

Kingdom of Morocco Throne Day Special

Celebrating 20th anniversary of HM King Mohammed VI's enthronement

MOHAMMED RACHAD BOUHLAL
AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO



Today marks the 20th anniversary of the Enthronement of His Majesty King Mohammed VI. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to convey my respectful greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, the members of the imperial family, His Excellency Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the gov-

ernment and the friendly people of Japan.

Since ascending the throne, His Majesty King Mohammed VI has launched initiatives toward further democratization and political reforms that aim to promote greater citizen participation in politics and uphold human rights, as well as stimulate societal development.

Political and social reforms

In 2004, Morocco adopted a new family code, considered the most progressive law on women's rights in the Muslim world. The establishment of the National Human Rights Council in 2011 as an autonomous institution reflects the kingdom's commitment to invigorating respect for human

rights as an essential requirement for economic and social development.

Furthermore, advanced regionalization is one of the largest areas of reforms designed to strengthen decentralization and local democracy — by enabling more public involvement in managing public affairs.

These reforms were enshrined in the 2011 Constitution, consolidated democratic reforms in Morocco and introduced several key changes to the political system.

Economic development

Morocco has undertaken multiyear strategies for promoting greater economic growth and creating an investment-friendly environment.

The automotive industry has become Morocco's top export industry since 2017, and our target is to manufacture 1 million automobiles per year by 2021. The aeronautic industry is another growing sector. By attracting parts suppliers, Morocco has created a supply chain for these industries as part of sectoral ecosystems.

Another important sector is renewable energies. Our target is to produce 46 percent from renewable sources by 2020, and 56 percent by 2030. Morocco launched in 2016 the world's largest concentrated solar plant, Noor 1, in Ouarzazate, central Morocco.

Morocco has also invested in infrastructure development (¥2.31 trillion from 2013 to 2020). In 2018, His Majesty King

Mohammed VI inaugurated Africa's first high-speed train to link cities such as Casablanca, Rabat and Tangier. The Tanger Med Port has become the largest in Africa and the Mediterranean with a capacity of 9 million containers.

Bilateral relations

Last November, Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasna, president of the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environment Protection, visited Japan and met with His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, then crown prince of Japan.

On Dec. 24, Foreign Minister Taro Kono visited Morocco and met with his Moroccan counterpart, Nasser Bourita.



H.M. King Mohammed VI

On the Moroccan side, the ministers of national education, industry and investment paid working visits to Japan.

Friendship deepens in multilayered levels

HIROFUMI NAKASONE
PRESIDENT, THE JAPAN-MOROCCO
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On this auspicious occasion of the 20th anniversary of the enthronement of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, I am delighted to extend my congratulations, on behalf of the members of the Japan-Morocco Parliamentary Friendship League, to his majesty, the royal family and the people of the Kingdom

of Morocco.

Morocco and Japan enjoy long-standing and excellent relations as symbolized by the close friendship between the royal and imperial families and frequent mutual high-level visits. Her Royal Highness Princess

Lalla Hasna's visit to Japan last November was a great highlight in this regard.

As an old friend of Morocco, I observe closely how friendly exchanges are developing in multilayered levels. In addition to political relations, economic interactions are intensified thanks to an increasing number of Japanese companies in Morocco. As league chairman, I am determined to continue contributing to the acceleration of parliamentary exchanges between us.

International exchange enhances trust, cooperation

HARUKO HIROSE
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-MOROCCO
ASSOCIATION



On the occasion of Morocco's Throne Day, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty King Mohammed VI on the 20th anniversary of his coronation on behalf of all members of the Japan-Morocco Association.

I would also like to express my sincere greetings to all the members of the royal

family, as well as to the people and government of Morocco.

Under His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Morocco continues to maintain its steady economic growth and security, while also welcoming both tourists and investors. About 70 Japanese companies are operating in

Morocco.

The Japan-Morocco Association is very active, holds monthly lectures and hosts investment seminars. It is our great pleasure to witness the grassroots international exchanges being promoted — these intensify activity and deepen understanding and trust between our countries.

With His Majesty Emperor Naruhito's accession to the throne on May 1, we truly hope that our close relationship will continue and further develop under his reign.

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

Congratulations
on the 20th Anniversary
of the Accession to the Throne of
His Majesty King Mohammed VI

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