

# Kuwait National Day

## Economic hopes point toward 2035

**ABDUL-RAHMAN HUMOOD AL-OTAIBI**  
AMBASSADOR OF KUWAIT



On the occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the Independence of the State of Kuwait and the 27th anniversary of the liberation from the brutal invasion by the former Iraqi regime, I am honored for this

opportunity to convey the warm wishes of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the government and people of the State of Kuwait to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako, His Excellency Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the government and people of Japan.

This year is of particular significance for the State of Kuwait, as it assumes non-permanent membership to the United Nations Security Council for the 2018-2019 period. In February, Kuwait assumed the council's presidency, an important role that rotates each month, holding tremendous responsibilities to address the challenges facing the international community.

Through its membership, Kuwait will focus on strengthening security and stability in the Middle East and the world according to the objectives of the United Nations. It will contribute to promoting the Security Council's role in preventive diplomacy and addressing crises threatening international peace and security. It will also continue to support peaceful conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peace-building in post-conflict areas, building national and regional capabilities and combating terrorism and extremism.

Since its admission to the U.N. on May 14, 1963, the State of Kuwait has been pursuing a peaceful and balanced foreign policy based



The Kuwait Towers in Kuwait City are a modern symbol of the country. They are located at the tip of the Persian Gulf and store water and equipment. EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

on the U.N. Charter and a firm conviction in the importance of dialogue in settling disputes, fostering tolerance and coexistence between cultures and religions.

Kuwait has been active in various United Nations organs and agencies, such as the U.N. Security Council (1978-1979), the Economic and Social Council (1967-1969, 1992-1994, 2013-2015) and the Human Rights Council (2011-2014), among others. The United Nations House, located in Kuwait, accommodates the local offices of the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Organization for Migration, the International Labor Organization and the World Bank. Kuwait also hosts the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

Simultaneously, humanitarian assistance has been the primary pillar of Kuwait's foreign policy. Besides promoting partnerships in this field with international and regional organizations, such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Kuwait has been encouraging and coordinating the inter-

national response to humanitarian crises, including natural disasters, refugee crises and the protection of civilians in conflict zones.

In the development field, Kuwait achieved almost all of the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals before their scheduled deadline in 2015 and committed itself to implementing all post-2015 development plans. It also held high-level development conferences that included the third Arab-African summit, the first Asia Cooperation Dialogue summit, the Arab Economic and Social Development summit and recently, the Kuwait International Conference for Reconstruction of Iraq on Feb. 12-14.

Furthermore, Kuwait's total official development assistance value contributions to developing and least-developed countries exceeded 1.32 percent of its gross domestic product, thus surpassing the internationally set goal of 0.07 percent. Its principal funding arm has been the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development that provided 946 soft loans — worth \$20.2 billion — to 106 countries since its inception in 1961 as the first development institution in the world to be established by a developing country.

At home, the government formulated Kuwait Vision 2035, a policy proposal that

articulates the amir's aspirations to "transform Kuwait into a world-class financial and commercial center, with the private sector leading economic activities." To this end, the government launched the second mid-range phase of the National Development Plan (2015-2020) that earmarks \$103 billion worth of investments focusing on nine vital sectors. Its primary goal is to increase the share of the private sector from 26.4 percent to 41.9 percent of GDP, the percentage of the non-oil sector from 45.1 percent to 64 percent of GDP and the share of research and development from 0.1 percent to 1.0 percent of GDP.

Independence also marked the outset of Kuwait's relations with Japan, which was among the first countries to recognize Kuwait's independence, even though bilateral trade started before the establishment of diplomatic relations. Today, we have a comprehensive multilevel partnership spanning many areas, including the oil industry, infrastructure, technical training, scientific research and people-to-people exchanges. Bilateral trade has been ever-increasing and



The Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre is a landmark in Kuwait City. EMBASSY OF KUWAIT

reached ¥735.6 billion last year. Japan has been one of Kuwait's main trading partners, and while Kuwait has been Japan's fourth-largest supplier of crude oil, total foreign direct investment from Japan during the past decade has been Kuwait's second-largest source of trade income.

The convergence of perspectives between our nations on many international and humanitarian matters of great concern constitutes the pillar of our sustainable relationship of cooperation. High-level mutual visits and close exchange between businesspeople have also been advancing this relation.

Additionally, our countries have endeavored to strengthen their cooperation through bilateral agreements and memoranda that would pave the way for further development of the economic and technical relations between both sides and facilitate the exchange of investments, thus benefiting their peoples on a multitude of levels.

In conclusion, I wish Japan and the State of Kuwait further progress and prosperity. I also reiterate our determination to strengthen our comprehensive bilateral partnership to promote peace and sustainable development around the world.

## Cordial ties span business, cultural exchanges

**EISUKE MORI**  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE JAPAN-KUWAIT  
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On behalf of the Japan-Kuwait Parliamentary Friendship League, let me extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and the people of Kuwait on the 57th Anniversary of your National Day.

I would like to express my great respect for your country in establishing a democratic national system and achieving remarkable economic growth since its founding. I would also like to express my admiration of Kuwait's great contribution to the international community toward

stabilizing the Middle East.

Kuwait is a major provider of crude oil and other fossil fuels to Japan where energy sources are scarce. We consider Kuwait as one of our most important friends among many allies.

In addition to economic ties, Kuwait and Japan have recently held increasing exchanges on education and the environment. This is great news; these exchanges will further elevate bonds between our countries.

Speaking of bonds, I would like to express my gratitude for your country's immense support after the Great East Japan Earthquake that struck Japan in 2011. Words cannot express how much Kuwait's support contributed to restoring the devastated area. Thank you so much.

Through exchanges such as those between members of the parliaments in Japan and Kuwait, I promise the Japan-Kuwait Parliamentary Friendship League will do its utmost to further strengthen the friendly and mutually beneficial relations between our two countries.

In closing, I wish for peace and prosperity in your country.

## Heartiest Greetings and Congratulations to the State of Kuwait on the Occasion of the 57th Anniversary of National Day and the 27th Anniversary of Liberation Day



CEO PAK JAPAN GROUP OF COMPANIES  
CHAUDHRY ASIF MAHMOOD

### Wishing a great future for Kuwait

Thank you Kuwaiti People and

Kuwait Fund for helping the world.

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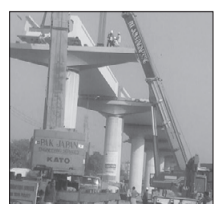
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OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN  
KUWAIT AND JAPAN



**JAPAN-KUWAIT SOCIETY**

Chairman: Yasushi Kimura



Kuwait City skyline EMBASSY OF KUWAIT



Heartiest Greetings and Congratulations to

**H.H. The Amir, H.H. The Crown Prince, H.E. The Prime Minister  
and The People of The State of Kuwait**

On the Occasion of the  
57th National Day of Kuwait, and 27th Anniversary of Liberation



**Kuwait Petroleum Corporation**  
(Far East) (K.S.C.) Japan Branch

# Kuwait National Day

## Diplomatic bonds foster growth

**YASUSHI KIMURA**  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-KUWAIT SOCIETY



On this auspicious occasion of the 57th National Day of the State of Kuwait, I am pleased to offer on behalf of the members of the Japan-Kuwait Society our sincerest greetings and congratulations to His Highness, the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness, the Crown Prince, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness, the Prime Minister, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Excellency Abdul-Rahman Al-Otaibi, ambassador of Kuwait to Japan, as well as to the friendly people of Kuwait.

In 2015, Kuwait announced the implementation of its second five-year development plan through which 34.15 billion Kuwaiti dinars will be spent on diversifying the Kuwaiti economy and reducing its dependence on oil — currently the source of approximately 90 percent of national revenue. This development plan accelerates the schedules of several large-scale infrastructure projects aimed at improving transportation systems and other infrastructure. The plan will also contribute to the modernization of current oil refining facilities, the construction of innovative new facilities and other energy-related projects. The International Monetary Fund estimated that Kuwait's overall gross domestic product would have grown 2.5 percent in 2017, while growth in the non-oil sector was estimated to reach 3 percent. That number is expected to grow to 3.5 percent in 2018 and 4.0 percent in 2019.

In addition, the country announced its plan — Kuwait Vision 2035 — last January, a plan that aims to build Kuwait into a finance and culture center by 2035. This ambitious plan covers the launch of 164 projects in seven key

areas, including human capital, infrastructure improvement and the cultivation of small and medium-sized enterprises. It also aims to increase national revenue from its current level of 13.3 billion Kuwaiti dinars to 50 billion by 2035. To achieve their aims set out in Kuwait Vision 2035, the Kuwaiti government has stated that it is necessary to bring in foreign investment of \$50 billion. They have announced that they are promoting the deregulation needed to achieve that goal, and that new rules will be designed for investors from overseas. There are also high expectations for investment from Japan.

Japan and Kuwait established diplomatic relations in 1961, and since then our two countries have continued to build a stronger relationship. Japan has been a major importer of Kuwaiti oil, and Kuwait has been a major importer of Japanese automobiles, steel, general machinery and other products. More recently, Kuwaiti venues have been frequently hosting events focused on animated films, comics, video games and other products born out of Japanese pop culture, and those events have served as catalysts for a growing interest in Japanese culture and traditions.

The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), which works in close cooperation with Japanese individuals and organizations in the oil technology and maritime fishery fields, celebrated its 50th anniversary in November. Japan's Ambassador to Kuwait Takashi Ashiki attended a ceremony held in celebration of KISR's anniversary and he was joined by other individuals from Japan, including representatives from the Japan Cooperation Center Petroleum, Aquamarine Fukushima and other organizations. The ceremony was an excellent opportunity for building stronger bonds with the researchers from KISR and reaffirming our commitment to continued cooperation between Japan and Kuwait. We believe that strong scientific and technological ties like these are just as important as strong economic ties, and they, too, will play a large role in ensuring that the

relationship between Japan and Kuwait continues to develop for the mutual benefit of both countries.

On a governmental level, the two countries have enjoyed a close diplomatic relationship in recent years that included a 2012 state visit to Japan by the amir of Kuwait and a 2013 visit to Kuwait by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. In May 2016, Kuwait's prime minister visited Japan and Foreign Affairs Minister Taro Kono traveled to Kuwait last year. In terms of non-governmental interchange, the Japanese-Kuwaiti Businessmen Committee first gathered together in 1995 and held its 21st meeting in Kuwait in October. Moreover, we are eternally grateful for the tremendous support offered to Japan by Kuwait after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake — support that included a donation of 5 million barrels of crude oil. These sorts of mutual exchanges — between governments and within the private sector — serve as the foundation upon which we will strengthen the bond between our two countries and create a relationship that will never waver. It is our hope that Japan's contributions to Kuwait — whether they be technological, interpersonal or cultural — will help your great nation achieve its goal of building Kuwait Vision 2035 that establishes its place as a center for finance and culture.

Since its establishment in 1965, the Japan-Kuwait Society has been working on various cultural exchange programs, including Arabic language courses, to enhance the understanding among people about Islam and Arabic culture in addition to fostering friendship between the two countries. We at the society will continue these activities that help build stronger mutual understanding and friendship.

Last but not least, I would like to offer my sincerest appreciation to the ambassador for his amazingly powerful efforts to enhance friendly relations between our two countries. I hope that our excellent relations further develop and I pray for the prosperity and progress of Kuwait and its peace-loving people.

HEARTIEST GREETINGS  
AND CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE STATE OF KUWAIT  
ON THE 57th ANNIVERSARY  
OF NATIONAL DAY  
AND 27th ANNIVERSARY  
OF LIBERATION



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*Heartiest Greetings  
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Congratulations  
to the State of Kuwait  
on the Occasion of  
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the 27th Anniversary of  
Liberation Day*



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