

# Libya national day

## Working together toward prosperous future

Ahmed A. S. Own  
AMBASSADOR OF LIBYA

As Feb. 17 marks the fourth anniversary of the Feb. 17 Revolution, my colleagues at the Embassy of Libya in Tokyo and I would like to take this auspicious occasion to convey our heartfelt greetings and best wishes to



Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the government headed by Shinzo Abe and the friendly people of Japan, to whom we pay great respect. We are highly impressed with the Japanese people's astonishing developmental experiment that caused a paradigm shift over the last seventy years and inspired many people not only in Asia and the Far East, but also

in our region as Libyans and others in the region look forward to utilizing the Japanese model without abandoning our heritage. The current situation in our region requires us to study the Japanese model and its various stages since the feudal period in the latter half of the nineteenth century, and how this historically deep-rooted country dealt with political and social changes in what can be called the "Japan Model" under a parliamentary and imperial constitutional ruling system.

The history of diplomatic relations between our two countries dates back to 1957,



The Old City and Algeria Square (right) in Tripoli  
EMBASSY OF LIBYA

with the opening of the Libyan embassy in Tokyo in 1971 and the opening of Japan's embassy in 1973 in Tripoli cementing them. Since then, bilateral relations developed in various areas, as many Japanese enterprises could secure a chance on different developmental projects in Libya throughout the last thirty years, due to the good reputation of Japanese products in Libya. Many Libyan students also came to Japan to study a variety of subjects at Japanese universities, and we are looking forward to seeing more of them in the near future.

Despite the current unstable situation in Libya, our people

have great confidence to overcome this period and work hard to utilize the gifts God has given Libya and the region. Along with huge oil resources — Libya ranks 10th in the world regarding its amount of recoverable reserves, and 17th for production — Libya also has virgin shores of more than 2,000 kilometers that could be invested in for tourism or fishing.

Many studies have shown that Libya's desert contains a variety of materials that can support industries to ensure ten of thousands of job opportunities. Deep in the desert there is plentiful water that has been a lifeline in the area for many years. Utilizing such



potentials could be done through advanced technologies and sciences, which Japan has, and we are looking forward to reaching this target together.

The field of renewable energies is also one of potential cooperation with Japan, as it is widely known that the North Africa region, including Libya, is one of the richest places in the world regarding green energy resources such as solar and wind power.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to our friends in Japan at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and above all the Japan-Libya Friendship Association with its chairperson Yuriko Koike, member of the House of Representatives. Additionally, I would like to thank members of a wide range of Japanese companies in various areas, who have been very supportive to us and we are looking forward to working with them and with everybody who shares with us the wish to build Libya.

I am looking forward with confidence and optimism to the future of the relationship between Libya and Japan, besides what I have mentioned previously there are many

other fields where bilateral relations can be developed and promoted.

Last, but not least, we would like to convey our deep sympathy and sincere condolences to the people of Japan and the bereaved families of the two victims killed by the Islamic State terrorist group. We also emphasize that the entire world must unite against terrorism, something that has hit almost everywhere in the world with its evil, and even we in Libya have suffered from it. We call on all countries to make all necessary efforts to fight such dangerous phenomenon that has no relation to Islam.

## Libyans' spirit, perseverance overcome obstacles, adversity

Yuriko Koike  
CHAIRPERSON, JAPAN-LIBYA  
FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of the fourth Anniversary of the Libyan National Day, I would like to extend my sincerest wishes and congratulations to the leadership and people of Libya.

Libya is now in a crucial phase facing great difficulties. However, I strongly believe Libya will certainly overcome the challenge thanks to their people's "hikma" (wisdom) and untiring efforts, becoming a nation that can truly enjoy democracy and freedom.

The Libyan people's aspirations to realize a peaceful and livable nation will become a strong determination to overcome this challenge and lead to the real spring that will produce extremely bountiful fruits of success. Libya possesses the ability to establish an ideal democrat-

ic nation unparalleled in the world.

It was 1972 when I first visited Libya. In August 2011, I visited the nation as chairperson of the Japan-Libya Friendship Association and held a meeting with the leaders of the National Transitional Council in Benghazi. Through the Libyan leaders that I have interacted with many times, I had the opportunity to glimpse their religious spirit, warm personalities, intelligent moderation and deference to elders and was impressed with the affectionate and merciful hearts of these people.

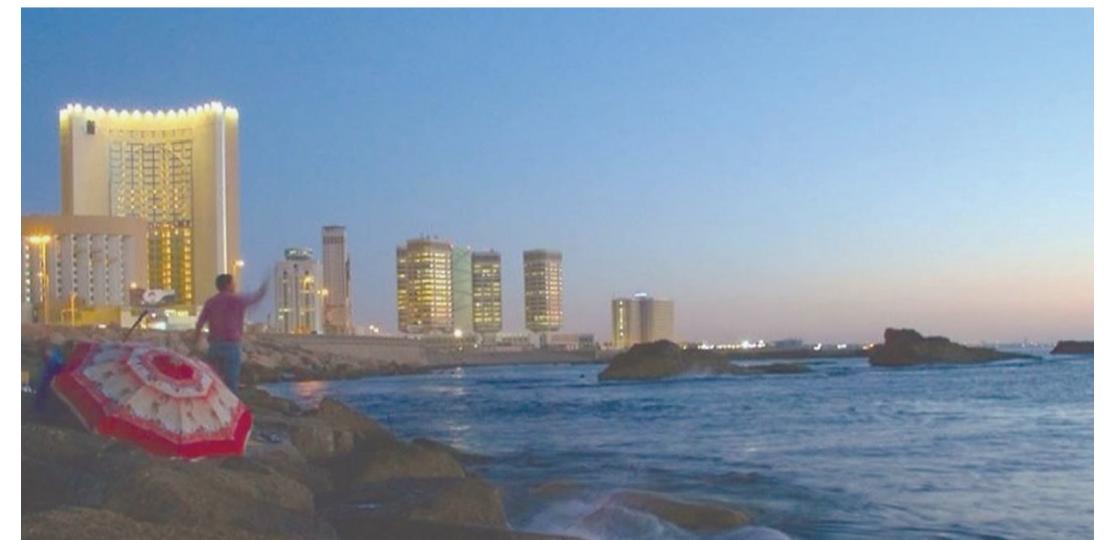
Of course, I know things cannot be achieved overnight, yet I strongly believe that the current hardships can be resolved by the Libyan people, who have experience going through long periods of adversity, challenging the difficult obstacles facing them and eventually breaking through.

I cannot help but wish for the day when all Libyans share jubilant smiles. Above all, I hope for the realization

of peaceful days when youth and children, who will lead the next generation, can realize their hopes for the future.

The government and people of Japan, who have followed the path of a peaceful country over the 70 years since the end of World War II, are always together with the people of Libya in their quest for peace.

All the best wishes for the happiness of the Libyan people!



The Corinthia Hotel Tripoli by the Mediterranean Sea  
EMBASSY OF LIBYA

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on the Occasion of the 4th Anniversary  
of the February 17th Revolution of Libya

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