

Saudi Arabia National Day

Substantial progress seen in social, economic areas

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AMBASSADOR OF SAUDI ARABIA

The National Day Anniversary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia comes at a time when the comprehensive development renaissance, the foundation of which was laid by the kingdom's Founder King Abdulaziz Al Saud, has continued apace during the reigns of his faithful sons and successors down to the present reign of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. Building on the intellectual, institutional and management foundations laid by the founding king, and guided by his ideas and practices in development planning and economic management, his faithful sons have

Deputy Crown Prince
Mohammed bin Salman bin
Abdulaziz Al Saud

continued the efforts that have resulted in remarkable achievements and successes. These are reflected in the continued rise of living standards, improvement in the quality of life, com-

King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al
Saud

prehensive construction and industrial renaissance and advanced economic and social services throughout the country. These achievements are eloquent testimony to the effec-

Crown Prince Mohammed
bin Naif bin Abdulaziz Al
Saud

tiveness of the developmental approach that has been adopted by the kingdom; an approach that combines scientific planning, targeted rationalization, continued support for the private sector within the framework of economic freedom and individual initiative.

Over more than three decades, structural and socioeconomic advances have been achieved, at both the macro and sectorial levels. The Saudi economy has gained enormous strength, increasing its ability to adapt to changes and developments and withstanding global economic fluctuations.

Among the results of the development of institutional and administrative modernization, we have seen systems development efforts, the facilitation of measures and the occurrence of a significant improvement in the business environment in the kingdom beside an increase in its attractiveness for the foreign direct investment. As a result, the kingdom witnessed during the past years a remarkable increase in the amount of incoming foreign direct investment, and Saudi Arabia has become the forefront of countries of the

Middle East in this area.

Considering Saudi citizens to be the focus and the ultimate goal of the development, the government of Saudi Arabia has accorded great importance to human resource development. Hence, education has grown remarkably to an unprecedented level due to concern for the provision of all its development requirements. The attention to education and training coincided with a keen attention and intense keenness on the health of the citizens.

Remarkably, when the development process of the kingdom is examined, similarities in some important aspects since its beginnings — in the reign of the founder king — and the realities of the moment become evident. The kingdom's founder adopted modern methods for developing agriculture and water resources, the management of oil exploration, building transportation and communication networks, providing educational services and healthcare and building the institutions of the state by utilizing expertise from home and abroad. He sent Saudis abroad to specialize in various fields.

Saudi Arabia is now keen to expand the use of the achievements of science and technology in all areas, especially production and service, through the transfer of knowledge and advanced technology via foreign trade and foreign investment mechanisms by sending large numbers of its citizens abroad to acquire new knowledge and experience in various fields. In furtherance of this trend, the kingdom has made historical strides and embarked on the completion of mega-projects aiming at establishing the bases and the foundations of a knowledge-based economy.

More than 60 years have passed since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Japan, during which time



Saudi Arabia's Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud poses with Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito for a photo in Tokyo on Sept. 2. AP

these relations have witnessed a quantum leap and surprising development, steady growth and a remarkable cooperation that covered all the political, economic, cultural, military, educational and health fields. These development came thanks to the policies and principles enacted through bilateral agreements, negotiations and visits by the responsible officials in both countries, making the relationship one of the most important international relations over the last 60 years underlined by the sincerity, honesty and commitment to everything that has been agreed upon.

The year 1955 marked the beginning of the establishment of the Saudi-Japanese diplomatic relations that have been characterized by stability and good, steady growth since their inception with the participation of the

Japanese experts and technicians in the kingdom to modernize its infrastructure, mainly through the implementation of industrial power generation and information technology projects, in addition to a variety of industrial projects and much more. This was quite enough to make Japan with its companies, expertise and technically trained skilled labor more qualified to win a significant share of large-scale projects that had been implemented in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It also paved the way for the two countries to agree on concluding more deals based on the kingdom's needs and its development requirements, in the sense that the Saudi-Japanese relationship was and remains built on excellence and distinction.

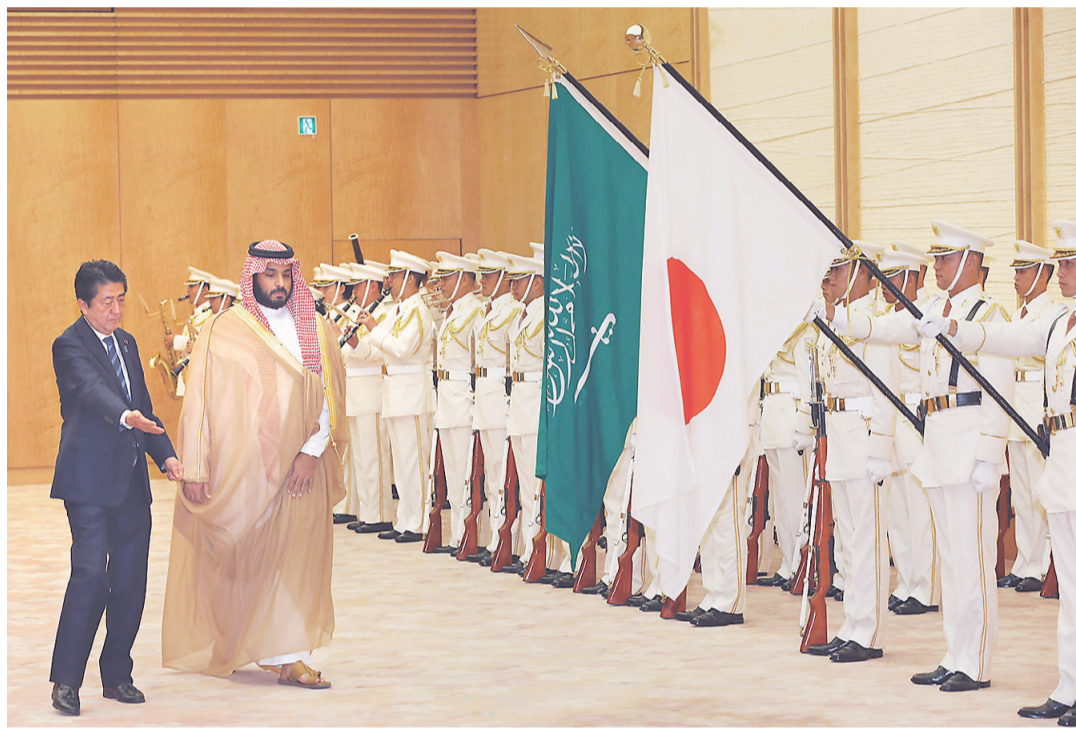
The latest economic and trade data confirm that the volume of the trade exchange between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Japan reached in 2014 to about 194 billion Saudi riyals (\$52 billion). The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is ranked the 10th most-important trading partner with Japan while Japan is ranked the third most-important trading partner with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Whoever reads about the economies of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Japan, both countries' potentials and the status of each among the global economic system, will not be surprised by the solid Saudi-Japanese partnership that has existed over the last 60 years, their capabilities to create a productive environment as witnessed by the cooperation between the two countries and how they have become members of the G-20 and among the economically richest countries in the world. The friendship between the two countries, similarities of policies, and opportunities of available integration shared by our countries enabled our governments to draw a road map for bilateral relations with specifications suitable for both countries that will help in making, at a later

stage, a distinguished partnership by enhancing the yearly added value of such relationship. A number of agreements and committees, mainly the Saudi-Japan Joint Committee that connects both countries, assure both build a genuine partnership that does not exclude any activity so bilateral cooperation would be comprehensive in addressing the interests of the people of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Japan.

It is worth mentioning that H.R.H. Deputy Crown Prince, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, paid an official visit to Japan in the beginning of September with a view to improving the business environment between the two countries. H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Salman held a meeting with H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to review recent developments in both regional and international areas and where a number of memorandums of cooperation were exchanged in the fields of energy, industry, trade, culture, defense and media. This visit opened a new chapter in the history of our friendly and distinguished relations.

In the political area, the bilateral relations between our countries witnessed similarities in views regarding positions toward global issues and developments over the past 60 years. Both sides confirmed their willingness and strong intentions to continue this relationship since their establishment by 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 the Kingdom of 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 suspicion.



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe escorts Saudi Arabia's Prince Mohammed bin Salman as they review an honor guard prior to their meeting at Abe's office in Tokyo on Sept. 1. AFP-JIJI

Congratulations
to the People of
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
on the Occasion of
Their 86th National Day



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Saudi Arabia National Day

Working together to further promote mutual understanding

Hiomasa Yonekura
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-SAUDI ARABIA SOCIETY

On the auspicious occasion of the 86th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I would like to offer on behalf of the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society our best wishes to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Naif bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, His Royal Highness Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, His Excellency Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Japan Ahmad bin Younos Al Barrak and the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

I would also like to offer our congratulations on the successful official visit to Japan by H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Salman for four days from Aug. 31 to Sept. 3. H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Salman serves as second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and the chairman of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs, Saudi Arabia's supreme policy-making body. During his visit, H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Salman had an audience with His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito and His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito, deepening the friendship with the Imperial family. The Deputy Crown Prince also had talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and was invited to a welcome dinner hosted by the prime minister at his official residence. In their talks, they agreed to

launch a ministerial conference to discuss possible collaborations toward the realization of Saudi Arabia's economic reform set out in "Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030," and to convene its first conference in Riyadh in October. After the meeting, H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Salman and the prime minister attended a ceremony for the exchange of a memorandum of understanding outlining that Japan and Saudi Arabia will enhance cooperation in energy, development of small to medium-sized businesses, cultural exchange and other areas.

Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, which defines the major national objectives that Saudi Arabia will work to accomplish by 2030, was formulated by the Council for Economic and Development Affairs and was endorsed in April by the Council of Ministers. In the vision 2030, Saudi Arabia expresses its commitment to economic reform that seeks to shift from an oil-driven economy to a diversified economy by promoting investment, tourism, manufacturing and logistics. In addition, the "National Transformation Program 2020 (NTP 2020)" was announced in June. NTP 2020 provides the targets that need to be achieved by 2020 in order to realize the vision 2030. Specifically, NTP 2020 sets the goals of creating new job opportunities in the private sector and accelerating the privatization of state-owned enterprises. The vision 2030 and NTP 2020 bear testament to the Saudi Arabian government's strong determination to carry through economic reform with the aim of achieving sustained, long-term economic growth and national prosperity for bettering the lives of the people of

the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Japan and Saudi Arabia marked the 60th anniversary of their diplomatic relations last year. Along the way, Japan-Saudi ties have grown into a multilayered, strategic partnership encompassing a wide range of domains, from energy to industry, technology, the environment, education, science and culture. Spurred by the successful official visit to Japan by H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Salman, this partnership is expected to grow at an accelerated pace.

Since its inception in 1960, the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society has been working on various cultural exchange programs, including Arabic courses, to enhance the understanding among the people in Japan about Islam and Arab culture and society. In celebration of the 60th anniversary of Japan-Saudi Arabia diplomatic relations, the society published last year a photographic collection titled "A Visualized 60-year History of Japan-Saudi Arabia Friendship" and a collection of essays titled "Japan as Observed by A Saudi Ambassador" written by former Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Japan Mohammad Kurdi. We at the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society will continue working on cultural exchange initiatives and contributing, in close cooperation with the ambassador, to further promoting Japan-Saudi friendship.

Last, but not least, I pray for the peace and prosperity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and heartily wish the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman, H.R.H. Crown Prince Mohammad bin Naif, and H.R.H. Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman good health and happiness.

Warmest Congratulations to
**The Custodian of
the Two Holy Mosques
King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud**
of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and his People
on the Occasion of the 86th Anniversary of
Their National Day



JAPAN-SAUDI ARABIA SOCIETY

Chairman: Hiromasa Yonekura

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to the People of
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on the Occasion of
Their 86th National Day

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