

Jordan National Day

Friendly ties based on shared values and commitment to future

Demiye Haddad
AMBASSADOR OF THE HASHEMITE
KINGDOM OF JORDAN

Today, as Jordan celebrates the 70th anniversary of Independence, it gives me great honor and privilege to take advantage of this glorious occasion to express on behalf of Their Majesties King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein and Queen Rania Al-Abdullah, the Royal Family, the government and people of Jordan, our sincere 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.

Our celebrations in Japan this year come with a tinge of sadness for the great pain this kind country had to endure again due to the Kumamoto earthquakes last month. We offer our heartfelt condolences



es for the families and friends of those who lost their lives, as well as our prayers for those who are still suffering. Japan has always stood strong in the face of difficult challenges and we have witnessed over and over again how the resilience, solidarity and commitment of all Japanese protected this great nation and enabled it to continue its vital role as a pillar of stability and security, not only in the region, but also throughout the world.

This year Jordan also celebrates the first centennial of the great Arab Revolt of 1916, which was launched and led by Al-Sharif Al-Hussein Bin Ali, the great-great grandfather of His Majesty King Abdullah II. This revolt aimed at unifying Arabs to fight for their freedom and for their rights of justice, equality, liberty and independence. It endeavored to create a nation living in peace and cooperation with all other nations, building more bridges of friendship and understanding and contributing to a more prosperous future for all. We Jordanians strongly adhere to these noble principles and feel

obligated by our heritage to continue advancing them. And while we remember with pride and reverence all the sacrifices that were made, we vow to continue holding the torch of this great revolt led by its rightful heir, His Majesty the King.

Jordan has come a long way since its independence in 1946, despite severe shortages in almost every natural resource, including water. Like Japan, we focused on developing our most important asset, our people. Through huge investments and sacrifices we were able to build one of the best education systems in the region, graduating able professionals in almost all needed sectors, not only helping Jordan's socioeconomic development, but also contributing to the development of many countries in the region. The rapid advances Jordan witnessed during the past 17 years alone, since His Majesty the King assumed constitutional powers in 1999, are remarkable to say the least. His Majesty's visions, initiatives and direct involvement guided our transformation into the

modern society we are now, advancing rapidly through the achievements and opportunities we present and the gateways we offer to the rest of the region and beyond. Our firm stability and security continue despite what our region is witnessing, this was possible due to the unwavering belief of our people in our political system, and the comprehensive reform process we adopted. The resilience and commitment of all Jordanians enabled our small country to become an attractive potential-full hub, where justice, human rights, freedoms and the rule of law are firmly observed, and where dedication, hard work and ingenuity made possible the milestones we've accomplished, especially becoming an advanced education and medical center in the region.

With our eyes focused on the future, we are determined to usher in further leaps in technology and regional projects — Jordan currently produces over 70 percent of our electricity will be pro-

duced from clean and renewable sources in the coming 10 years. The bidding process for the Red-Dead water project designed to save one of the world's natural and historical heritage sites, the Dead Sea, is steadily advancing. This comes in addition to megaprojects in water desalination that will help ease fresh water shortages in Jordan and neighboring countries in the coming years, as well as huge investments in railways to take advantage of Jordan's strategic location as an interlink in the region.

Japan is a close friend that we deeply appreciate and highly value; the core of our bilateral relations has always been the special ties that bind the Imperial family of Japan and the Royal Family of Jordan. These bonds witnessed an unprecedented boost in the past three years due to the strong friendship and partnership that developed between His Majesty our beloved King and His Excellency Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, through their meeting several times a year.

We offer our gratitude to Japan for consistently standing by Jordan, especially during difficult times. The official assistance we received and continue to receive helped our socioeconomic development policies and enabled us to extend much needed assistance to others in need, especially the 1.4 million Syrian refugees who now make up more than 15 percent of Jordan's population and who have lost almost everything since 2011. Our partnership with Japan is based on our mutual values and principles, especially our steadfast commitment to a better future for our children, where they can enjoy their diversity in a more secure and peaceful world, away from fear of violence and exclusion.

Jordan is blessed with mesmerizing beauty, from Petra, chosen as the second of the New Seven Wonders of the World, entirely carved into rose red mountains; and Jerash that hosts one of the best-preserved cities of the Roman Empire; to Wadi Rum, which travelers describe as a journey to the moon; to the Dead Sea,



H.M. King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein
EMBASSY OF JORDAN



H.R.H. Crown Prince Al-Hussein Bin Abdullah
EMBASSY OF JORDAN

the lowest point on earth, where winter feels like spring, and floating on its mineral rich water is uniquely enjoyable, as well as very therapeutic.

On behalf of all Jordanians I invite you to visit Jordan; we greet our guests with "Ahlan

Wa Sahlan" which means "you are welcome as one of us."

In conclusion I wish to express my sincere appreciation to 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 70th Anniversary
of Their National Day**

JAPAN-JORDAN ASSOCIATION

Chairman: Mikio Sasaki

3-1, Marunouchi 2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8086

**Congratulations
to the People of
the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
on the 70th Anniversary
of Their National Day**

 **Mitsubishi Corporation**

**Congratulations
to the People of
the Hashemite Kingdom
of Jordan
on the 70th Anniversary
of Their National Day**



MITSUI & CO.