

UAE national day

History made with Expo 2020 win

Saeed Ali Al-Nowais
AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES

On the very auspicious occasion of the 42nd UAE National Day, I am honored and privileged to convey, on behalf of the government and people of the United Arab Emirates, my heartfelt greetings and good wishes to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and to the government and great people of Japan. I also extend my sincere felicitations to H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, president of the UAE, and H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, vice president, prime minister and ruler of Dubai, and to the members of the Federal Supreme Council.

First of all, I would like to seize this opportunity to express my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of Japan on their successful endeavor of winning the bid to host the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

The UAE also made history this

year. Our country won the hosting bid of Dubai Expo 2020 last month. The UAE's strategic location as a tourism and trade hub, world-class infrastructure, and political and social stability ensure our country's capability for hosting such a gigantic event. The successful bid will trigger another boom in the tourism and infrastructure industries, and spur business opportunities for Japanese companies. Dubai Expo 2020 is expected to attract 25 million visitors. We have the world's largest airport: the Al Maktoum International Airport opened in October in Dubai, with the annual capacity to handle 160 million passengers when complete. Our country is ready to receive visitors from all over the world. It is with great pleasure that Dubai Expo will be held in the same year as the Tokyo Olympic Games.

This year in particular, has been marked by a series of mutual visits of senior government officials between our two countries. Following the visits of Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry H.E. Toshimitsu Motegi to Abu Dhabi in February and Foreign Minister H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan to Japan in April, the highlight was Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's

visit to the UAE in May. He met with H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid and H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, crown prince of Abu Dhabi and deputy supreme commander of the UAE armed forces. I am delighted to inform you that both countries signed several agreements and MOUs on various levels of cooperation, such as avoidance of double taxation, the peaceful use of nuclear energy, education, health care and culture, during his visit. I hope that they will open up promising opportunities for broader bilateral relations.

We are looking forward to the upcoming visit of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed to Japan in response to the kind invitation of Prime Minister Abe during his visit, as it surely will advance the outstanding relationship between the two countries.

Prime Minister Abe's visit to the UAE has added momentum to the promotion of bilateral relations. For instance, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry H.E. Midori Matsushima visited the UAE in October as a follow-up to the prime minister's visit and attended "Najah Fair 2013" in Abu Dhabi, the largest infor-



World's fair: Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, will be the first Arab country to host a World Expo, when the 2020 event is held there under the theme "Connecting mind, Creating the future."

EMBASSY OF THE UAE



Monumental: Burj Khalifa (above) in Dubai is the tallest building in the world. Ferrari World (left) is a themed amusement park in Abu Dhabi. (Below) the official logo of the UAE's 42nd National Day.



mation fair for education, training and careers in the country. Fifteen Japanese universities participated. One of the UAE's national goals is to deliver high-quality education to young people for the country's further growth. Currently we have 52 students from the UAE studying at various Japanese universities and academic institutions. I affirm that the fair served as a platform to attract UAE students to the Japanese education system and develop their passion to study in Japan, in response to the proposal from Prime Minister Abe, made during his visit, to increase the number of UAE students who study in Japan to 500.

Also, our relationship passed another milestone this year. Emirates Airline added a new daily flight to Hanaeda from Dubai in June. Due to the convenience of Emirates' three gateways in Osaka, Narita and now Hanaeda from Dubai, as well as of Etihad Airways' two gateways in Nagoya and Narita from Abu Dhabi, I am sure that the UAE to Japan route can help to facilitate dynamic bilateral

trade, business and tourism activities as an air bridge connecting the friendship of our two peoples. I hope that Etihad will also start services to Hanaeda.

It is my desire that more Japanese will visit our country and enjoy traditional Arab culture, marvelous natural beauty, luxurious hotels, and excellent facilities for leisure, sport and shopping, such as Yas Island and Saadiyat Island with the Louvre Abu Dhabi, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and Maritime Museum, which will be opened in the near future.

The UAE and Japan have enjoyed a fruitful and remarkable relationship of mutual trust for more than four decades. We view Japan as a top trading partner. Total trade between our two countries in 2012 was \$53.1 billion, up from \$50.4 billion in 2011, making the UAE the eighth largest of Japan's trading partners. The majority of our LNG shipments go to Japan. The UAE now ranks fourth among the largest aluminum suppliers to Japan.

To secure oil shipments, Japan has to play a vital political role in the stability and safety of the Middle East, but the UAE remains the second-largest oil supplier, providing about 22 percent of Japan's total oil imports. Our country is

proud of its position as a secure, stable and reliable supplier of energy to Japan.

It is noteworthy that the UAE is home to about 400 major Japanese companies, and over 3,000 Japanese live and work there, representing the largest Japanese community in the Middle East and Africa. This proves that our country, with our excellent infrastructure, investor-friendly policies, flexible regulations and political stability, is undoubtedly one of the most attractive business destinations for Japanese companies.

I am thoroughly satisfied with the diligent and determined efforts of our two countries for strengthening relations, which are steadily producing visible and remarkable results in various fields. I believe that the 3rd Abu Dhabi-Japan Economic Council held at the end of November will be another cornerstone to bring a new way of looking at the relationship between our two countries in all aspects.

I have the utmost pleasure to extend my sincere gratitude to Japanese organizations that have been working tirelessly to elevate bilateral relations. Finally, I hope for many more years of progress and prosperity for our two countries.

Japan, UAE partnership growing ever closer

Yuriko Koike
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-UAE PARLIAMENTARY
FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On behalf of The Japan-UAE Parliamentary Friendship League, I offer my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 42nd anniversary of the United Arab Emirates.

This May, right after the visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the UAE, I visited Abu Dhabi

along with the president of the Japan-UAE Society, Keiichiro Okabe. The purpose of the visit was to quickly put into practice the multilayered partnership emphasized in the joint statement through collaboration among the Japanese government, Diet and private sector.

Not only the existing trade relations, but I believe that expanding our cooperation in other areas, including security, environment, atomic energy and human resources, will strengthen the bonds between the two countries.

We the parliamentary league will further enhance relations in the environmental and educational spheres. The spreading of Japanese elementary education and the Japanese language within the UAE will help to promote the realization of the joint statement, which mentioned "accepting 500 students from the UAE to Japan within five years."

My first visit to the UAE was back in 1974. Since then, the UAE has developed into a completely different country. I believe that Japan's comprehensive cooperation to the UAE for its sustainable development will make a significant contribution to the people of the emirates, too.

Congratulations

to the Government and People
of the United Arab Emirates
on the 42nd Anniversary of
Their National Day

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Wide-ranging exchanges

Keiichiro Okabe
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-UAE SOCIETY

On the occasion of the 42nd anniversary of the founding of the United Arab Emirates, 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.

The UAE's presence in the world is growing. Under the wise leadership of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa, the UAE has enjoyed robust economic growth, and has improved cultural and educational sufficiency.

As for the ties with Japan, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a formal visit to the UAE in May, and concluded the nuclear cooperation agreement and the tax convention, further strengthening the bilateral

relationship.

In addition to economic areas, Japan and the UAE have built multifaceted and multilayered relations in various areas, such as politics, culture, environment, technology, education and medical treatment, bringing the two countries closer year by year.

As for educational exchange, the Japanese School in Abu Dhabi accepts Emirati children and local high schools are teaching the Japanese language. Examples in medical treatment include the establishment of a Japanese-style clinic in the UAE and the development of medical tourism, which sees Emirati cancer patients being treated in Japan. The increased number of direct flights, which increased the flow of people, is evidence of strengthening ties.

With cooperation of our corporate members and the relevant parties, the Japan-UAE Society is determined to further enhance our bilateral exchanges.

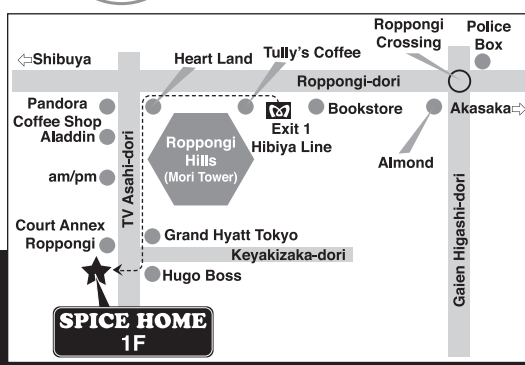
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the Government and people of the United Arab
Emirates on Their 42nd National Day

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