

UAE national day

Keen interest to enhance bonds

Mohammed Rashed Alabsi
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE UNITED
ARAB EMIRATES

On the very auspicious occasion of the 43rd UAE National Day, I am honored and privileged to convey, on behalf of the government and people of the UAE, my heartfelt greetings and good wishes to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the government and the great people of Japan. I also extend my sincere felicitations to H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, president of the UAE, ruler of Abu Dhabi and H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, vice president, prime minister and ruler of Dubai, and to T.H. the members of the Federal Supreme Council of rulers of the emirates.

I arrived at the end of September to assume my duties in Japan. It is a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity to extend my greetings to the people of Japan through this newspaper so soon after assuming my duties.

I am well aware that the current excellent relationship between the UAE and Japan is owed to over 40 years of the diligent efforts of our two countries for strengthening the bonds at all levels through vigorous mutual exchanges. Each exchange has elevated our relations to new heights and represented another milestone in bilateral cooperation.

The ties between the UAE and Japan have seen a dramatic leap over the past few years, resulting in the signing of several cooperation agreements and memorandums of understandings in a wide range of areas. I believe that these agreements and memorandums have the potential to deliver future benefits to both the UAE

and Japan. The visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the UAE in May 2013 occasioned the signing of two important treaties, the avoidance of double taxation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. I would like to welcome the steady progress of domestic procedures for the entry into force of the two agreements this year.

Following Abe's visit to the UAE, I am particularly glad the visit of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, crown prince of Abu Dhabi and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces to Japan was realized in February after his last visit in 2007. The visit marked the second mutual visit between Sheikh Mohammed and Abe.

The mutual high-profile visits reflect the strong interest by the higher leadership in both countries to enhance the relations as well as the brilliant historic ties between our two countries. During his stay, he had an Imperial audience with Emperor Akihito and had fruitful talks with Abe and other senior officials. The two sides welcomed the concrete progress in cooperation achieved by our two countries since Abe's visit to the UAE, and affirmed their continued efforts to enhance cooperation, ties and mutual interest in fields such as the economy, energy, investment, security, education and medical services.

I am sure his visit concluded with great success in advancing the already-existing outstanding relationship between the two countries to a higher stage of progress.

Since the UAE has the view that education is the essential foundation to boost a dynamic knowledge-based economy, it aims to learn and benefit from different experiences in the world in this regard, especially those of Japan as a successful development model. Now, over 60 UAE students are studying in Japanese universities to complete their higher studies.

There is the internship program sponsored by the Japanese government every year, which offers several students from the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, a graduate level institution dedicated to alternative energy and sustainable energy technologies, to gain exclusive professional experience in Japanese companies. I look forward to the day when all of them will be able to maximize their newfound knowledge gained in Japan for further development of their country after returning home.

Energy remains a key priority between our two countries. The UAE is Japan's second-largest oil supplier and sixth-largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplier. Most recently, the UAE and Japan signed the new Memorandum of Cooperation for Joint Oil Storage Project last month in case of an oil shortage in Japan. Our country is proud of its position as a secure and reliable supplier of energy to Japan. Also, the UAE has become an important supplier of aluminum as Japanese demand for aluminum has increased in recent years. These facts are clear evidence of how successful relations between our two

countries have been. It is noteworthy that the UAE is now home to over 400 major Japanese companies, and over 3,300 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.

Currently, Japan is blessed with the convenience of Emirates Airlines' three gateways in Osaka, Narita and Haneda from Dubai, and Etihad Airways' two gateways in Nagoya and Narita from Abu Dhabi. The UAE to Japan route has helped build the vigorous relationship between our two countries, in terms of dynamic trade and increasing opportunities for business and tourism.

It is my desire that more Japanese tourists will visit our country and enjoy each emirate's own color, which make up the national fabric. I believe that to capture the complete essence of our wonderful country, you must see it as a whole. Our country is committed to open-

ing new avenues for innovative tourism concepts, which surely will attract tourists from around the world as a leading tourism hub, regionally and globally.

This year also marks 10 years of the presidency of Sheikh Khalifa. The years of the president's rule have been characterized by deep wisdom, clear vision, fast development and great achievement. The UAE has shown no sign of losing its momentum. The vibrant UAE, led by Sheikh Khalifa, continues to attach great importance in establishing special relations with Japan.

I am thoroughly satisfied with the sincere and determined efforts of our two countries to strengthen relations, which are steadily producing visible and remarkable results in various fields. I have the utmost pleasure to extend my sincere gratitude to the Japanese organizations that have been working tirelessly to elevate bilateral relations. I promise that I will work hard to further promote bilateral relations in all potential fields with the assistance of the Japanese authorities concerned.

Finally, I wish for many more years of progress and prosperity between our two countries.



Clockwise from top, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed meets with Emperor Akihito in Tokyo in February; H.H. Sheikh Mohammed shakes hands with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during the same visit; the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, one of the most prominent and beautiful architectural monuments in the world



EMBASSY OF THE UAE

Working to further mutual understanding

Keichiro Okabe
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-UAE SOCIETY

On the occasion of the 43rd 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.

H.H. General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, crown prince of Abu Dhabi, visited Japan in February as a follow-up to a joint announcement on strengthening a comprehensive partnership, which was agreed on by the two countries when Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited the UAE in May 2013.

Sheikh Mohammed and Abe have met four times since 2007 and the frequency of their meetings is symbolic of the strong partnership both coun-

tries have established to date.

The UAE is composed of seven emirates, each with distinct features and each aiming to strengthen citizens' sense of identity and loyalty.

Recently, a UAE delegation — four officials from the Ministry of Presidential Affairs, Ministry of Education and General Authority of Islamic Affairs and Endowment — came to Japan to examine measures to nurture national identity. I was given an opportunity to make a speech on the Japanese methods of manage-

ment and nurturing human resources, in line with the delegation mission.

I feel proud they chose Japan as the destination for their delegation and greatly feel the two countries should work on the issue more thoroughly.

The Japan-UAE Society is determined to further enhance mutual understanding and amicable relations between the two countries by deepening exchanges. I heartily pray for prosperity of the UAE and a closer bilateral relationship.



Etihad Towers: A spectacular five-tower development and Emirates Palace (right) EMBASSY OF THE UAE

Improving bilateral relations

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 43rd anniversary of the founding of the United Arab Emirates.

I wish very much for the health and happiness of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, president of the UAE, and the people of the UAE.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi visited Japan in February. Prior to that, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited the UAE in May 2013, his second visit to the Middle East-

ern country since 2007. I am very pleased to see the high-level exchanges between the two countries.

During the crown prince's visit to Japan, he saw judo practice at Tokai University and was very impressed with Japan's education of adolescents through "budo" Japanese traditional martial arts. I understand that judo, a type of budo, is mandatory in elementary education in Abu Dhabi because of a belief that budo's spirit of rule observation is the basis of Japan's high level of development.

Visa requirements were eased for citizens of the UAE in October 2013, and since then the number of tourists from the UAE has risen dramatically.

I believe such exchanges on many different levels deepen bilateral ties not only in the economy, based on the energy trade, but also in people-to-people and heart-to-heart connections.

Congratulations
to the Government and People
of the United Arab Emirates
on the 43rd Anniversary of
Their National Day



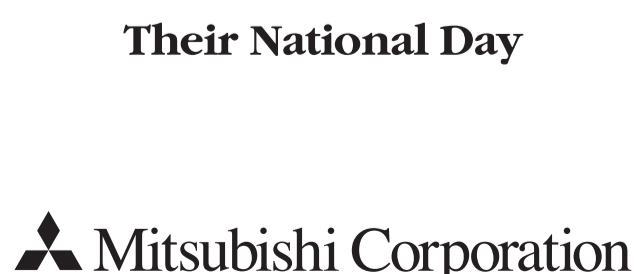
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Chaudhry Asif Mahmood
CEO, Pak Japan group of companies

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Wishing a great future for seven emirates.**

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