

Bahrain National Day

Strong and ever-growing bilateral relations

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CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN



On this auspicious occasion of the 46th National Day of the Kingdom of Bahrain and of the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bahrain and Japan, I am honored

to convey, on behalf of the government and people of Bahrain, my sincere and best wishes of continued good health, prosperity and happiness to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family, the government and the people of Japan.

I also extend my heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Modern, open society

Most of the Japanese people staying in the Arabian Gulf know Bahrain as an ideal destination for vacations, sunny sandy beaches, beautiful green parks, fresh air and vigorous markets always awaiting them. In ancient texts Bahrain has been known as a paradise and has been described as "The Garden of Eden" and "The Eternal Land."

Bahrain is continuously changing. Our king has an ambitious vision of investing in human resources to further develop the country's status as a cultural, financial and technology center. In this democratic constitutional monarchy, women's roles in society are already large and education is open to the entire nation. The modern and liberal atmosphere of our country is always attracting curious visitors.

Moreover, there are numerous luxurious development projects being undertaken. Readers may already know about the Bahrain International Circuit, which serves as a host of races in the Formula One racing season. There are also artificial island resorts, surrounded by beautiful emerald green seas that are increasingly becoming alluring destinations for relaxing vacations. In addition, there is the 25-kilometer long



H.M. King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

King Fahd Causeway linking the island nation of Bahrain to Saudi Arabia.

We encourage you to choose the Kingdom of Bahrain as a regional base of business, a destination for vacation or as your second

home after retirement, enriching your life with more fascination and energy.

Tolerance and coexistence

In the Kingdom of Bahrain, people enjoy life in a very ethnically diverse community that includes Japanese, Indians, Pakistanis, Europeans and Americans. The key to peace in today's world is respect and tolerance for diversity.

In 2002, a new constitution, the National Action Charter, was adopted that enshrined the rights of all faiths and guaranteed freedom of worship. Manama is home to several churches, mosques and temples that represent clear evidence of coexistence and culture diversity that have been in place for centuries. The country also celebrates a diverse range of religious holidays. These festivities can be seen through the shops, colorfully commemorating festivals such as Christmas, Halloween, Diwali, Easter and Eid.

The government of Bahrain has always

stressed religious tolerance as a core of Bahrain's social values, in which no one is discriminated against or marginalized because of their religious beliefs and practices.

Strong business history

Japan and Bahrain have for decades traditionally maintained a very solid friendship. The beginning of these relations dates back to 1934, with the first Bahraini oil shipment to Japan, after the discovery of oil in Bahrain in 1932. The establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Bahrain in 1972 further solidified this relationship.

The Kingdom of Bahrain, located at the heart of the Gulf region, is considered the gateway to the Middle East. Its strategic location provides Japanese companies with efficient access to every market in the region.

Bahrain allows foreign companies to retain 100 percent foreign ownership and to benefit from the region's lowest taxes. It is renowned as a "business friendly" liberal society, actively



Bahrain's Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa meets with Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Taro Kono on the sidelines of the Manama Dialogue on Dec. 9.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BAHRAIN

encouraging the establishment and expansion of the private enterprise sector.

This month's 13th annual Regional Security Summit (the IISS Manama Dialogue) was attended by Japan's Foreign Minister H.E. Taro Kono, where views regarding the global impact of political, economic, social and security challenges in and around the Middle East and North Africa were discussed.

To conclude my remarks, I wish the best

for the continuing progress in all fields for both countries and further solidification of the special relationship tying both of our nations together. I am also humbly indebted to our sponsors, whose generosity has made this supplement possible. I am very confident that our relations for years to come will see further enhancement of strong ties between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Japan.



Formula One races take place at the Bahrain International Circuit.
BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT

Congratulations to the People of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the 46th Anniversary of Their National Day

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