

# Libya national day

## Seizing opportunities and moving forward

Ahmed A.S. Own  
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF LIBYA

As Libya celebrates the third anniversary of the February 17th Revolution, my colleagues at the Embassy of Libya in Tokyo and I would like to take this auspicious occasion to convey — on behalf of the Libyan government and people — our heartfelt greetings and best wishes to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the government headed by Shinzo Abe and the friendly people of Japan, who have a deeply rooted civilization.



I would say that regardless of the long geographic distance between our two countries, we still have much in common that brings the people of both our countries closer. I and my Libyan and Japanese colleagues in both Tokyo and Tripoli assume the responsibility of translating these common factors into a plan of action aimed at strengthening the friendship between the people of both countries and further bring them closer to working with others toward a better world.

Libya might be considered a small country in terms of population today, but it has a deep-rooted history of over four

thousand years, during which it witnessed many civilizations, including ancient dwellers known historically as the Libu tribes who lived there and were the aboriginals of Libya. Among them was Sheshnok I, who founded the 22nd dynasty in Egypt and reigned for quite a long time. Later, Libya was colonized by Phoenicians after they settled in Tunisia and established the town of Carthage. They were followed by the Greeks, who in 650 B.C., established a colony in eastern Libya with the founding of the city of Cyrene to serve as the capital for all their colonies. Later, all of Libya fell under Roman control in the second century B.C., followed by the Byzantine Empire from the third century A.D. until 642 A.D., when the Muslim conquests entered Libya to spread Islam.

Evidence of those civilizations abounds in Libya and can be seen in monuments in cities such as Cyrene, Leptis Magna and Sabratha; and in carvings found in the mountains of Tadrart Acacus and in Sultan east of Sirte; and in the tombs of companions of the Prophet Mohamed (PBUH) in Derna.

In modern history Libya was targeted by invaders and colonizers who dreamed of dominating the land and its unique location in the middle of the world. Among those were the Knights of St. John, also known

as the Knights Hospitaller; the Ottoman Empire; followed by the Italian colonization; and the British administration before the announcement of independence on Dec. 24 in 1951. In each one of those historical stages the Libyan people worked to restore their country to their own hands, and today Libyans have their own say in charting its course as free Libyans wanted.

Such deep history comes from the geographic location of Libya, which is being supported today by a young society and great natural resources, as studies show Libya has abundance of oil and gas in addition to plentiful minerals, of which some are considered precious. Libya also has an abundance of fresh water under its desert, while the Arab region lacks water resources. These resources could improve — not only Libya but also — the whole region for the better. Needless to say, Libya also has expansive beaches on the Mediterranean Sea, stretching for about two thousand kilometers, which could be used to establish charming tourist resorts and industries based on marine resources.

Indeed, all Libya needs now is the political stability and security, which would allow it to create a wise administration to utilize such resources to benefit Libya and its neighbors in order to impart stability into the whole region.



**Metropolitan:** Tripoli, the capital and the largest city in Libya, is home to many Libyan and international companies and hotels. Built by a foreign company and opened in 1990, the **El Emad Towers complex** is made up of five 18-story towers offering spectacular views of the Mediterranean. EMBASSY OF LIBYA

Although we realize how difficult the situation at present is, indications of political stability have begun to appear and already exist, as shown by the determination to elect members of the body charged with writing the constitution on Feb. 20. Work will be launched at various levels as soon as the constitution is drafted and adopted. We are fully confident that our people will realize this is an important step and show their support through intensive participation in the coming elections in se-

lecting the proper people to be in charge of this mission. Efforts by our friends and brothers are indispensable, certainly including our Japanese friends. To this end, a delegation of the Constitutional Legislative Committee of the General National Conference of Libya visited Japan last November and met with heads of constitutional committees of both the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors to observe the Japanese experiment and view possible Japanese support to be provid-

ed to their Libyan friends in this regard.

Japan, with its advancing technologies and sciences, will be a strong candidate among friends of the Libyan people to take benefit from the great workshop of Libya that some estimates say will exceed \$400 billion over ten years. Tomorrow belongs only to the people who prepare for it today, and education is the passport to tomorrow. Therefore education can be another field where cooperation should be furthered with Japanese universities and



institutes.

Last, but not least, we would like to express our deep gratitude to our friends in Japan; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); and above all, the Japan-Libya Friendship Association, with Chairperson Yuriko Koike,

a member of the House of Representatives and members representing a wide range of Japanese companies in various areas. They were very supportive to us and we are looking forward to working with them and with everybody who shares with us the wish to build Libya and utilize such promising economic opportunities.

### Further mutual prosperity to come from enhanced partnerships

Yuriko Koike  
CHAIRPERSON, JAPAN-LIBYA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of the 3rd Anniversary of the February 17th Libyan Revolution, I consider it a great honor as chairperson of the Japan-Libya Friendship Association to send my warmest wishes and congratulations to the leadership and the people of Libya.



I clearly remember visiting Benghazi on Aug. 4, 2011, and the most heartfelt welcome extended to me. At that time, other places such as Tripoli and Misurata were still seeing harsh fighting to secure freedom and democratization. Also at the time, I had the unforgettable privilege of meeting with the new leaders and the key ministers of the transitional government in Benghazi.

I would like to stress that, whenever Libyan government representatives chose to visit Japan, the Japan-Libya Friendship Association was most pleased to receive them and to arrange meetings with our member companies to exchange views on how best to work together in a wide range of fields.

At present, the government and people of Libya are bearing an almost overwhelming burden as they struggle to give birth to a new and even more vital Libya. However, I strongly believe the government and people of Libya will surely overcome even these high hurdles.

I am also confident that the continued enhancement of the partnerships between Japan and Libya will bring about mutual prosperity and, as the chairperson, I assure you that our association will continue to promote further exchanges between Libya and Japan.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our partner, the Embassy of Libya in Tokyo, for their continuous support of our activities.



**Tourist attractions:** (Left) Located 60 km west of Tripoli, Sabratha is one of the most spectacular and unspoiled Roman ruins in the Mediterranean and was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982. (Above) Located in southern Libya, Waw an Namus is a volcanic field, cone and caldera in the geographic center of the Sahara Desert. EMBASSY OF LIBYA

**Congratulations**  
on the Occasion of the 3rd Anniversary  
of the February 17th Revolution of Libya

**Fuji Electric**  
Innovating Energy Technology  
<http://www.fujielectric.com>

**Congratulations**  
on the Occasion of the 3rd Anniversary  
of the February 17th Revolution of Libya

**JAPAN-LIBYA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION**  
Chairperson: Yuriko Koike

**Congratulations**  
on the Occasion of the 3rd Anniversary  
of the February 17th Revolution of Libya

**Industrial Services International Co., Ltd.**  
Subsidiary of Kobe Steel Ltd.

**KOBELCO**  
KOBELCO GROUP

**Congratulations**  
on the Occasion of  
the 3rd Anniversary of  
the February 17th  
Revolution of Libya

**J-Power Systems**

**Congratulations**  
on the Occasion of  
the 3rd Anniversary of  
the February 17th  
Revolution of Libya

**NYK LINE**  
NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA

**Congratulations**  
on the Occasion of  
the 3rd Anniversary of  
the February 17th  
Revolution of Libya

**Sumitomo Corporation**

**Congratulations**  
on the Occasion of  
the 3rd Anniversary of  
the February 17th  
Revolution of Libya

**TAICHI HOLDINGS LTD.**