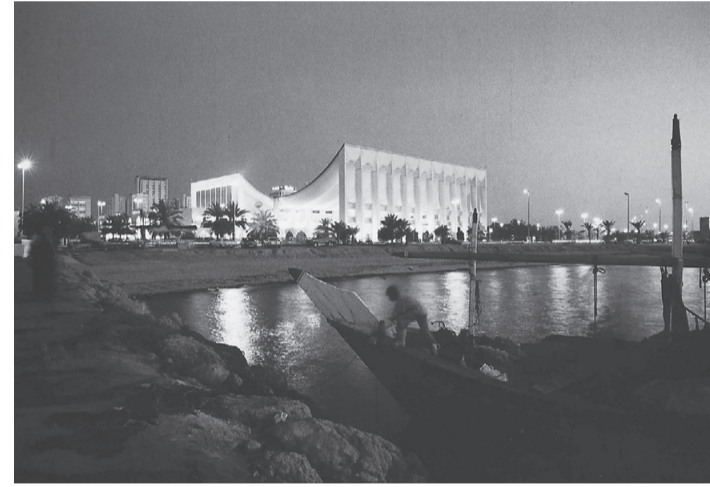
Furthermore, the State of Kuwait is scheduled to host the Arab-African Summit around November, which, we hope, will achieve its intended goals on strengthening cooperation between Arab and African nations and opening new horizons of collaboration for the benefit of stability, development and prosperity of both regions.

With reference to the deep bilateral relations of friendship between the State of Kuwait and Japan, we recall, with all due honor and pride, the



Constitutional emirate: On Nov. 11, 1962, Amir Abdullah Al-Salim Al-Sabah ratifies the draft constitution of the State of Kuwait, which would come into force on Jan. 29, 1963, when the first session of the National Assembly of Kuwait was convened. Right: Located in Kuwait City, the Kuwait National Assembly Building was designed in 1972 by Danish architect Jom Utzon, who also designed the Sydney Opera House. The National Assembly Building was completed in 1982.

EMBASSY OF KUWAIT



## Deepening the ties that connect our friendly nations

Yuriko Koike  
CHAIRWOMAN, JAPAN-KUWAIT PARLIAMENTARY  
FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

On behalf of the Japan-Kuwait Parliamentary Friendship League, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of Kuwait.

In the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, the State of Kuwait offered one of the earliest and biggest supports for the affected areas. The people of the areas as well as the whole of Japan shall never forget the feelings of gratitude toward Kuwait.

The assistance from Kuwait covers a lot of ground. In addition to the donation of crude oil reaching 5 million barrels, equal to ¥40 billion, H.H. the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah expressed during his visit to Japan as a state guest last March his intention to donate \$2 million (¥170 million) to the Japanese Red Cross Society and of \$3 million to Aquamarine Fukushima.

Let me express my heartfelt gratitude to H.H. the Amir Sheikh Sabah and the people of Kuwait as well as Kuwaiti Ambassador Abdul-Rahman Humood Al-Otaibi, who made repeated visits to the devastated areas and provided

accurate information about Japan's needs to his home country, and the staff members of the embassy.

On Feb. 12, after assuming the position as the chairwoman of the Japan-Kuwait Parliamentary Friendship League, I paid a visit to the State of Kuwait, where I received a welcome from H.H. Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Also, I renewed my old friendship with H.H. Sheikh Amthal.

The State of Kuwait is known as one of the most advanced nations in terms of democratization among the Arab countries. I visited the Kuwait National Assembly and exchanged opinions with my counterpart, the representative of the Kuwait-Japan parliamentary league. It is necessary to continue to promote bonds between Japan and Kuwait across all levels in the future.

It has been more than half a century since Japan established diplomatic ties with the friendly nation of Kuwait. I sincerely hope that the bilateral relations in various fields, including politics, economics, culture and environment, will be further deepened and expanded. To make this come true, I am determined to persevere in my best efforts.

In closing, I would like to extend my cordial wishes to H.H. the Amir Sheikh Sabah for his continued good health and to the State of Kuwait for its further development.



**Heartiest Greetings and Congratulations  
to the State of Kuwait  
on the Occasion of  
the 52nd Anniversary of National Day and  
the 22nd Anniversary of Liberation Day**

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and The People of The State of Kuwait

On the Occasion of the  
52nd National Day of Kuwait, and  
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# Kuwait national day

## Friendly relations develop further

Kuniyasu Takeda  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-KUWAIT SOCIETY

On this auspicious occasion of the 52nd 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.



The year 2012 marked a historic visit to Japan by H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in March. H.H. Sheikh Sabah arrived in Tokyo as a state guest and was warmly received at the Imperial Palace by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito, who was recuperating from heart bypass surgery. The Amir attended the welcoming ceremony including the review of the honor guard and the exchanges of medals. He also attended the Imperial dinner hosted by His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito on behalf of the Emperor.

H.H. Sheikh Sabah and Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda signed two agreements. One was to

encourage investment and the other to promote cultural exchanges. The visit of the Amir of Kuwait added a fresh page to the half-century-old history of friendship between Japan and Kuwait.

What deserves special mention is that H.H. Sheikh Sabah during his state visit to Japan announced a fresh donation of \$5 million, of which \$3 million was for the restoration of the Aquamarine Fukushima aquarium, and \$2 million for support to the earthquake sufferers in Fukushima Prefecture. Kuwait contributed 5 million barrels of crude oil worth \$500 million immediately after the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011. The earthquake support contributed by Kuwait was the largest amount ever donated to Japan by any country in the world.

Representing the Japan-Kuwait Society, I was accorded an audience with the Amir of Kuwait at Akasaka Palace, the state guest house, and was deeply impressed by his warm personality. I expressed deep appreciation for the unprecedented, generous contribution Kuwait made to Japan when this country was suffering serious devastation from the gigantic earthquake and the ensuing massive tsunami. After briefing him on the activities of this friendship association, I made mention of our commitment to continued efforts of promoting friendship between the peoples of Japan and Kuwait. H.H. Sheikh Sabah

reciprocated by appreciating the Japan-Kuwait Society for its culture-oriented activities he often recognized in the past when he visited Japan many times as foreign minister and prime minister.

Kuwait is a constitutional sheikhdom and has the oldest directly elected parliament among the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council. It has grown into a highly sophisticated welfare state on the copious oil-wealth since it became independent from British protection in 1961. A state that honors mutual respect and equality at the core of its foreign policy, Kuwait is witness to many international scenes, playing active intermediary roles. It was in this context that Kuwait sponsored the first Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit in October last year in Kuwait City. The ACD is a forum of 32 countries from all corners of the Asian continent aimed at discussing issues of common interest to boost mutual cooperation and synergy in all areas. At that first summit meeting attended by heads of state of the ACD member nations, H.H. Sheikh Sabah called for setting up a \$2 billion fund to fight poverty in Asia and announced that Kuwait would contribute \$300 million to the fund.

Japan-Kuwait relations date back to 1958, when the Arabian Oil Co. of Japan acquired oil and gas concessions in the offshore Divided Zone, a deal that led to discovery of the massive Khafji

Oilfield. 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 be specific, the Japanese-Kuwaiti Businessmen's Committee has met almost every year alternately in Tokyo and Kuwait since 1995 to exchange views and discuss ways of economic cooperation. The meetings of the committee by now number 17, the latest of which was held last September in Kuwait. The meeting was attended by 30 Kuwaiti members including H.E. Hani Abdulaziz Hussain, minister of oil, and Co-chairman of the Committee Khalid Al-Saqr, and 50 Japanese members including Co-chairman of the Committee Hiroshi Saito.

Last but not least, I would like to offer my sincerest appreciation to H.E. Abdul-Rahman Al-Otaibi, ambassador of Kuwait to Japan, for his amazingly powerful reaching-out efforts for enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation between our two nations. I happily note that his initiative of promoting Kuwait to a broader reach of the Japanese population has proved successful.

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

## Working for our nations' mutual benefit

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historic state visit by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Japan in March 2012 upon the generous invitation by His Imperial Majesty the Emperor as a token of appreciation for His Highness's role in strengthening the friendly bilateral relations between our nations.

This visit resulted in several important outcomes, the most prominent of which was sharing a viewpoint between the leaders of both countries on major regional and international issues and their common desire to strengthen bilateral cooperation in different areas, in particular in investment and economy. In this regard, our countries signed an Agreement on the Protection and Promotion of Investment.

Additionally, the large-scale development plan adopted in 2010, with the estimated cost reaching \$129 billion, has been implemented with one significant goal; that is, to transform our country into a major financial hub and trade center by 2035. With its 1,370 mega projects, we believe that this plan offers a great investment opportunity for leading Japanese companies to benefit from the envisaged projects of development in areas of infrastructure, trade, education, finance and welfare.

The State of Kuwait is also making its utmost effort to further promote cooperation in a multitude of areas beyond the traditional oil sector in order to encompass education, culture, media, science and technology.

Collaboration in the areas of education and culture with Japan, which has already gained



**Place of learning:** Located in Salmiya, the Scientific Center of Kuwait serves as an institution for environmental education of the Gulf region as well as the history of the country. It spans over 80,000 sq. meters and houses the largest aquarium in the Middle East. EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

international standards, could appear between research institutions such as the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research as well as the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences and the Japanese counterparts.

Universities, with particular reference to the interest from Kuwait University to increase the number of exchange students, could as well be the ground for collaborative activities that contribute to the deepening of mutual understanding between our nations.

The State of Kuwait had been among the ambitious countries desiring to benefit from nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, until the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in 2011, when the State of Kuwait decided to halt this project out of its belief in protecting man and nuclear safety at the same time.

Such a decision further led to participation in the Fukushima

Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety held in Japan from Dec. 15 to 17, 2012, reassuring its support for the efforts aimed at strengthening both nuclear and environmental safety, which is one of the human rights. Kuwait equally emphasizes the importance of commitment to the principles stated in the Action Plan adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency, such as reviewing the safety measures for existing nuclear power plants, strengthening the safety aspects of nuclear power plants, emphasizing the leading role of the IAEA in this domain, promoting transparency in providing information about radiation levels and sharing them with the IAEA, in addition to considering the review of several legislations in order to promote the implementation of these principles.

Finally, I reiterate the commitment that His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait ex-

pressed during his state visit to Japan, his wish to preserve the historical relations of friendship with Japan and to honor our country's commitments in the field of energy toward the importing countries, among which is our long-lasting partner Japan, and to work toward the stability of prices for the benefit of both producing and consuming countries, while taking into consideration Japan's demand for energy in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011 and its implications to the nuclear sector.

We hope that the year 2013 will be a year of peace, security and prosperity to the whole world, to the State of Kuwait and to Japan in particular, hoping that this year will witness the further promotion of the bilateral relations toward desired frameworks for the benefit of the friendly nations and their peoples.

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