

# Oman National Day Special

## Rapid growth in relations, economic diversification

**MOHAMED AL BUSAIDI**  
AMBASSADOR OF THE SULTANATE OF OMAN



On the memorable occasion of the commemoration of the Sultanate of Oman's 48th National Day on Nov. 18, I have the honor, on behalf of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, his government and the

people of Oman, to convey the greetings and best wishes of good health, success, peace and prosperity to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and the members of the Imperial family, as well as the government and the friendly people of Japan.

I also convey my government's appreciation to the government of Japan under the leadership of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and give recognition for his distinguished efforts to support and promote the exceptional relations and cooperation between Oman and Japan, expressing my government's desire to further strengthen the friendship and partnerships between our two great nations, wishing him continued success. I seize this opportunity to express our appreciation to all members of the Japan-Oman Parliamentary Friendship League, the Japan-Oman Society, the Japan-Oman Club, the Hiroshima-Oman Friendship Association, the Nara-Oman Friendship Association and the Japan-Arab Association.

The Omani people celebrate their national day by proudly expressing their heartfelt



**His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said**

gratitude to H.M. Sultan Qaboos and wish to share this jubilant occasion with all the people of Japan. With nearly 400 years of friendship between our peoples, this year marks the 46th anniversary of the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between Oman and Japan, since the establishment of these relations in 1972. Omani-Japanese relations were founded on mutual respect, have developed with reciprocal trust and continue to grow rapidly in all fields.

The political principles guiding Oman's foreign policy stem from the strategic vision of H.M. Sultan Qaboos, and stipulate reinforcing ties of cooperation and reaffirming friendly relations with all states and nations on the basis of mutual respect, common interest, non-interference in internal affairs and adherence to international and regional charters and treaties and the generally recognized principles of international law conducive to the advancement of peace and

security among states and nations.

My country considers peace to be the central building block for stability and development, and believes that dialogue and negotiation are the most appropriate means of resolving differences. Hence, the Sultanate of Oman will spare no effort in supporting initiatives that will achieve peace and spread security and stability in the Middle East and the world.

Under the wise leadership of H.M. Sultan Qaboos, Oman has become a modern and prosperous nation, rightfully proclaimed to be an oasis for peace and henceforth one of the most attractive places in the world for business investment and tourism. The National Economic Principles are based on justice and the principles of a free economy. In line with this policy, Oman is signatory to prominent international trade agreements such as the World Trade Organization, Gulf Cooperation Council common market, Greater Arab Free Trade Area, and free trade agreements with the U.S., Singapore, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Lichtenstein. In an effort to advance trade relations, Oman and Japan signed an agreement in January 2014 for the avoidance of double taxation, followed by the Agreement for the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investment in June 2015.

Oman is blessed with many natural resources and conducive conditions for economic success, as its prime geostrategic location outside the Strait of Hormuz is a pivot point for shipments across the Indian Ocean. Oman has the best deep water ports in the Indian Ocean, with the globally ranked ports of Sohar, Salalah and Duqm

providing fast trade routes to many of the world's leading markets. This has led to the government investment of \$25 billion in air, maritime, rail and road transportation infrastructures. One of Oman's most promising investments is the Duqm Special Economic Zone, with an area of 2,000 square kilometers and a 70-kilometer-long coastline, it ranks among the largest and most advanced in the world.

Oman successfully achieved vast strides in economic diversification, raising non-oil exports in a relatively short span of time to \$10.7 billion. The sultanate ranked sixth in the World Economic Forum's Arab World Competitiveness Report 2018, while climbing four positions globally, according to the WEF report. This was possible due to recent procedures introduced by the government making the investment climate more attrac-

tive by simplifying and facilitating business startups, restructuring business procedures, establishing an investor-friendly legislative environment with no restrictions on repatriation of capital or profits, permitting foreign ownership of up to 100 percent in specific economic zones, as well as ease of access to loan facilities.

In closing, I welcome everyone to share the beauty of Oman and enjoy luxurious hotels

overlooking 3,165 kilometers of coastline, as well as 18-hole grass golf courses, museums, frankincense and the Royal Opera House. Additionally, Oman boasts ancient forts, castles, villages and markets. In terms of nature, we welcome visitors to experience Oman's coral reefs; turtle reserves; caves home to rare blind fish; whale, dolphin and bird watching; horse and camel riding; hot springs; and desert safaris.

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

**Congratulations**  
to the People of the Sultanate of Oman  
on the Occasion of the 48th Anniversary of  
Their National Day

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 **Mitsubishi Corporation**



**A traditional Omani village with terraced fields.**

EMBASSY OF THE SULTANATE OF OMAN



**Tourists kayak between khors (rocky inlets) in Musandam.**

EMBASSY OF THE SULTANATE OF OMAN

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