

## Iran national day

## Bolstering relations for peace, progress, security

Reza Nazar Ahari  
AMBASSADOR OF IRAN

On Feb. 11, the Islamic Republic of Iran celebrates the 36th anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, in which a despotic regime was overthrown by the people under the leadership of the late Imam Khomeini, and a new model of government based on Islamic principles, was established.

On this salient date, I am honored to express, on behalf of the Iranian people and government, our warmest regards to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family, as well as to the government and amicable people of Japan. I also take this occasion to congratulate my compatriots living in Japan.

The Islamic Revolution of Iran has tried to present a world without tension, crisis, war or poverty. In Islam, security is the highest priority; that is because only in a peaceful and secure world can one reach progress and prosperity. Islam also emphasizes hard work and endeavors to explore the facts of life and phenomenon for creating a better welfare and life for humanity. Notwithstanding, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in spite of all good intentions of its nation, has had to defend itself from military aggression, foreign plots and other threats. Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the safest countries in the Middle East and is contributing actively to the resolution of conflicts in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and other places to foster regional and international peace and security. My government has also demonstrated its universal reach through such initiatives as

President Hassan Rouhani's proposal for a "World Against Violence and Extremism," which was adopted as a resolution by the U.N. General Assembly at its 68th session.

Following this noble principle, the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns all acts that contribute to extremism and terrorism and that are offensive to the feelings of nations. At the same time, we believe misuse of freedom of expression, especially sacrilege, is not acceptable and should be prevented for the well being of human society.

**Nuclear issue resolution**  
Iran is a developing country and electricity demand is expanding rapidly. According to the approved plan of the High Council of Energy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by 2020 Iran should generate 7,000 megawatts of nuclear power and will need 2,000 megawatts of additional power every year. Iran considers nuclear power generation, along with the development of renewable energy sources, the most economically viable option to save hydrocarbon reserves for exports. Our atomic energy program is peaceful and my country has always opted for a nuclear-free world and especially a Middle East nuclear free agreement.

The defense doctrine of Iran is not founded on nuclear armaments and the supreme leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran has declared all kinds of mass destruction weapons, including nuclear weapons, as illegitimate. The Islamic Republic of Iran, parallel to its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, is continuing its dialogue with the so-called P5+1 group (comprising China, France, the U.K., the U.S., Russia and Germany), with good intentions and equal status for the purpose of building confi-

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei,  
supreme leader of the Islamic  
Republic of IranHassan Rouhani  
president of the Islamic  
Republic of Iran

dence and finding a long-term solution. In this regard, since January 2013, both sides have been implementing the terms of the Geneva Joint Plan of Action of November 2013.

The supreme leader and the Iranian parliament support the resolution of the nuclear issue undertaken by Rouhani's administration, based on an equitable and just framework. We are convinced that a comprehensive agreement could open up new avenues of cooperation for resolving other regional and international issues.

Iran and six world powers also wrapped up substantive and useful talks on Iran's peaceful nuclear program in November, and technical experts are continuing their efforts to elaborate on the details. They have agreed to continue the discussions with the aim of reaching a high-level political agreement and confirming the full technical details of the agreement by July 1, 2015. Iran considers the sanctions imposed on the Iranian nation illegal and inhuman and we hope they will soon be lifted.

**Relations with Japan**  
Iran and Japan are two Asian countries with numerous historical and cultural commonalities. Although historical

documents show the two nations' ties originated more than 1,000 years ago, political relations began at the end of the 19th century with the establishment of embassies and the extension of commercial and technical cooperation.

With the triumph of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the two governments began new avenues of political cooperation and endeavored to strengthen reciprocal ties in wide-ranging fields. Trade between Iran and Japan increased substantially after the revolution and reached around \$20 billion in 2008. In recent years, due to unjust and illegal sanctions against Iran, the volume of trade between Iran and Japan has not expanded as much as was hoped for by the two governments.

In 2014, political, parliamentary, consular, judicial, economic and cultural exchanges between the two countries were actively undertaken. Among them, I would like to mention the Japan-Iran Summit Meeting on Sept. 23, held between Rouhani and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York. During the meeting, both leaders expressed their satisfaction that bilateral exchange-

of high officials had taken on new momentum and hoped the bilateral relations of Iran and Japan expand in all areas. The two leaders also expressed their willingness to cooperate for regional and international stability.



President of Iran Hassan Rouhani (left) and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands at a summit meeting on Sept. 23 on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York. EMBASSY OF IRAN

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Parliamentary group fosters  
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CHAIRMAN OF JAPAN-IRAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP  
LEAGUE

On the occasion of the 36th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, I am pleased to express on behalf of myself and other members of the Japan-Iran Parliamentarians' Friendship League my warmest congratulations and sincere best wishes to the members of the parliament and government, as well as the friendly people of Iran.

I hope the ongoing talks between the Iranian delegation and the EU 3+3 Group, concerning the nuclear issue, will conclude successfully and pave the way for further bolstering of cooperation between our two countries as well as strengthening international peace and prosperity.



Located in Shiraz, on the northern shore of the Khoshk River in the Fars province of Iran, Eram Garden is a historic Persian garden built during the middle of the 19th century and designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. EMBASSY OF IRAN



Hafezieh, the Tomb of Hafez, in Shiraz in Iran's Fars province, designed by French architect and archaeologist Andre Godard, was built in 1935 in memory of the celebrated Persian poet Hafez (1315-1390). EMBASSY OF IRAN

**Congratulations**  
on the Occasion of the 36th Anniversary  
of the Glorious Islamic Revolution of Iran



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