

# Saudi Arabia national day

## Celebrating strong relationship, mutual interests

Khalid Albrahim  
DEPUTY HEAD OF THE EMBASSY  
OF SAUDI ARABIA IN TOKYO

On behalf of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, I would like to convey my heartfelt greetings to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and the friendly people of Japan.

### Bilateral Relations

Saudi Arabia and Japan have enjoyed strong and long-standing ties, built on mutual interests and visits by both the Royal and Imperial families. In 2015, we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of dip-



Prince Miqren bin Abdulaziz Al Saud



King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud



Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

lomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Japan. From this auspicious beginning, H.R.H. Crown Prince Salman, deputy premier and

minister of defense made an official visit to Japan for four days starting from Feb. 18, 2014. This was the second visit to Japan by H.R.H.

Crown Prince Salman, the first having been in 1998 in his capacity as the governor of Riyadh. We hope that commemo-

rating events, which will be held next year to mark the 60th anniversary, will illustrate the strong and deep relations between the two friendly countries and the long history and close ties and encourage strategic and multi-layered partnerships.

### Economic achievement

The kingdom is blessed with abundant oil and natural gas resources. Development of the oil and gas sector started several decades ago, fueling the kingdom's socioeconomic and environmental development ever since. The government has been successful in promoting this sector and related petrochemical industries while conserving resources for future generations to the furthest possible extent. Revenues from oil and gas constitute the main public financial resource while exports of crude oil and gas and its downstream products top the list of commodity exports.

Production capacity of crude oil increased from 3.8 million barrels per day in 1970 to around 9.64 million barrels in 2013. Moreover, production of natural gas increased from 19.02 million barrels to about 455.9 million barrels over the same period. In the meantime, the kingdom's proven crude oil reserves increased from 138.7 billion barrels to about 265.8 billion barrels. Furthermore, the proven natural gas reserves increased from 95.7 trillion cubic feet in 1979 to 293.7 trillion cubic feet in 2013.

The kingdom's agricultural sector has experienced significant progress over the past three decades. Agricultural production, both vegetable and animal, increased at rates that contributed to attainment of food security, diversification of the eco-



H.R.H. Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (right) meets with Emperor Akihito on Feb. 19 at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo during his visit to Japan. EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

nomie base and revenue sources, as well as creation of job opportunities. One special achievement is the fact that the kingdom currently enjoys self-sufficiency in wheat, fresh milk and eggs. Furthermore, production of vegetables, fruit and poultry satisfies the major domestic food needs.

For a long time, economic development in the kingdom was marked by the major role played by the oil sector in generating GDP and financing government expenditures geared at establishing the infrastructure and to provide public services.

Therefore, the kingdom has persistently focused on diversification of economic



Originating in the Hejaz region of Saudi Arabia, the traditional Mizmar folk dance involves moving while twirling a bamboo cane to the music of drums. EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA



The King Abdullah Financial District is a new development under construction in Riyadh. EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to the People of  
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
on the Occasion of  
Their 84th National Day



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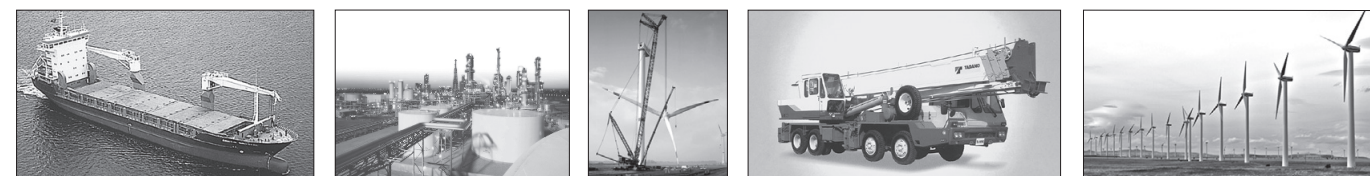
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# Saudi Arabia national day

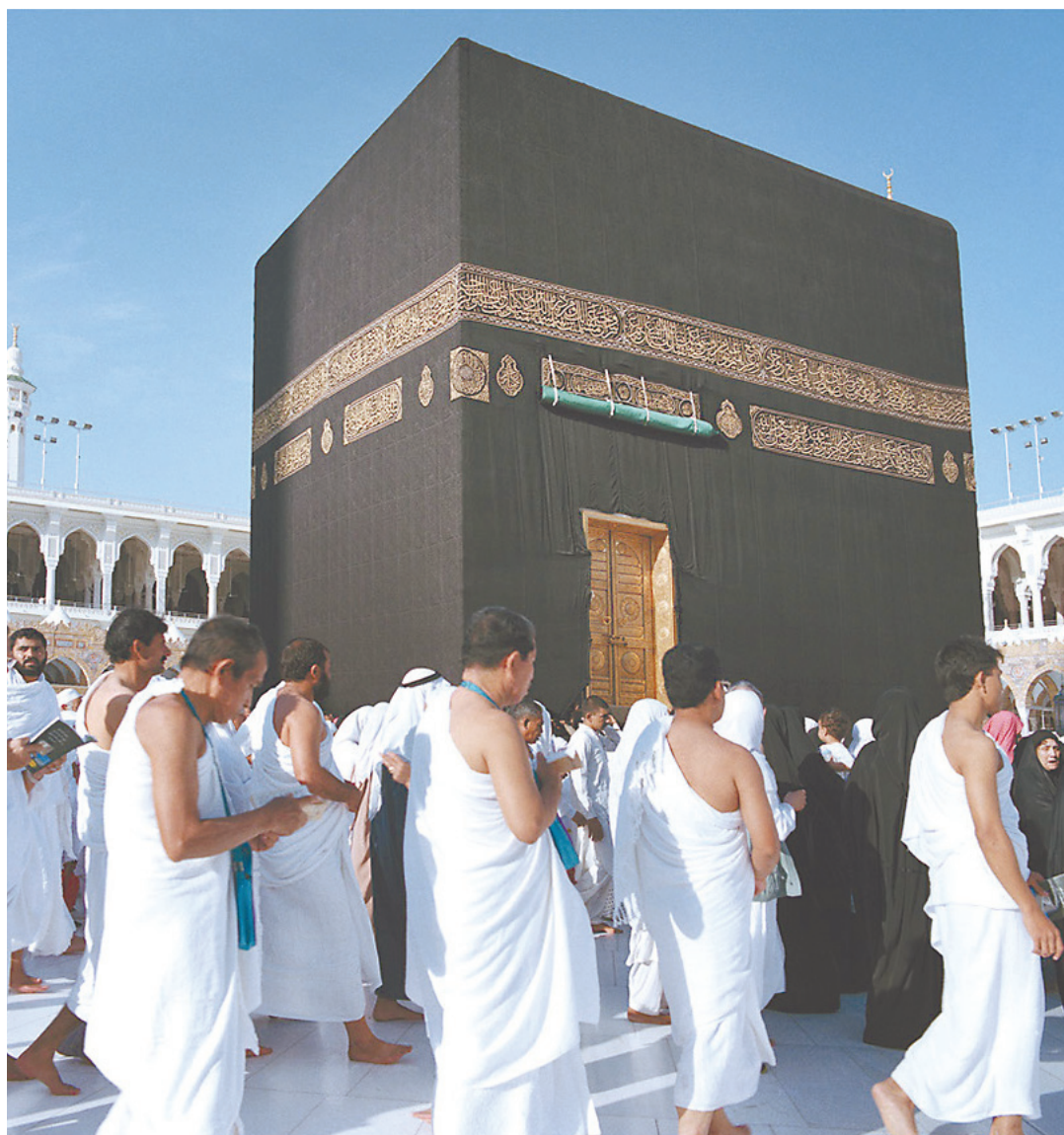
## Working to promote peace, stability

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activities and on boosting the private sector's role in the economy. Significant accomplishments were made in this area and were reflected in the high growth rates of nonoil sectors to which the private sector contributes a large share. Nonoil GDP (at 1999 constant prices) increased at an average annual rate of 6 percent over the period 1389/90-1433/34H (1969-2012), a 12-fold increase, which demonstrates the success of the diversification policy.

An increased role of the private sector in the national economy leads to economic growth, which is more dependent on local drivers (growth in population, employment, productivity and income as well as consumer and investment expenditures) and less influenced by external fluctuations including world oil markets.

It is interesting to note that the kingdom has made significant progress in the provision of public services foremost among which are education, health, housing as well as vital public utilities such as electricity, water, roads, transport and communications as well as provision of social support and security. This has significantly contributed to raising the standard of living and im-



Muslims throughout the world are supposed to face the Kaaba in the Makkah (Mecca) Grand Mosque during their daily prayers. EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

proving the quality of life of citizens.

### Promoting Peace

Islam is a religion of peace

and tolerance. As home of the Two Holy Mosques in Makkah and Madinah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia feels a special obligation to

promote peace and stability in areas beyond its borders, particularly among its immediate neighbors. Saudi Arabia is a key player in many of the important issues facing the global community and continues to find paths toward peace for the various and complex issues of the region.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz urged Muslims to defeat terrorism, saying, "These groups have become an easy tool for the enemies of Islam who use them to terrorize and kill innocent people through the distortion of the holy text and interpretation of Islamic law to serve their ends." The kingdom's most senior religious scholars have condemned terrorist groups, including ISIS, al-Nusra and al-Qaeda for distorting and violating the teachings of Islam and its prohibition on the killing of the innocent.

## Promoting bilateral cooperation

Hiromasa Yonekura  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-SAUDI ARABIA SOCIETY

On this auspicious occasion of the 84th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I would like to offer on behalf of the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society our best wishes to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In February this year, H.R.H. Crown Prince Salman visited Japan as a guest of the Japanese government. It was a great pleasure for us at the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society, long engaged in promoting cultural exchanges between Japan and Saudi Arabia and strengthening their bonds of friendship, that he chose Japan as the destination for his first official visit as crown prince to a foreign country.

On his arrival at Tokyo International Airport at Haneda, H.R.H. Crown Prince Salman was received by Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito, and the following day, His Imperial Maj-

esty Emperor Akihito hosted a banquet in honor of Crown Prince Salman at the Imperial Palace. This visit by the crown prince has further deepened the ties between the Japanese Imperial family and the Saudi Arabian royal family, nurtured over more than fifty years.

Crown Prince Salman and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had a summit meeting, afterward issuing a joint statement, expressing their determination to promote bilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas, including: energy conservation, joint oil stockpiling, renewable energy development, investment, technology transfer, development of small and medium-sized enterprises; development of Saudi Arabia's infrastructure such as underground railways and water and sewerage system; and human resource development. Their commitment has led to growing expectations that economic and industrial cooperation between Japan and Saudi Arabia will gain even further momentum.

During H.R.H. Crown Prince Salman's stay in Japan, we at the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society and Japan's four major economic organizations, including Keidanren, jointly hosted a welcome reception in honor of the crown prince and a del-



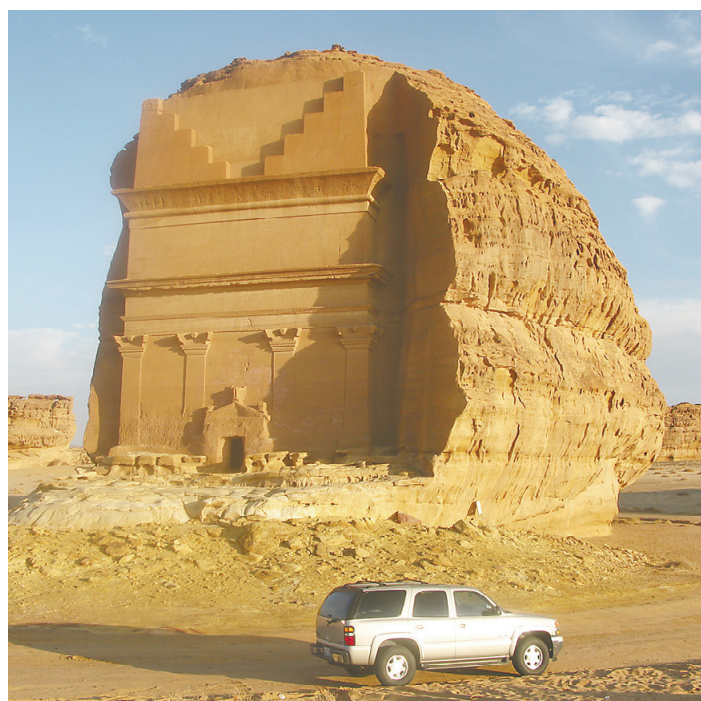
Kingdom Center in Riyadh is a 302-meter skyscraper, the second-tallest building in the country. EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

egation of Saudi Arabian ministers and business leaders. At the reception, Crown Prince Salman said Japan is an excellent model of an advanced nation, which has achieved modernization while maintaining its traditions, and expressed his hope that the relations between Saudi Arabia and Japan will be further enhanced. Abe's visit to Saudi Arabia in April last year and this visit by Crown Prince Salman to Japan have made the strong bonds between the two countries even stronger. Their bilateral relations, once centered on trade in oil and industrial products, are continuing to grow, and now encompass investment, technological cooperation, human resource development, cultural exchanges and sports.

Since its foundation, the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society has been working on various cultural exchange projects, in-

cluding Arabic language courses, to enhance the understanding among the people in Japan about Islam and Arabic culture and foster friendship between the two countries. In 2015, Japan and Saudi Arabia will celebrate the 60th anniversary of their diplomatic relations. We at the society will work with the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Tokyo and the Japanese government offices concerned to organize commemorative events and projects, while also continuing our cultural exchange initiatives, with the aim of contributing to the promotion of Japan-Saudi Arabia partnership.

Last, but not least, I pray for the peace and prosperity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and sincerely offer my best wishes to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah and H.R.H. Crown Prince Salman for good health and happiness.



Medain Saleh is a pre-Islamic archaeological site located in the Al-Ula sector within the Al-Madinah Region of Saudi Arabia. EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

Warmest Congratulations to  
The Custodian of  
the Two Holy Mosques  
King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud  
of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and his People  
on the Occasion of Their 84th National Day

JAPAN-SAUDI ARABIA SOCIETY

Chairman: Hiromasa Yonekura

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