

Jordan National Day

Nation enjoys stability, peace in unsure times

DEMIYE HADDAD
AMBASSADOR OF THE HASHEMITE
KINGDOM OF JORDAN



On this glorious day celebrating the 71st Anniversary of the Independence of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, I have the high honor and privilege of conveying the sincere greetings of Their Majesties King Abdullah II and Queen Rania Al Abdullah, The Royal Family, the government and people of Jordan to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family, the government and the people of Japan, along with our warmest wishes to this great nation for continued peace, progress and prosperity.

We are very happy to say that our bilateral ties with Japan have never been as advanced and diverse as they are now, cemented by the special ties that bind the Royal Family of Jordan and the Imperial family of Japan, and boosted by the strong friendship and partnership between His Majesty the King and His Excellency Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who met several times during the past two years and most recently during the ninth visit of His Majesty the King to Japan in October. I am also happy to add that the number of high ranking visits between our countries witnessed a sharp rise during recent years, clearly reflecting the advanced level our bilateral relations have reached.

We in Jordan are blessed with firm stability and security despite what the region is going through these days. This is possible through the strong leadership, wisdom and vision of His Majesty

the King, along with the determination of our people to protect and advance the lives they have built for themselves and their children. This enabled Jordan to become a moderate, secure and hospitable society where human rights and dignity are safeguarded, and where doors are open to millions of refugees, the vast majority of whom are living among us in our cities and towns, provided with all they need with the utmost respect and care.

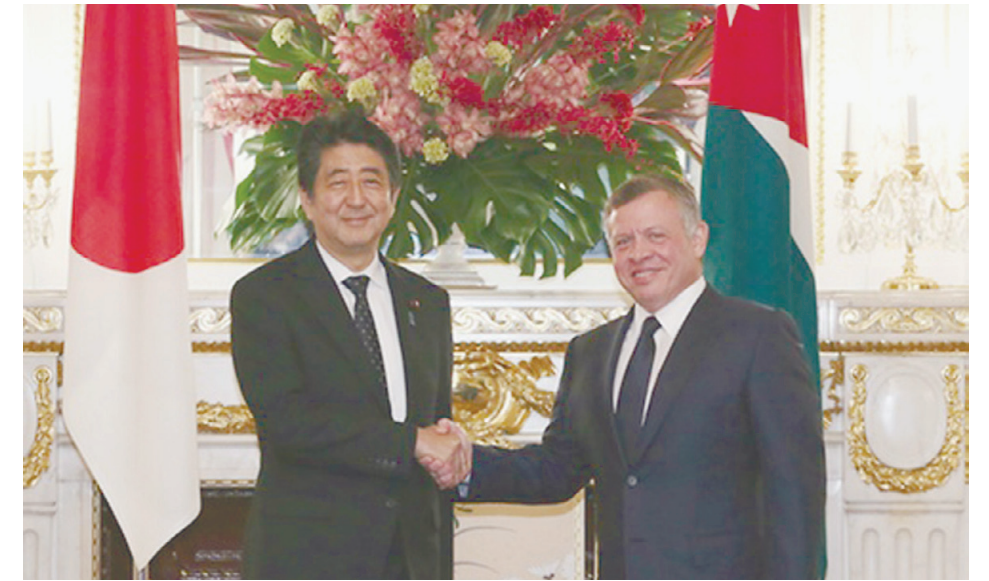
We are extremely proud with what we were able to achieve especially in the past 18 years. The advances we have made in the fields of education, medicine and software are so remarkable that they have highlighted Jordan as a leading education and medical center in the Middle East, comparable to only the best ones in the world. Our contributions to internet programs and software in Arabic stand at more than 50 percent. We are currently working to reach new landmark advances in various fields in the coming few years, especially in clean and renewable energy, as well as water treatment.

Today we also pay tribute to our close friends, especially Japan, which for decades, has stood by us through thick and thin. Japan's continued aid to our socioeconomic development has supported us to reach where we are today. We also recognize Japan's humanitarian contributions for those in need in our region, especially Syrian refugees. It is important to state that Japan's actions support the causes of stability, security and human rights, while opening windows of hope for a future where all can live together in peace and harmony.

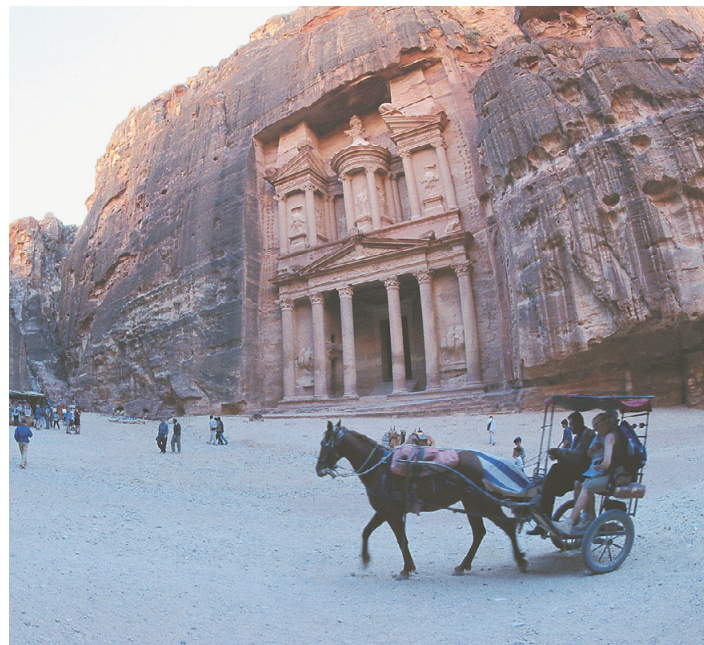
In closing, it gives me great pleasure to invite you to visit Jordan and enjoy its exceptional beauty, from Petra, a city entirely carved in rose red mountains, chosen for its uniqueness as one of the

world's new seven wonders, to Wadi Rum that travelers compare to walking on the moon, to the Dead Sea, the lowest land point on earth, well known for its therapeutic waters and exclusive nature.

On behalf of all Jordanians I invite you to visit Jordan with "Ahlan Wa Sahlan," which means "you are welcome as one of us." Thank you.



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and King Abdullah II of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan shake hands in Tokyo in October. CABINET PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE



The historic and archaeologically significant city of Petra in southern Jordan is a UNESCO World Heritage site. EMBASSY OF JORDAN

**Congratulations
to the People of
the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
on the 71st Anniversary
of Their National Day**

JAPAN-JORDAN ASSOCIATION

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 **Mitsubishi Corporation**