

UAE National Day

Ongoing and beneficial strategic partnership

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AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES

On the auspicious occasion of the 46th UAE National Day, I am honored to convey, on behalf of the government and people of the UAE, my heartfelt greetings to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the government and people of Japan. I also extend warm congratulations to President of the UAE H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, T.H. the members of the Federal Supreme Council of Rulers of the Emirates and the people of the UAE.

On Dec. 2, the United Arab Emirates celebrates its 46th national day. This same day in 1971 marked the establishment of the Emirates, a union that has come to be a leading model of sustainable development, progress and growth in the region and beyond.

On this historic occasion, I would like to hail the bilateral relations between our countries. These relations found their roots in the principles of cooperation and mutual respect, and evolved into a strategic partnership between our countries and peoples over recent years. The current level of cooperation can be described as the best ever since the

establishment of our diplomatic ties in 1972.

The UAE is Japan's major energy supplier and provides about 32 percent of its oil and gas needs. Today, bilateral energy ties are entering a new era. Both countries are in talks about the possibility of a broader and deeper strategic partnership for energy cooperation expanding to the midstream and downstream sectors. The trade volume between the two countries from January to September reached about \$20.2 billion, up 9.2 percent from the same period last year.

There are currently about 70 UAE students studying in Japanese universities. Also, the UAE has become home to over 300 major Japanese companies, and about 4,000 Japanese live and work there, representing the largest Japanese community in the Middle East and North Africa.

The mutual visits of the leaders of the two countries and the ever-growing volume of commercial, economic and cultural exchanges bear witness to the strong bilateral ties our countries share in various fields. The visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan to Japan in April resulted in the commencement of the ordinary and diplomatic visa waiver for the UAE and Japanese nationals from July. The mutual visa waiver for both countries will further enhance people-to-people ties, as well as have a significant impact on bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, business and tourism. Likewise, I hope that the forthcoming visits of the leadership of both

countries will add a strong and significant momentum for the future development of our bilateral relations.

UAE national day is also about celebrating a leadership, which forever stands ready to invest in its people's human capital, placing its citizens at the top of its priorities, to achieve distinction, stability and sustainable development.

These political, economic, social and cultural achievements were accomplished, thanks to the vision of our wise leadership and the sustained efforts of Emiratis who have toiled to build the future of our nation.

On the national front, the UAE laid the foundations and rules of good governance, building strong and stable national institutions based on principles and standards of transparency and accountability, the rule of law and good citizenship, thus establishing an oasis of security, stability, modernity and tolerance.

The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was the first to lay the foundations for a comprehensive national strategy aimed at achieving well being for citizens, and our current president assumed his father's role to complete this strategy, and overcome its challenges with determination and willfulness.

Inspired by the vision of the forefathers of the nation, the UAE Vision 2021 was launched, charting the next stage of the country's progressive journey toward achieving a cohesive and identity-based society, first-rate education system, world-



class health care, competitive knowledge economy, fair judiciary system, sustainable environment, integrated infrastructure and world-class standing.

On the foreign front, the UAE's foreign policy since its establishment in 1971 is grounded in wisdom, moderation, justice and advocacy, based on the principles

of dialogue and understanding between brothers and friends, respect for international charters, adherence to the U.N. Charter, as well as respect for the rules of good neighborliness, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The country has long adopted a foreign policy centered on peaceful resolution of disputes and non-interference in other countries' internal affairs.

The UAE approached the world with great openness. This resulted in the establishment of strategic political, economic and commercial partnerships, as well as judicious and key partnerships in the fields of culture, science, education and health care with many countries across the world, thus enhancing its prestigious standing in the international community. I am pleased to say that the partnership between the UAE and Japan is at the forefront of these strategic partnerships, whose goal is to seek a brighter future for

both countries and the world.

The UAE persisted in its international humanitarian approach from 1971, and ranked as the world's top aid donor for three consecutive years by the OECD, posting the highest official development assistance to gross national income ratio. Besides, the UAE is continuing to implement the Millennium Development Goals and meet the objectives of the United Nations Development Plan 2030.

On this 46th national day, I extend my sincere gratitude for the efforts and contributions of all of our partner entities and people in Japan that encourage us to work harder toward the formation of a brighter and more prosperous future of stability, peace, development and happiness between the two countries. I believe that the UAE and Japan can continue to build such a brighter future.



The Louvre Abu Dhabi in the Saadiyat Cultural District on Saadiyat Island opened in November. EMBASSY OF THE UAE

Congratulations
to the Government and People
of the United Arab Emirates
on Their 46th National Day



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