

# UAE National Day Special

## Various national achievements for a brighter future

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AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED ARAB  
EMIRATES

This day marks the 47th National Day celebration as my country, the United Arab Emirates, strides forward with wisdom and perseverance, following in the footsteps of its founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, under the leadership of President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and his brothers their highnesses, the members of the Federal Supreme Council of Rulers of the Emirates.

On this endeared occasion, I am honored to convey, on behalf of the government and people of the UAE, my heartfelt greetings and good wishes to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the government and great people of Japan. I also extend my felicitations to Sheikh Khalifa, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and the members of the Federal Supreme Council of Rulers of the Emirates.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1971 and the opening of the UAE Embassy in 1973, relations between our countries have continued to expand in various fields, highlighted by mutual visits and intensive interactions from high-level delegations.

In April, Sheikh Abdullah visited Japan and held fruitful talks with senior govern-

ment officials, including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Foreign Minister Taro Kono. During the visit, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah chaired the first meeting of the UAE-Japan Policy Dialogue on different ways of promoting relations between the two countries.

In May, Abe paid an official visit to the UAE and held fruitful talks with Sheikh Mohammed. The visit covered a range of topics in the fields of education, economy and finance, human resources, aviation, renewable energy, cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and medical exchanges. On top of which was the launching of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Initiative, aiming to formulate a joint vision and long-term cooperation strategy in all fields of mutual interest to shape a brighter future for both countries.

The story of the UAE has been a journey of infinite success and remarkable achievements in countless fields. For the fifth consecutive year, the UAE ranked first as the largest international donor of official development aid relative to gross national income (GNI). The country spent 1.31 percent of its GNI on foreign developmental aid in 2017 — nearly twice the global target of 0.7 percent set by the United Nations as a global standard to measure the efforts of donor countries.

On economic and trade exchanges, bilateral trade between the two countries reached \$53.1 billion in 2017, making the UAE one of Japan's major trading partners and the second-largest oil exporter to Japan, providing it with almost 23 percent of its total oil imports. It is sixth among the larg-

est aluminum suppliers and seventh-largest liquefied natural gas exporter to Japan. These figures prove the UAE's importance in Japan's national energy strategy. Last March, Japan was awarded a 10 percent interest in the Lower Zakum concession offshore Abu Dhabi. The 40-year agreement will definitely bring energy cooperation to a higher level.

In October, the UAE made history and headlines by successfully launching, from Tanegashima Space Center in Japan, the most sophisticated satellite built by the UAE, in a new landmark for the country's space program. The launch of Khalifasat, the first satellite designed, tested and manufactured entirely by Emirate engineers, was hailed by UAE leaders as an unprecedented Emirate achievement. This marvelous scientific

accomplishment highlights the extensive exchanges between our countries in the scientific and higher education fields.

There are 97 UAE students studying at various Japanese universities and academic institutions. I believe this cooperation can develop our students' overall capabilities and equip them with the required skills to be full-fledged professionals. I strongly hope there will come a day when they will apply their academic knowledge to the advantage of their country.

The achievements in the fields of tourism and people-to-people exchanges are no less spectacular. Following the bilateral air service agreement between our two countries, the UAE aviation industry has experienced a tremendous expansion as the number of passengers on Emirates Airlines alone has

reached almost 37 million; a figure expected to reach 70 million by 2020.

In terms of economic performance and thanks to a successful diversification policy, the UAE's economy has continued to achieve sustainable growth, an impressive achievement at a time of growing difficulty in the region and world. This remarkable development is largely due to the UAE being considered as one of the most politically stable countries in the region and a relatively safe destination for tourism and investment.

Given its strategic location, greater stability, attractive business environment and flexible laws, the UAE is becoming a favorable home and destination to major Japanese and international companies operating in the region. There are 300 major Japanese companies and over 4,000 Japanese residents living and working in the UAE, representing the largest Japanese community in the Middle East and North Africa.

The UAE's foreign policy has always featured three fundamental principles; that is to say the non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, good neighborly relations and a peaceful approach and solution to international disputes.

Finally, I would like to express my deep satisfaction with the diligent efforts of our two countries to strengthen and deepen mutual relations, which have continued to produce positive results in various fields. I have the pleasure to extend my gratitude to the Japanese government and organizations that have been working to elevate our bilateral relations to a higher level.

In conclusion, I wish the people of both the UAE and Japan many more years of welfare, sustainable progress and prosperity.

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



**The launch of Khalifasat, a national accomplishment.** EMBASSY OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**Congratulations**  
**to the Government and People**  
**of the United Arab Emirates**  
**on the 47th Anniversary of**  
**Their National Day**



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