

Saudi Arabian Deputy Crown Prince's Visit

Starting a new chapter in friendly, bilateral relations

Ahmad Younos S. Al Barrak
AMBASSADOR OF SAUDI ARABIA



On Sept. 23, we are going to celebrate the 86th Anniversary of the National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Last year, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two friendly countries. Since the inception of these distinguished relations we have kept them cordial and smooth through exchanges in different economic, political and social fields. These relations have also been maintained through mutual visits between the Royal family members of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Imperial family members of Japan, as well as through high-level visits of officials of governments.

Today it gives me great pleasure to announce that the Saudi Deputy Crown Prince, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud is mak-



Deputy Crown Prince
Mohammed bin Salman bin
Abdulaziz Al Saud

ing an official visit to Japan from Aug. 31 to Sept. 3.

During his stay in Tokyo H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Salman will have an audience with His Majesty Emperor Akihito, H.I.H. Crown Prince Naruhito and will hold a summit meeting with Prime Minister H.E. Shinzo Abe. The two are expected to discuss a range of issues of common interest, including regional and interna-



King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al
Saud

tional matters. During the visit, H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Salman will explain "Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030" to the prime minister. Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 is an ambitious blueprint that was launched this year under the directive of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to improve the business environment so that Saudi Arabia's economy grows

and flourishes. The two are expected to review the recent developments in both the regional and international areas. During the visit the Saudi Japanese Economic Forum will be held where memorandums of cooperation in different fields will be signed. Additionally, meetings will be held with Japanese leaders in the commercial and economic circles



Crown Prince Mohammed
bin Naif bin Abdulaziz Al
Saud

who are interested in investing in Saudi Arabia.

The latest economic and trade data confirms that the volume of trade exchange between Saudi Arabia and Japan was \$52 billion in 2014. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is ranked the 10th most-important trading partner for Japan, while Japan is ranked as Saudi Arabia's third most-important trading partner. In the political domain, the bilateral relations between the two countries witnessed similarities in views regarding their positions toward global issues and developments over the past 60 years. Both sides confirm their willingness and strong intention to continue this relationship through the common strong determination to develop them to achieve the principle of mutual benefits, common interests, policies and denominators that unite them. The pace of the relations between Saudi Arabia and Japan marches according to a true outline, characterized by serenity and harmony, heading toward the development and steady growth without being tainted by any reason for suspicion.

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In this regard I do believe that the auspicious visit of H.R.H. Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will open a new chapter in the history of the friendly distinguished relations that exist between our two amiable countries and peoples and further strengthen them. Finally we in the royal embassy of Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Saudi Arabian citizens living in Japan are greatly honored to welcome H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Salman on his official visit to Japan at this important moment and wish him all the best of success, good health and prosperity.



The King Abdullah Clock Tower in Makkah (Mecca) houses the world's tallest minaret, which is made of gold, the largest clock face and the largest man-made crescent. EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

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Vision 2030 provides the blueprint for the future of Saudi Arabia

"Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030" is an economic reform plan created by the Council of Economic and Development Affairs, which Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud chairs, and approved by the cabinet under the chairmanship of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on April 25.

"We will begin immediately delivering the overarching plans and programs we have set out," Prince Mohammed bin

Salman said in the foreword of the blueprint. "Together, with the help of Allah, we can strengthen the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's position as a great nation in which we should all feel an immense pride."

He noted the plan is "ambitious, yet achievable," describing the plan as showing "our long-term goals and expectations and reflecting our country's strengths and capabilities."

"All success stories start with a vision and successful visions are based on strong pillars," he

added.

He explained the first pillar of the vision is his country's status as "the heart of the Arab and Islamic worlds," saying the kingdom is "the Land of the Two Holy Mosques, the most sacred sites on earth, and the direction of the Kaaba (Qibla) to which more than a billion Muslims turn at prayer."

As for the second pillar, Prince Mohammed bin Salman mentioned the country's "determination to become a global investment powerhouse,"

stressing that its strong investment capabilities will stimulate the economy and diversify its revenues.

The third pillar is "transforming our unique strategic location into a global hub connecting the three continents of Asia, Europe and Africa," according to Prince Mohammed bin Salman. "Our geographic position between key global waterways makes the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia a center of trade and the gateway to the world."

While the country is rich in natural resources, Prince Mohammed bin Salman stressed its "real wealth lies in the ambition of our people and the potential of our younger generation," whom he refers to as "our nation's pride and the architects of our future."

The blueprint has set various goals to be achieved by 2030 under three themes: "Vibrant Society," "Thriving Economy" and "An Ambitious Nation."

"The first theme is vital to achieving the vision and a

strong foundation for economic prosperity," the vision noted in its introduction. "Members of this society live in accordance with the Islamic principle of moderation, are proud of their national identity and their ancient cultural heritage, enjoy a good life in a beautiful environment, are protected by caring families and are supported by an empowering social and health care system."

Several of the goals to realize the "Vibrant Society" include "increasing the average life ex-



It was at the Masmak Fort that the recapture of Riyadh, led by Ibn Saud, occurred in 1902. EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

pectancy from 74 years to 80 years," "more than doubling the number of Saudi heritage sites registered with UNESCO," "increasing the ratio of individuals exercising at least once a week from 13 percent of population to 40 percent," and "increasing our capacity to welcome Umrah (pilgrimage to Mecca) visitors from 8 million to 30 million every year."

On the second theme, the vision states "a thriving economy provides opportunities for all by building an education system aligned with market needs and creating economic opportunities for the entrepreneur, the small enterprise, as well as the large corporation."

It adds: "Therefore, we will develop our investment tools to unlock our promising economic sectors, diversify our economy and create job opportunities. We will also grow our economy and improve the quality of our services by privatizing some government services, improving the business environment, attracting the finest talent and the best investments globally and leveraging our unique strategic location in connecting the three continents."

Regarding the "Thriving Economy," the plan sets out 11 goals, which include "increasing the private sector's contri-

but from 40 percent to 65 percent of GDP," "increasing foreign direct investment from 3.8 percent to the international level of 5.7 percent of GDP" and "increasing women's participation in the workforce from 22 percent to 30 percent."

Aiming for "An Ambitious Nation," the vision stresses, "We will apply efficiency and responsibility at all levels." It continues: "Our third theme is built on an effective, transparent, accountable, enabling and high-performing government. We will also prepare the right environment for our citizens, private sector and non-profit sector to take their responsibilities and take the initiative in facing challenges and seizing opportunities."

To this end, the vision calls for achieving six goals, including "increasing household savings from 6 percent to 10 percent of total household income," "rallying 1 million volunteers per year (compared to 11,000 now)," and "increasing non-oil government revenue from 163 billion Saudi Arabian riyals (SAR) (\$43.4 billion) to 1 trillion SAR (\$266.4 billion)."

This text was excerpted from the <http://vision2030.gov.sa/en/website>

Our Heartiest Welcome to

His Royal Highness

Deputy Crown Prince

Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud,

The Second Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister of Defense of

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the Occasion of

His Royal Highness' Visit to Japan

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JAPAN-SAUDI ARABIA SOCIETY

Chairman: Hiromasa Yonekura

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Kingdom Centre in Riyadh is a 302-meter skyscraper. EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

Some recent reciprocal visits between Saudi Arabia and Japan

In January 2001
Foreign Minister Yohei Kono visits Saudi Arabia

In May 2003
Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visits Saudi Arabia

In November 2011
State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nizar bin Obaid Madani visits Japan

In January 2012
Foreign Minister Koichiro Genba visits Saudi Arabia

In March 2013
Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Minister of Defense, visits Japan

In April and May 2013
Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visits Saudi Arabia

In February 2014
Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, visits Japan

Information obtained from the Foreign Ministry website. For further details, see <http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/saudi/visit/index.html>

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