Saudi Arabia National Day Special

Robust bilateral relationship serves mutual interests

MOHAMMED FUAD N. JUSTANIAH CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF SAUDI ARABIA



On the occasion of the 88th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I am pleased and honored to write these lines on this happy occasion, and I am all proud of my precious homeland and its wise lead-

ership, headed by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al

This happy occasion comes to our hearts on Sept. 23 every year for us to stop and restore a glorious past started and established by the founder of this dear homeland, the late King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al Saud. May God bless him and his children who contributed with great efforts after him, for the service of the country and its prosperity and stability until the kingdom became this day among the most influential countries in today's world in the era of Salman.

Today, the kingdom is witnessing a new stage of development and prosperity that encompassed all aspects of life and achieved a distinguished presence at all levels, internally and externally. The Kingdom's Vision 2030, sponsored by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, is to lay the foundation stone for its economic, developmental and social future with a modern vision. Every day, the kingdom witnesses the start of giant intellectual and development projects, which have as their first goal and main focus the Saudi citizen. One of these megaprojects is Neom, which will be the starting point of a new world of unprecedented development and artificial intelligence, in addition to other economic projects that aim to create a promising investment market and open new workplaces for



Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

the young men and women of the kingdom. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — in addition to what God has bestowed upon it from the vast human and natural resources like oil, gas and other important minerals — enjoys the wisdom of its intelligent leadership, which has been able to unite all these energies and resources to achieve its lofty goals on the domestic, regional and international levels. The kingdom is looked at today as the cornerstone for stability of the world's system politically and economically, as it - in addition to the point mentioned above — oversees through its strategic location the most important maritime straits of world trade. and has the largest reserves of oil in the world.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia joins the international community with its organizations and bodies in supporting all efforts aimed at preserving international security and peace, protecting human rights, combating terrorism and enforcing international laws, as the kingdom is committed to its foreign policy by principles based on the Islamic laws and regulations that call for renouncing strife and for spreading peace and stability among human beings.

To consolidate this modern vision of the



King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

kingdom, its foreign policy for decades and until today has been adopted in its movements on the principles set out in the following — good neighborliness, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, to strengthen its external relations with all countries to serve common interests, adopt the non-aligned policy and play an active role within the framework of regional and international organizations.

Saudi diplomacy has achieved significant, positive achievements in the management of the kingdom's external relations with all the friendly countries of the kingdom and recently witnessed the signing of several strategic partnership agreements and memorandums of understanding with a number of major countries in all fields.

The Saudi diplomatic movement, in addition to developing relations with major powers, also strengthened the place of the kingdom and its role by intensifying its effort to resolve conflicts. This role is consistent with the U.N. Charter, in which the kingdom uses its proactive diplomacy to prevent these crises from escalating into military conflicts resulting in disasters. That is why the kingdom has participated in the tasks of international

organizations and of states that believe in collective action in the pursuit of international peace and security.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Japan have exemplary diplomatic ties with more than a 60-year history, during which the two countries have distinguished themselves in a relationship that serves their mutual interests.

The relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Japan have witnessed many stages of growth and development in all fields, including politics, the economy, culture, military, education, health and sports. These relations, which started in 1955, are truly an example and a realistic application of human relations and the policies and principles established by international law for diplomatic relations among the nations of the

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establishment of their

with the participation

of Japanese hands and

expertise in modern-

in the kingdom, espe-

cially in road projects,

public buildings, water

desalination, power

izing the infrastructure

diplomatic relations

ments since the

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Japan have exemplary diplomatic ties with more than a 60-year history, during which the two countries have distinguished themselves in a relationship that serves their mutual

generation, information technology and many important interests. industrial projects. One of the signs marking the distinguished relations between the two countries is when the kingdom granted the right to extract oil to a Japanese company, the Arab Oil Company, which successfully extracted oil, when a con-

cession agreement was signed in December

1957 and an experimental discovery of oil was



Charge d' Affaires a.i. of Saudi Arabia Mohammed Fuad N. Justaniah and Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Ambassador for the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Gulfregion Shigeru Endo shake hands during the national day reception at a hotel in Tokyo on Sept. 25. YOSHIAKI MIURA

made in January 1960.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Japan have strong and distinct economic ties based on mutual interests and benefits. Japan is one of the kingdom's major trading partners (the third-largest) and a major destination for foreign direct investment. The strength of these economic relations is reflected in the level and volume of trade between the two countries, as it has reached more than 200 billion Saudi Riyals, and the kingdom provides Japan with about 40 percent of its monthly energy needs.

The years 2016 and 2017 witnessed a remarkable development in the relations between the two countries; Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman made a successful visit to Japan in 2016, during which a number of memorandums of understanding were signed between the two countries in various fields. In 2017, King Salman made a historic visit to Japan, during which a number of other agreements were signed. The most important of these was the strategic partner-

ship agreement (Saudi-Japan Vision 2030), which aims to achieve the national economic and social vision of both countries by taking advantage of the commonalities and maximizing synergies between them.

Politically, the kingdom and Japan agree on a shared vision on most current issues in the region, based on a common understanding that their cooperation is of great importance for the stability and prosperity of the Middle East in particular, and the international community in general. The kingdom and Japan have common principles and identical concepts on many issues such as peace and conflict resolution in troubled regions of the world, fighting poverty and supporting development in poor societies, combating ignorance and spreading education in remote areas, as well as combating desertification and climate change. All of these make the relationship between the two countries important and influential for both sides, as well as important in supporting and sustaining stability and development in the world.

Congratulations

to the People of The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the Occasion of the 88th Anniversary of **Their National Day**



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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE 88th ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR NATIONAL DAY



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Warmest Congratulations to

The Custodian of the Two **Holy Mosques King Salman** bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and his People on the Occasion of the 88th Anniversary of Their National Day



JAPAN-SAUDI ARABIA SOCIETY

Chairman: Hiromasa Yonekura



Charge d' Affaires a.i. of Saudi Arabia Mohammed Fuad N. Justaniah and Takeo Kawamura, member of the House of Representatives and President of the Japan-Saudi Arabia Parliamentary Friendship Association, at the national day reception in Tokyo on Sept. 25. EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

OUR WARMEST GREETINGS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR NATIONAL DAY



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Saudi Arabia National Day Special

Mutual respect underpins ties

HIROMASA YONEKURA

CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-SAUDI ARABIA SOCIETY



On this auspicious occasion of the 88th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I would like to offer on behalf of the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society, our best wishes to the Custodian of the Two

Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Japan Mohammed Fuad N. Justaniah and the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The relationship between Saudi Arabia and Japan continues to deepen. In March 2017, when King Salman visited Japan, the Japan-Saudi Vision 2030 was agreed upon at a summit meeting. This agreement sets forth a vision for the cooperation between the two countries and specific bilateral collaboration projects, aiming to build stronger, mutually beneficial Saudi-Japan relations and create sustained growth together. In addition, the Japan-Saudi Vision 2030 Business Forum was convened in Tokyo on that occasion, at which a ceremony was held celebrating the exchange of memorandums of cooperation between companies and institutional organizations.

In January this year, the forum met for the first time in Riyadh, attended by Hiroshige Seko, Japan's minister of economy, trade and industry, Majid bin Abdullah al-Qasabi, Saudi minister of trade and investment, Khalid A. al-Falih, minister of energy, industry and mineral resources, Ibrahim bin Abdul Rahman al-Omar, governor of the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA), and Tariq Al Qahtani, co-chair of the Japan-Saudi Arabia Business Council. This forum included a ceremony

for granting licenses to companies that had newly received investment approval from SAGIA, as well as the exchange of memorandums of understanding.

In a conference call held between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and King Salman in July, it was confirmed that both countries would further promote public-private collaboration under the Japan-Saudi Vision 2030. In August, the Japanese requirements for the issuance of multiple entry visas for businesspeople and others visiting from Saudi Arabia were relaxed, and the duration of the visas was extended.

These changes are

expected to help fur-

ther deepen people-

to-people exchanges

between the two

Alongside the

nomic cooperation

people exchanges,

progress in eco-

and people-to-

there have also

been significant

developments in

cultural exchanges.

In January, a special

exhibition, "Roads

of Arabia: Archaeo-

logical Treasures of

Saudi Arabia," was

held at the Tokyo

National Museum.

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Arabian cultural

This event, in which

countries.

Since its inception in 1960, the Japan-Saudi **Arabia Society** has been workingon various cultural exchange programs, including **Arabic language** courses, and enhancing understanding amongthe people in Japan about Islam and Arab culture

and society.

displayed to the public for the first time in Japan, received broad attention. The duration of the exhibition was extended by around two months beyond the initial plan, and the event, which started Jan. 23 and ended May 13, attracted a large

Saudi-Japan relations, which began with cooperation in the energy field, have over

a long history of more than 60 years grown into a multilayered, strategic partnership that encompasses a significantly diverse range of areas, including industry, technology, the environment, education, science and culture.

Continuous efforts to see each other and to know more about each other are essential to fostering and maintaining friendship, not only in the relationship between people, but also in the relationship between nations. It is also important to maintain mutual visits by government officials and further deepen and expand people-topeople exchange in the private sector. Since its inception in 1960, the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society has been working on various cultural exchange programs, including Arabic language courses, and enhancing understanding among the people in Japan about Islam and Arab culture and society. In 2015, the society published a photo collection titled "A Visualized 60-year History of Japan-Saudi Arabia Friendship," and this year, in celebration of King Salman's visit to Japan, it published an Arabic edition of the collection, which was presented, via the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Japan, to the king. We at the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society will continue working on cultural exchange initiatives and contributions, in close cooperation with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Japan, the embassy's cultural affairs department and with the Arabic Islamic Institute in Tokyo associated with the Embassy, to further promoting the Japan-Saudi friendship.

Last but not least, I pray for the peace and prosperity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and heartily wish the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman good health and happiness.

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





Top: Colonel Khalid Abdulaziz S. Alhawas, military attache of the Saudi Arabian Embassy, Charge d' Affaires a.i. of Saudi Arabia Mohammed Fuad N. Justaniah and Kiminori Iwama, chief of protocol of the Foreign Ministry, at the national day reception in Tokyo on Sept. 25. Above: Charge d' Affaires a.i. Justaniah and Mazen Abudari, adviser to Taro Kono, member of the House of the Representatives, at the reception. EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA





Top: Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Ambassador for the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Gulf region Shigeru Endo speaks at the reception. Above: Charge d'Affaires a.i. of Saudi Arabia Mohammed Fuad N. Justaniah gives a speech at the reception.

EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

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