

# Egypt National Day Special

## Looking toward the future while maintaining history

**AYMAN ALY KAMEL**  
AMBASSADOR OF EGYPT



July 23 every year marks the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt. This is a day that allows Egyptians to reflect on their past achievements and gives them the opportunity to look

forward to a brighter future. As always, it gives us an excellent chance to express our satisfaction at the state of Egyptian-Japanese relations and continue our joint action to solidify the partnership between our two countries.

I would like, on this occasion, on behalf of the president and the government and people of Egypt, to convey my deepest respect to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, for their

ascension to the Chrysanthemum Throne and to congratulate Japan for the beginning of the new Reiwa Era. I would also like to express my gratitude to the government and people of Japan for the sincere friendship they have consistently accorded Egypt throughout the years.

Since my arrival to Japan in October 2017 to assume the post of ambassador of Egypt, my objective has been to elevate the partnership to a strategic and enhanced one, and to promote Egypt in Japan in all domains.

Three aspects of this mission have been to work to increase Japanese investment flows to Egypt by introducing investment opportunities in Egypt to the Japanese business community; increase the travel of Japanese tourists to Egypt; and present the image of contemporary Egypt to the Japanese people, who know much less about it, compared to the wealth of information they have about ancient Egypt.

Relations between Japan and Egypt

are deeply rooted in history. Archeological findings in different locations in Japan prove that there has been cultural and human communication between the two nations that dates back almost 1,000 years. These findings include pyramid-like shapes in Chiba Prefecture and lotus seeds beside mummies that were preserved using the pharaonic method in Iwate Prefecture, as well as a boat that resembles the sun boats of ancient Egypt in Tochigi Prefecture.

In modern history and over the last century-and-a-half, interactions between our two peoples have continued and developed since the first Japanese samurai delegations to Egypt visited in 1862 and 1864 on their way to Europe at the end of the Edo Period (1603-1868). Diplomatic ties started after Japan recognized Egypt's formal independence in 1922. The two countries exchanged consular representation in Alexandria and Kobe in the second half of the 1920s. Following the July 1952 revolution in Egypt, both countries opened embassies in Cairo and Tokyo. These relations have evolved to a full-fledged partnership that has not been limited to the political domain and have extended to many fields such as trade and investment, infrastructure, tourism, culture, science, technology and sports, among others.

The major importance of projects undertaken through Egyptian-Japanese partnership stems from its positive impact on the life of Egyptian citizens, including establishing the Cairo Opera House; constructing the new Pediatric Hospital and the Peace Bridge across the Suez Canal linking Africa and Asia, in addition to several water, sewage, electricity, new and renewable energy, and other major infrastructure projects. Since then our bilateral relations witnessed great achievements, prominent among them the inauguration of the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST); the signing of the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Arab Republic of Egypt on Cooperation in Science and

Technology; and the implementation of the Egypt-Japan Education Partnership.

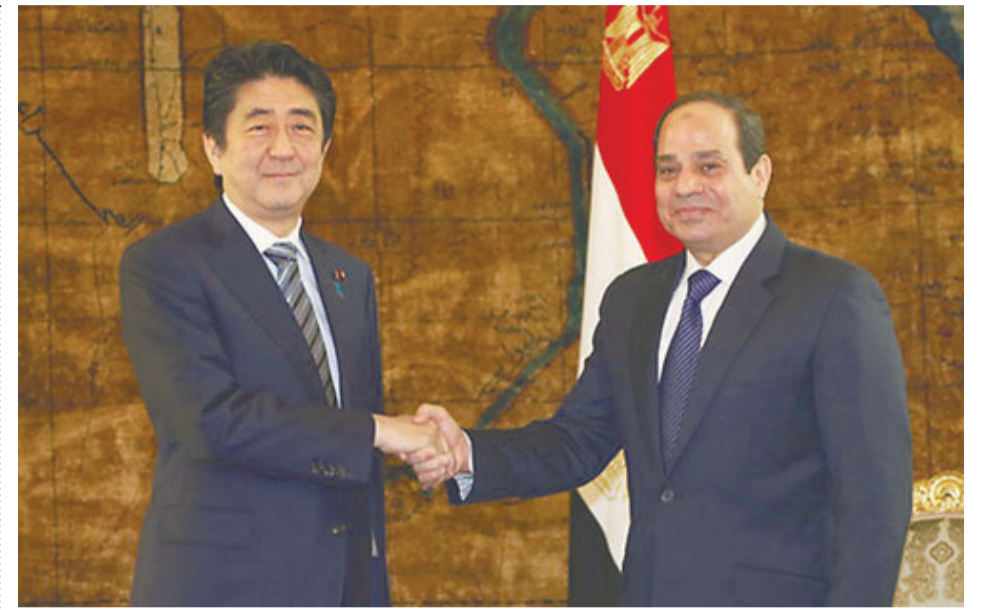
Cooperation with Japan in the cultural sector is also achieving an unprecedented leap; accordingly, we're glad to announce that the long-awaited Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) at Giza is on course to open Oct. 10, 2020. Next year, the world will witness the creation of a unique landmark in the history of mankind — the only museum with the pyramids as a backdrop. GEM will stand as the largest museum in the world dedicated to a single civilization. It will showcase more than 100,000 archeological treasures along with sweeping views of the Great Pyramids of Giza.

**Egypt and Japan relations began more than 150 years ago and have been sustained ever since by the dedicated efforts of the governments and people on both sides.**

Japan has been involved from an early stage as Egypt's main collaborative partner on the project, as Japanese Egyptologists helped examine and restore the artifacts. Japanese techniques have been applied at the Conservation Center, with assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Egypt and Japan relations began more than 150 years ago and have been sustained ever since by the dedicated efforts of the governments and people on both sides. We have come a long way in nurturing what we consider to be a unique relationship between the two countries, and believe that the prospects of exploring new horizons together are unlimited.

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



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi shake hands before their summit meeting in Cairo in January 2015. GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT



Some members of the second Japanese mission to Europe on their way to France, standing near the Sphinx in a photo taken by Antonio Beato in 1864. NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY



(From left) Parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Kenji Yamada, Ambassador of Egypt Ayman Aly Kamel, Kaori Kono, wife of Foreign Minister Taro Kono, and Ghada Youssef, wife of Kamel, cut a cake at a reception for celebrating the National Day of Egypt.

EMBASSY OF EGYPT

**Congratulations**  
to the People of the  
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on the 67th Anniversary  
of Their National Day



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The front of the main temple of Abu Simbel, a monument to Pharaoh Ramses II. EGYPTIAN TOURISM AUTHORITY



A beach of Sharm El-Sheikh, a Red Sea resort on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula. EGYPTIAN TOURISM AUTHORITY

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## A long-standing, amiable and beneficial partnership

**TARO ASO**  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-EGYPT PARLIAMENTARY  
FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



On the occasion of the national day of Egypt, I am pleased to extend, on behalf of the honorable members of the Japan-Egypt Parliamentary Friendship Association, my warmest congratulations and best wishes to the Egyptian members of parliament and government, as well as the friendly people of Egypt.

Japan has been a long-standing and historical friend of Egypt and I believe that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Egypt in January 2015 and President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi's visit to Japan in February 2016 formed the cornerstone to strengthen our bilateral relationship. In addition to that, this year is special for both countries. Since Egypt assumed the presidency of the African Union this year, Al-Sisi is scheduled

to visit Yokohama to attend the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VII), after his recent visit to Japan in the end of June for the G20 Osaka summit.

**Japan remains committed to supporting the efforts by the government of Egypt toward achieving economic reform and sustainable development.**

I would like to introduce one example that shows our friendship. Last December, the Egyptian government invited 23 high school students from areas affected by torrential rain in western Japan under an Al-Sisi initiative. According to their reports, it is easy to imagine that these high school students had valuable experiences and broadened their knowledge through their visit to Egypt. As the chairman of the Japan-Egypt Parliamentary Friendship Association, I sent a letter of appreciation to Al-Sisi immediately after

their return. I would like to express my sincere gratitude once again and hope that our friendship will continue with the younger generations.

I strongly believe that Egypt is a political, intellectual and cultural center in the Arab world and an important cornerstone for peace and stability in the Middle East and Africa. Japan remains committed to supporting the efforts by the government of Egypt toward achieving economic reform and sustainable development. I especially would like to attach importance to our cooperation in the field of education and projects such as the Egypt Japan School and Grand Egyptian Museum. I would really like to make efforts to push forward for the success of these projects in my capacity as the chairman of the association.

With an increasing exchange of visits of high-ranking officials, we are more determined today to further enhance our bilateral cooperation in various fields and keep up this momentum for a more prosperous and long-lasting partnership between Egypt and Japan.



The Great Pyramid of Giza and Great Sphinx of Giza on the west bank of the Nile. EGYPTIAN TOURISM AUTHORITY



Al-Azhar Mosque in Cairo is known for its beautiful minarets and its historic university. EGYPTIAN TOURISM AUTHORITY

## 'Vision 2030': A better Egypt for all

Inspired by the ancient Egyptian civilization, linking the present to the future, Egypt's Sustainable Development Strategy (Vision 2030) is in line with, and committed to, progress toward achieving the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The economic, social and environmental aspects of the Egyptian strategic plan are based on pillars covering the SDGs. Following political, social and economic challenges in recent years, Egypt is today on the right track, following an ambitious plan to update its entire infrastructure across every sector and region, in addition to representing an orientation toward extensive development.

Furthermore, the bold and tough measures that have been taken by the government to correct the path of the economy toward resilience lead to stabilize the economic fundamentals with decreasing the rate of inflation, and reducing the deficit, together with reestablishing the role of Egypt in regional leadership, as Egypt's stability, development and empowering

enhancement of its constructive role in the region are important for regional peace and stability.

In addition, the SDGs represent a road map to achieve Egyptians' aspirations and dreams for a prosperous and proper life, as putting welfare and opulence the main targets of the Egyptian vision.

The concept of sustainable development embodied in Vision 2030 aims to align the governmental targets with the views of all partners, including society and the private sector, taking into consideration that the role of these stakeholders is a turning point to achieve the goals that lead to an improvement in Egypt's quality of life.

Vision 2030 puts various pillars, including the efficiency and transparency of governmental establishments, along with innovation, scientific research and energy issues. According to this, the economic growth rate of Egypt in fiscal 2017-18 reached 5.3 percent; it was able to keep this pace during the first quarter of fiscal 2018-19. That's why

Egypt is becoming more attractive to investors — noting that the economic growth rate is expected to reach 6 percent over the medium term — due to the recent economic reforms, as well as the end of financing related to the International Monetary Fund program in June.

Egypt's Vision 2030 is a comprehensive strategy harmonized with the current efforts to ensure fiscal sustainability, in addition to stimulating employment and growth in line with improving the export sector and addressing issues related to income distribution. It is worth noting that 60 percent of the Egyptian population is under the age of 30, which indicates that women and young people are representing one of the country's main assets and are a central element in planning and enforcing Egypt's long-term vision.

*The text was compiled from the Egyptian government website by the Embassy of Egypt in Japan.*

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Egypt's National team camped for training in Tenri



In June 2018, Tenri was registered as a host town of Egypt's Judo team for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.

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