

Kuwait national day

Bolstering ties in range of areas

Abdul-Rahman Humood Al-Otaibi
AMBASSADOR OF KUWAIT

First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the friendly people of Japan on the birthday of His Majesty Emperor Akihito and wish Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress Michiko and members of the Imperial family good health and well being. I would also like to congratulate the government and people of Japan on Tokyo's winning bid to host the Summer Olympic Games in 2020.



My country, the State of Kuwait, is celebrating this year its 53rd anniversary of independence and the 23rd anniversary of liberation from the claws of the brutal invasion by the former Iraqi regime. On these two occasions, I am honored to extend, on behalf of all Kuwaiti citizens in Japan, my sincerest congratulations and blessings to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Kuwaiti people, asking Allah the Almighty to always preserve our nation's security, peace, stability and prosperity.

My country's friendly relations with Japan represent a model of a constructive relationship between two nations and their people. For more than half a century, both countries have been keen on strengthening and developing these ties through integrated programs with political, economic, commercial, scientific and cultural dimensions. Moreover, in order to preserve the common interests of both countries legally,

our governments concluded several important agreements and memorandums of cooperation and understanding.

Last year, these relations witnessed several new milestones. The most notable was the important visit to the State of Kuwait by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in August. This historical visit resulted in both sides agreeing on shared points of view mentioned in a joint statement, in addition to signing two important memorandums of cooperation:

- The Memorandum of Cooperation in the fields of Higher Education and Scientific Research between the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan and the Ministry of Higher Education of the State of Kuwait.

- The Memorandum of Cooperation for the Policy Dialogue on the National Development of Kuwait between the Minister of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan; and the Supreme Council for Planning and Development of the State of Kuwait.

The State of Kuwait has always considered Japan a distinguished economic partner, and as such, it has been seeking closer ties, increasing trade exchanges and joint investment opportunities, especially after Kuwait adopted a new law to promote foreign investment. In this regard, and to emphasize the importance of collaboration on the private sector level, the Kuwaiti-Japanese Businessmen's Committee was established in 1995 and has since held regular annual meetings. The main goal of this committee is to enhance the exchange of opinions and mutual sharing of expertise on the best ways for both sides to benefit from the know-how of Japanese compa-



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

nies and Kuwait's rich resources and promising market. The committee held its latest meeting in Tokyo in October.

The State of Kuwait has committed itself to providing Japan, our most important trading partner, with a stable supply of energy. Furthermore, as a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the State of Kuwait is committed to maintaining the levels of oil prices in favor of both producing and consuming countries. Additionally, our country is looking forward to expanding cooperation with Japan in areas beyond the field of energy, especially in technology, education, human resource development, health and alternative energy. It is also worth mentioning that, according to 2013 economic statistics, the amount of bilateral trade between our countries has now exceeded \$14 billion.

The State of Kuwait has been carrying out a massive national development plan that includes several mega-projects such in infrastructure, the medical field and other sectors. Accordingly, we welcome the participation



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

of Japanese companies in these projects, as we have great confidence in globally renowned advanced Japanese technologies, which have been proven reliable through long experience, and in the ability of these companies that participated in previous mega-projects in the State of Kuwait.

The year 2013 also witnessed many events that highlighted the humanitarian role of the State of Kuwait in its regional and international surroundings. Being aware of the horrible human tragedy the Syrian people have been experiencing, the State of Kuwait held the first Syria Humanitarian Aid Donors Conference in January 2013 and was able to get a pledge of \$1.6 billion in aid, out of which the State of Kuwait pledged \$300 million to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people at home and in refugee camps in neighboring countries.

In addition to these aid grants, the State of Kuwait has made its utmost political and diplomatic efforts to get the international community to adopt a resolution through the United Nations' Security Council, irrespective of the differences of its permanent members, so as to show that this

organization is the only haven to achieve international peace and security and to stop the humanitarian tragedies in Syria.

In response to an appeal from U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, Kuwait hosted a second donor's conference for Syria on Jan. 15. The conference raised \$2.4 billion in pledges, out of which the State of Kuwait pledged \$500 million.

In March 2013, the State of Kuwait also hosted a high-level meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue as a follow-up to the first summit held in Kuwait from Oct. 15 to 17, 2012, to develop a formal mechanism for the secretariat of the dialogue with a view to launch many of the projects in Asian countries. To this end, the State of Kuwait expressed its willingness to join the Asian Bank of Cooperation in order to play its desired role in the development of Asia.

In 2013, the State of Kuwait celebrated 50 years since its accession to the U.N. and since then it has been keen to support its affiliated agencies and bodies effectively, as our country strongly believes in the importance of joint international action amid the increasing challenges at all levels. In this regard, our country commends the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals which constituted a major shift in the ability of the U.N. to mobilize the world's political will to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, clearly showing the success of international will and the feasibility of the global partnership.

The State of Kuwait, though itself an emerging country, has since its independence in 1961 paid great attention to the needs of other emerging nations, providing them with assistance and support through the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development and through other mechanisms and initiatives. The Fund is one of the principal



Night view of Kuwait City's Kuwait Towers, which are a favorite attraction for visitors to the Gulf state. EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

Strengthening amicable, bilateral relationships

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.

When I visited Kuwait in February in the capacity of the chairwoman of the Japan-Kuwait Parliamentary Friendship League, I had the honor of meeting H.H. the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. It was the first reunion since H.H. the Amir Sheikh Sabah came to Japan as a state guest in March 2012.

During our meeting, we confirmed our countries will strengthen the amicable bilateral relations they have enjoyed for more than 50 years.

In the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami in March 2011, the State of Kuwait offered some of the earliest and most generous support for the affected areas. In addition to the donation of 5 million barrels of

crude oil, Kuwait supplied train cars for the Sanriku Railway. The people of the affected areas, as well as the whole of Japan, will never lose their feelings of gratitude toward Kuwait. I would like to express gratitude once again.

Kuwaiti democratization dates back to its advisory committee in the 1920s. Other Gulf states pay close attention to Kuwaiti parliamentary moves, such as the promotion of letting women participate in politics. In March, member parliamentarians of the Kuwait-Japan parliamentary league, the counterpart of the Japan-Kuwait Parliamentary Friendship League, will visit Japan. I am looking forward to exchanging opinions with them on the workings and duties of government and politicians.

Kuwait has built a firm foundation as a state with an ample supply of oil since its independence, but has also gone through hardships, such as the Iran-Iraq and Gulf wars. I am determined to persevere and give my best efforts to help Kuwait achieve political stability and the revitalization of the country.

We will commit our full support to help the governments and businesses of both countries with various projects to see they are implemented smoothly. I sincerely hope for the further development of Kuwait.

Heartiest Greetings and Congratulations to the State of Kuwait on the Occasion of the 53rd Anniversary of National Day and the 23rd Anniversary of Liberation Day



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Heartiest Greetings and Congratulations to the State of Kuwait on the Occasion of the 53rd Anniversary of National Day and the 23rd Anniversary of Liberation Day



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Heartiest Greetings and Congratulations to the State of Kuwait on the Occasion of the 53rd Anniversary of National Day and the 23rd Anniversary of Liberation Day



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HEARTIEST GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STATE OF KUWAIT ON ITS 53rd NATIONAL DAY AND 23rd ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION



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Heartiest Greetings and Congratulations to the State of Kuwait on the Occasion of the 53rd Anniversary of National Day and the 23rd Anniversary of Liberation Day



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Heartiest Greetings and Congratulations to
H.H. The Amir,
H.H. The Crown Prince,
H.H. The Prime Minister
and The People of The State of Kuwait

On the Occasion of the
53rd National Day of Kuwait, and
23rd Anniversary of Liberation



Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (Far East) (K.S.C.)

Kuwait national day

Celebrating friendly relations

Yasushi Kimura
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-KUWAIT SOCIETY

On this auspicious occasion of the 53rd 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 my sincerest greetings and congratulations to His Highness Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Nawwaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Excellency Abdul-Rahman Humood Al-Otaibi, ambassador of Kuwait to Japan, as well as to the friendly people of Kuwait.

I am happy to see that the amiable and cooperative relations between Japan and Kuwait have been further strengthened by both Sheikh Sabah's visit to Japan in March 2012 and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Kuwait in August last year.

The visit to Kuwait by Abe was his second visit following his first in 2007 when he was prime

minister of his first Cabinet. In the talks he had this time with Sheikh Jaber, he expressed his deepest gratitude for the beneficent aid Kuwait offered Japan in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Abe and Sheikh Jaber shared the view that they would further promote the multilayered relations that had been established at the time of Abe's first visit to Kuwait in 2007. These multilayered relations look to further closer cooperation between Japan and Kuwait not only in the fields of energy but also in politics, security, economics, education, agriculture and health, as well as for efforts of intensifying a comprehensive partnership. It is thus expected that economic and industrial activities between Japan and Kuwait will gain renewed intensity.

The year 2013 witnessed tangible forms of utilization of Kuwait's contribution for reconstruction work in the earthquake-stricken areas. The reconstruction support from Kuwait included 5 million barrels of crude oil worth \$500 million and a donation of \$5 million, placing Kuwait in the topmost place on the list of donor countries. In April, the Sanriku Railway South Riasu Line resumed operation after more than two

years of suspension caused by the earthquake and tsunami. The recommencement came to realization thanks to the massive amount of Kuwaiti support, as the railway company utilized the allocated funds for the purchase of three new train cars. At the ceremony celebrating the resumption of the railway operation, Ambassador Al-Otaibi, who was invited as the guest of honor, received thunderous "Thank you, Kuwait" applause from elated local inhabitants who gathered for the ceremony despite the rainy weather.

Japan-Kuwait relations date back to 1958, when the Arabian Oil Company of Japan acquired oil and gas concessions in the offshore Divided Zone, a deal that led to discovery of the massive Khafji oil field. 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, environmental protection, education and 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 further economic

cooperation. The meetings of the committee now total 18, the latest of which was held last October in Tokyo with more than 100 representatives attending from Japan and Kuwait. These long-standing committee meetings speak for the strong enthusiasm each representative has for closer cooperation between Japan and Kuwait.

Behind the excellent official relations, the Japan-Kuwait Society has laid the groundwork for academic and cultural exchanges for the past nearly 50 years. With cultural and Islamic subjects as the focal point, we will keep on doing our best to promote friendly relations and mutual understanding between our people.

Last but not least, I would like to offer my sincerest appreciation to Ambassador Al-Otaibi for his amazingly powerful reaching out to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between our two nations. I am happy to note that his initiative of promoting Kuwait's publicity over 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.

Furthering national bonds

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institutions realizing Kuwait's promises and principles based on its leaders' belief in the importance of international cooperation and providing assistance to people in need.

Also in November, the State of Kuwait hosted the third Arab-Africa Summit "Partners in Development and Investment," which reflected the State of Kuwait's perception of the importance of economic cooperation to achieve economic partnership sought by the Arab and African regions. For this purpose, His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait instructed the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development to provide \$1 billion in soft loans to African nations over the next five years. Moreover, Kuwait considers the African continent to be a key component of the world's economy, and therefore, it began several years ago investing in vital sectors in Africa, such as agriculture and industry, in order to help the African nations achieve sustainable development.

The State of Kuwait chairs the current session of the Cooperation Council for the Arab Gulf States (GCC) and therefore has to play important roles in a turbulent political environment.

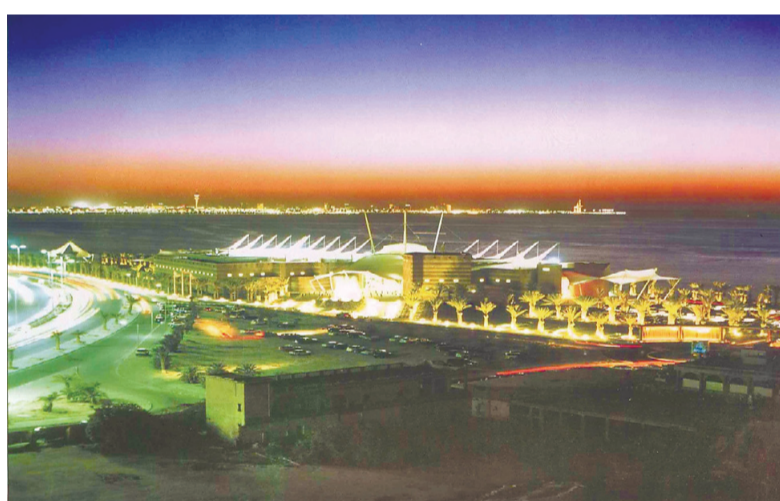
On one side, our country bears the responsibility of paving the way to achieving full integration between the countries of the GCC in response to the aspirations of the people and countries of the council. This transition from the stage of cooperation to a phase of union requires many accomplishments that pave a more confident way to full integration. On the other, there are challenges experienced by our region and the world in general. However, by virtue of its good relations with all nations around the world based on the principles of the U.N. and provisions of the international law; such as building trust between nations, good-neighborliness and mu-



(Above) Kuwait City, which houses many skyscrapers, is the capital and largest city of Kuwait.

(Right) Located in Salmiya, the Scientific Center of Kuwait serves as an institution for environmental education in the Gulf country. The facility covers more than 80,000 square meters and houses the largest aquarium in the Middle East.

EMBASSY OF KUWAIT



tual respect, non-interference in other country's internal affairs and the use of peaceful means to settle disputes...the State of Kuwait is confident of its ability to overcome these obstacles and lead the ship of the GCC to safety.

In this respect, the State of Kuwait emphasizes the importance of prioritizing cooperation between Japan and the GCC, particularly concerning the free trade agreement and the strategic dialogue between the both sides, taking into consideration Japan's request to have a total lifting of the ban imposed on Japanese products in the wake of the crisis at the Fukushima nuclear plant.

This year, Kuwait will host many events, including the very important Arab League Summit in March 2014, which comes at a time when many changes and challenges are sweeping across the Arab world. Everyone is confident that the State of Kuwait, led by His Highness the Amir, whose diplomatic expertise and political wisdom has been built over many years, will be able to achieve the expectations of the Arab World at the summit.

Finally, yet importantly, I would like to commend the humanitarian and development supporting role of Japan around the globe, a role similar to that played by the State of Kuwait.

Our countries and their people share common values based on the principles of democracy, freedom, justice and respect for others, rejecting extremism and violence in all its forms, fighting terrorism, non-discrimination and refraining from selective policies and double standards. These values and principles will be imperative in maintaining the special bilateral relations between the State of Kuwait and Japan and will surely lead their partnership to a better and brighter future.

With these thoughts and sentiments, I hope the coming years will bring more bliss and prosperity to the people of the State of Kuwait and Japan.

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: Yasushi Kimura