

# Jordan national day

## Celebrating strong, long-lasting Jordan-Japan relationship

Demiye Haddad  
AMBASSADOR OF JORDAN

Yesterday, May 25, we celebrated Jordan's 68th Independence Day and it is with great honor and privilege that I take advantage of this glorious occasion to express on behalf of His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein, the Royal Family, and the people of Jordan the sincerest of our wishes to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family, the government, and the great and friendly people of Japan



for continued peace, progress and prosperity.

2014, is a special year for our bilateral relations as on July 14th, we will commemorate sixty years since we exchanged official notes establishing diplomatic relations with Japan. This year also celebrates the 40th anniversary of the opening of resident embassies in Tokyo and Amman.

Those significant events are the foundation on which our unique and special friendship grew to become the strong partnership we now cherish and happily enjoy, the core of which was and will always be the unique and intimate ties that bind the Royal Family of Jordan and the Imperial family

of Japan.

These past decades were also filled with projects and programs and countless numbers of high level visits, most importantly eleven Royal Visits to Japan, seven of which were in the past 15 years, and three visits to Jordan by Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess in 1976, 1995 and 1999. We truly appreciate all Japan has done and continues to do to help Jordan on its reform path and socioeconomic development. Japanese economic assistance has touched almost every Jordanian and helped our efforts to build the modern country we live in. It also helped us in our



**H.R.H. Crown Prince Hussein Bin Abdullah II of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**

efforts to bring stability and security to the Middle East, and together we reached out to many countries in the region helping them on their paths for a better future.

This year we also celebrate the 15th anniversary of our young and energetic King's, accession to the throne. His Majesty's visions, initiatives and personal involvement led the efforts that guided Jordan to where it is now. Today, we find ourselves advancing rapidly through the achievements and opportunities Jordan presents and the gateways we offer to the rest of the region. Our firm stability and security continue despite what our region is witnessing these days, presenting Jordan as a stable, secure, and modern haven, where justice and the rule of law are strictly followed. Jordan is a country where human rights, freedom and democracy are enjoyed by all and where dedication, hard work and optimism enabled us



**H.M. King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**

to achieve remarkable advancements in various fields such as becoming an education and medical center in the Middle East and a technological hub for Arabic language software and internet content, almost 90 percent of which is done by Jordanians.

Our eyes on the future are confident and sharp and we see great leaps in achievements and deliverables such as building one of the world's largest water conduits to bring water from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea, one of the world's natural wonders and heritage sites, to stop the inevitability of its disappearance if such an initiative was not promptly implemented to preserve it.

We are also seeking to transform Jordan from being an energy importer with around 96% of its energy being supplied by other countries, to being an energy exporter in two to three decades, by constructing mega projects in renewable and

clean energies such as solar, wind, and state-of-the-art peaceful nuclear plants. This will not only make Jordan self sufficient, but will also significantly lower our greenhouse gas emissions and provide a surplus of reasonably priced clean energy that could help other countries in the region with energy shortages.

We also plan to solve the chronic and dangerous problem of fresh water scarcity by building massive water desalination plants powered by our green energy mix, producing much needed potable water not just for Jordan, but also for our neighbors facing the same problem in one of the world's poorest regions for fresh water. We believe these projects could promote regional cooperation and support stability and security, enabling people from the region to work together toward a common goal to benefit all.

Japan has always been a force for good in the Middle East; a partner that can help in bringing common sense to our part of the world, a friend that we can trust and listen to. Japan and Jordan are very like-minded and see eye to eye on almost every issue especially those involving justice, human rights and freedoms and the right of all to a better more secure future where our children can thrive to meet their potential free from fear or constraint. We believe our achievements and developed human resources, coupled with our enduring stability, security and



**Renowned for its architecture and the water conduit system of the ancient Nabateans, the historic city of Petra is a UNESCO World Heritage site and Jordan's leading tourist attraction.**  
EMBASSY OF JORDAN

modernity, can serve as a regional hub for Japanese investments, technologies and know-how.

Japan will benefit from having a center for its advanced technologies and innovation in Jordan, a center that can especially assist the Japanese private sector win projects in the region and help implement and monitor those in areas where Japanese people are reluctant to live or travel. We also believe the many similarities between Japanese and Jordanians provide a firm basis for stronger and broader-based cultural relations as the next natural step toward further enhancement of our bilateral relations and such a boost in Japanese interaction with Jordan and the rest of the region serves both sides and strengthens the efforts of building a better future of us all.

In closing I would like to invite each and every one of you

to visit my beautiful country and experience its unique sites and enchanting culture. Jordan is home to Petra, where an ancient civilization carved homes and monuments in rose-colored stone mountains over two thousand years ago; a site so magnificent that it was selected as one of the new seven world wonders in 2007. The Dead Sea, which is well-known for the therapeutic qualities of its waters, can also be found in Jordan. It is at 420 meters below sea level, which is the lowest point on earth. There is also Wadi Rum, where the terrenes are breathtaking and the sky so bright at night travelers compare it to walking on the moon. I greet you all with "Ahlan Wa Sahlan," which means welcome with no burden as one of us.

I would like to end by thanking my friends at The Japan Times for granting me this opportunity to address their distinguished readers.

**Congratulations  
to the People of  
the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
on the 68th Anniversary  
of Their National Day**

**JAPAN-JORDAN ASSOCIATION**

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