

# Economic strides for prosperity

Ahmed Mohamed Aldoseri  
AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN



On the auspicious occasion of the 47th National Day of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and on the 46th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom

of Bahrain and Japan, I am honored to convey, on behalf of the leadership, government and people of the Kingdom of Bahrain, my sincere and best wishes of continued good health, prosperity and happiness to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family,



H.M. King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

the government and the people of Japan.

I also extend my heartfelt congratulations to the King of Bahrain, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa; Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa; Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy

Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa; and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1972, ties between our two countries have continued to prosper in various fields, especially the economic, trade and investment sectors, with bilateral trade exceeding \$1.5 billion in 2018.

Bahrain's economy had a very strong year in 2017 with a gross domestic product increase of 3.9 percent and non-oil sector growth of 5 percent, making it the fastest-growing economy in the Gulf Cooperation Council region. At the same time, foreign investment reached nearly \$10 billion, of which 95 percent is concentrated in the financial sector. Furthermore, major projects worth \$32 billion have been established in industry, logistics, infrastructure, health care, education and tourism.

Another factor that could dramatically invigorate the kingdom for many years to come and bolster its foreign investment is this year's massive offshore discovery of an estimated 80 billion barrels of oil and 10 to 20 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. This discovery is likely to attract significant private international investment to Bahrain's energy sector. In addition, the government is doing all it can to help this by setting up a private equity fund for energy of \$1 billion.

With a cosmopolitan capital city, an



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attractive liberal lifestyle, and a rich history and culture, Bahrain provides a wide variety of tourist attractions. The booming tourism sector attracts more than 12 million visitors annually and plays an increasingly important role in Bahrain's economy, as it has doubled its contribution to almost 7 percent of our GDP. The addition of over 100 new five- and four-star hotels in the past half-decade is supported by Bahrain's significant infrastructure project developments, providing further excellent opportunities in this growing key sector of the economy.

In conclusion, I wish the best for the continuing progress in all fields for both countries, and further solidification of the special relationship tying both of our nations together. I am very confident that our relations for years to come will see further enhancement of strong ties between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Japan.

*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 Kingdom of Bahrain  
on the 47th Anniversary of Their National Day*



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VISCONTRESS SUITE 110, 1-11-36, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0052

Telephone: 81-3-3584-6171 Facsimile: 81-3-3505-0939 E-mail: sun@sunrealty.co.jp

<http://www.sunrealty.jp/>

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**JGC CORPORATION**

2-3-1, Minato Mirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama, 220-6001, Japan  
Tel: 81-45-682-1111 Fax: 81-45-682-1112

**JGC Gulf International Co. Ltd.**

Flat 15, Building 98Y, Road 3901, Al-Hajiyat, Riffa 939, Kingdom of Bahrain  
Tel: 973-1663-1567 Fax: 973-1663-1569

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**YAMATO KOGYO CO., LTD.**

380, Kibi, Otsu-ku, Himeji City, Hyogo Pref. 671-1192, Japan  
Tel: 079-273-1061 Fax: 079-273-9337