

Egypt National Day Special

Successful project and policy development

AYMAN ALY KAMEL
AMBASSADOR OF EGYPT



Today, we celebrate the National Day of Egypt, commemorating the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the July 23, 1952, revolution. It is an iconic day in Egyptian modern history that enabled

our country to regain its independence and free will, establish its republican system and launch comprehensive development plans.

After two popular uprisings in the span of two years — Jan. 25, 2011, and June 30, 2013 — we are pleased to see that Egypt's political road map has been successfully accomplished and the process of institutional building was achieved in record time, based on a contemporary constitution.

A few months ago, Egypt held presi-

dential elections under the supervision of an independent electoral commission and was witnessed widely by civil society, media and international organizations.

To deal with conditions on the economic front, Egypt has embarked on a comprehensive program of economic reform, addressing structural and financial challenges. To further ensure the effectiveness of the program, a new investment law was adopted, providing more incentives in support of domestic and foreign investment.

Since resuming its leadership role, Egypt pursues an interactive foreign policy, supporting regional and global peace. The political stability in the Middle East has always been one of our main priorities, and we have constantly played a vital role to ensure the peaceful settlement of any regional conflicts.

Another important pillar of Egypt's foreign policy has been the promotion of social and economic development in Africa. The Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development plays an important role in supporting Africa's development aspirations. Egypt

was recently elected to chair the African Union in 2019, which will coincide with the seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Japan.

On the bilateral level, the relations between Egypt and Japan date back to 1864, when members of the second Japanese mission to Europe stopped in Egypt. Since then, we have enjoyed cordial relations, witnessing an unprecedented leap following Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Egypt in January 2015, and President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi's important visit to Japan in March 2016.

Since the 1970s, Japan has been a constant partner in promoting human and economic development in Egypt. We highly appreciate Japan's support of many remarkable projects, including the Cairo Opera House, the Cairo University Pediatric Hospital and the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology, the first Japanese university overseas.

The Japanese government continues its reputable record of supporting mega-projects, particularly the Grand Egyptian

Museum, planned to be the largest archaeological museum in the world. Additionally, the Egypt-Japan Education Partnership aims to introduce the Japanese *tokkatsu* (short for *tokubetsu katsudo*), special responsibility-building activities, in 200 schools across Egypt, along with several projects in the infrastructure and energy sectors supported by the Japanese government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

I am pleased to share with the esteemed readers that Japan's recent easing of the travel advisory to Egypt was well received by the admirers of this great civilization. This development reflects the reality of improving security conditions in the country. We look forward to welcoming more Japanese visitors, taking advantage of EgyptAir direct flights that will increase to two flights a week from this autumn.

Long live Egypt and long live Japan.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Anticipation for museum plan

TADAHIKO ITO
SECRETARY GENERAL, JAPAN-EGYPT PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On the occasion of the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as secretary general of the Japan-Egypt Parliamentary Friendship League, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the

government and the people of Egypt.

I'm delighted to see how our bilateral relationship has progressed, and that more exchanges between the governments and peoples of Japan and Egypt have been taking place in recent years.

As one of these exchanges, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Manabu Horii visited Cairo in March and met Secretary-General of the Arab League Ahmed Aboul Gheit and other leaders of Egypt to exchange views on the cooperation between Japan, Egypt and other Arab

countries. In February, Egyptian Education Minister Tarek Galal Shawki came to Japan and met his counterpart, Yoshimasa Hayashi, in Tokyo.

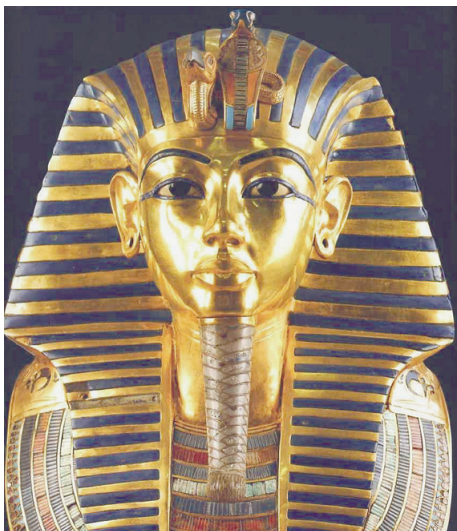
Additionally, Egypt's rich and historical heritage has been attracting a number of tourists from Japan and other countries. One thing visitors can look forward to is the opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum that will, in due time, exhibit the country's precious relics from its ancient past. This is a project that Japan is honored to offer technical and financial assistance to.

The friendly relations between our two countries have been long-lasting, dating back to 1864 when the members of the second Japanese mission to Europe visited Egypt during their journey. I am blessed to see this alliance continue to grow stronger and flourish.

The Japan-Egypt Parliamentary Friendship League will uphold the bonds between the two countries and further promote cooperative relations between Japan and Egypt. I sincerely hope for the continued prosperity of Egypt and the Egyptian people.



(From right) Foreign Minister Taro Kono, Ambassador Ayman Aly Kamel, his wife Ghada Kamel and Komeito chief Natsuo Yamaguchi at the Egypt National Day reception in Tokyo on July 2. EMBASSY OF EGYPT



The mask of King Tutankhamun at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. EMBASSY OF EGYPT

Congratulations
to the People of the
Arab Republic of Egypt
on the 66th Anniversary
of Their National Day

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of
the Arab Republic
of
Egypt on
their National Day

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