

Jordanian king's visit

Increasing mutual cooperation across a wide variety of areas

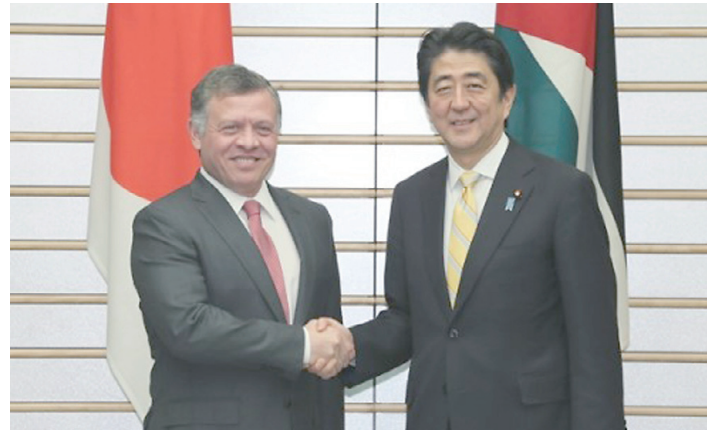
King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan His Majesty Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein will pay an official visit to Japan from Wednesday to Friday.

During his stay, Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko will invite His Majesty the King to the Imperial residence for a luncheon. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will also hold a meeting with His Majesty the King and host a dinner in his honor.

Exchanges between the two leaders have been very active and they maintain an amicable bilateral relationship.

This will be His Majesty the King's ninth visit to Japan. Most recently, His Majesty the King visited Japan in November 2014, when he held discussions with Prime Minister Abe. It was also the year that marked the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

The two have met on a number of other occasions, includ-



Left: King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan meets with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Nov. 20, 2015, in Tokyo during a visit to Japan; Right: The historic city of Petra is a UNESCO World Heritage site and Jordan's leading tourist attraction. CABINET PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE, EMBASSY OF JORDAN



ing when Prime Minister Abe made an official visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in January 2015. They also held meetings at the Asian-African Conference in Jakarta in April 2015, the U.N. General Assembly in September 2015, the Nuclear Security Summit in April

and on other occasions. The friendly bilateral ties are based on the Japan-Jordan Joint Statement that was issued by His Majesty the King and Prime Minister Abe in November 2014. This week, they are likely to confirm the importance of the bilateral relationship and respect

for the statement to further strengthen ties and contribute to world peace and prosperity.

Prime Minister Abe is likely to express his gratitude for Jordan's continued support for Japan's permanent membership bid for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council. His Maj-

esty the King is likely to express his thanks for Japan's assistance to Jordan, both past and present, including loans to support Syrian refugees.

Additionally, the 2014 joint statement stipulates that the two discussed increasing high-level exchanges and strength-

ening policy consultations at the foreign minister and senior official levels of their foreign ministries. Both sides also decided to expand defense relations and increase visits between the officials of the Japanese Ministry of Defense of Japan, the Japan Self-Defense Forces and Jordanian armed forces officials. The two leaders are likely to pledge continued efforts to increase such exchanges.

The two are also likely to reaffirm the importance of active cultural cooperation in considering the rich cultural heritage of both nations. In the 2014 joint statement, His Majesty the King expressed gratitude for the signed cultural grant assistance for the construction of the Petra Museum (¥686.2 million) provided by Japan.

The two will also probably discuss Japanese companies' experience and technological advances in the fields of renew-

able energy and increasing bilateral technological cooperation. There are already some joint ventures between companies of the two countries engaged in the development of solar power systems in Jordan.

His Majesty the King and Prime Minister Abe are also expected to discuss their pledge to increase mutual cooperation in various fields, including

sports. In their 2014 joint statement, they welcomed the conclusion of a partnership agreement between the Japan Football Association and the Jordan Football Association. Additionally, His Majesty the King welcomed Prime Minister Abe's expression of intent to reinforce bilateral sports exchanges through the "Sport for Tomorrow" program.

Biography of H.M. King Abdullah II

His Majesty Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who assumed his constitutional powers as monarch in February 1999, is the eldest son of His Majesty King Hussein Bin Talal (1935-1999) and Her Royal Highness Princess Muna Al Hussein. Born in Amman on Jan. 30, 1962, he is the namesake of King Abdullah I, his great-grandfather, the founder of modern Jordan.



King Abdullah began his education at the Islamic Educational College in Amman. He later attended St. Edmund's School in Surrey, England, and concluded his high school education at Deerfield Academy in the United States. Later, he pursued advanced studies at Oxford's Pembroke College and Georgetown University.

The young prince was an avid sportsman and in 1980, he enrolled in the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst (U.K.) and served in the British Army.

In 1985, then-Prince Abdullah returned to Jordan to serve in the country's armed forces. In November 1993, Prince Abdullah became commander of Jordan's special forces.

His Majesty the King has worked to bring the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to prosperity by promoting trade with the world. His Majesty the King personally championed Jordan's accession to the World Trade Organization, presided over Jordan's becoming the first Arab country to sign a free trade agreement with the U.S. and has forged new bilateral and multilateral economic alliances with countries from Asia to Latin America.

His Majesty the King has championed the rights, achievements and values of Muslims worldwide as he worked in 2004 with leading Islamic scholars to release the Amman Message, reaching a global audience with Islam's guiding principles of peace, tolerance and dialogue among faiths.

Information excerpt from <http://kingabdullah.jo/>

Our Heartiest Welcome to
His Majesty
King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein of Jordan
on the Occasion of
His Majesty's Official Working Visit to Japan

JAPAN-JORDAN ASSOCIATION

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 **Mitsubishi Corporation**