

Saudi Arabia National Day Special

Economic cooperation one facet of ties

NAYEF MRZOUQ ALFAHADI
AMBASSADOR OF SAUDI ARABIA



In its bet on the future, the ambitious homeland remembers its great predecessors and their historic march to build a state in a world of challenges, with feelings of immortal

loyalty. It is one of the qualities of devoted people and big minds to engage in life in a way that renews their faith and helps them reach their goals through dreams and hope. At the beginning of the last century, King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al Saud, from the capital Riyadh, announced the establishment of the third Saudi state. After he led, for years, a great and legendary struggle, he transformed the sprawling parts into a stable modern kingdom that builds on its people and capabilities with determination and diligence. A green march continues to this day under the reign of immortal kings. The kingdom reached

its peak and developed its energies and people under the rule of a wise king, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and a great man, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, who launched the kingdom's Saudi Vision 2030, the message of the kingdom's citizens for the prosperity of the world, and for the good of the planet.

Our national day is the day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on which it extends the hand of goodness and potential to humanity and the world, where the hearts of millions, people and leaders are fused in a world of love and peace, reminiscing the struggle of the great people who have built their homeland under the flags of sacrifice and construction.

On this dear day, I witness the renewed creative energy and constant inspiration I have observed in the eyes and hearts of Saudis around the world. And in Japan, where I am the ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques, I find that energy transforming into a roaring wave of work and aspirations. And as both the people of Saudi Arabia and Japan share the same pride in ancient culture and glori-



Then-Crown Prince Naruhito and King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo during the king's official visit to Japan in March 2017 EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

ous history, their common future formed by hands and minds seems closer and brighter every day. It is no secret to everyone that the two countries are bonded by strong economic cooperation, which made the friendly Japan one of the most

important economic partners and the second largest source of foreign capital of the kingdom. In addition, the Saudi-Japan Vision 2030 promises more harmony and anticipating action for the good of mankind and the planet.

From this place, close to the top of the great Mount Fuji, I am reminded of all the lessons of history that have made our two homelands what we, together, work hard for today for a further elevation and abundant goodness. Just as the reassurance of hope that the words of the man of dreams and work, the crown prince, have given me when he inspired from the heights of Mount Tuwaiq the ambition of a whole nation, the people of our homelands do not limit their ambition, and their sincere spirit is not interrupted by doubt nor hesitation.

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



The King Abdullah Financial District in the capital city of Riyadh EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA



Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Osaka on June 30 EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

Myriad of opportunities follow Saudi-Japan Vision 2030's launch

OSAMU ISHITOBI
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-SAUDI ARABIA SOCIETY



On the auspicious occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I would like to extend on behalf of the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society our wholehearted congratulations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Japan Nayef Mrzouq Alfahadi and the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In April, I succeeded my predecessor, the late Chairman Hiromasa Yonekura, as chairman of the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society, which has a heritage of nearly 60 years. Going forward, I am committed to further strengthening the friendly relations between Japan and Saudi Arabia, in collaboration with the ambassador, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, other relevant organizations and member companies of the Japan-Saudi Arabia Society.

As everyone is aware, Saudi Arabia has abundant oil resources, which have financed the development of the nation. Oil has also been at the core of the friendly partnership forged between Japan and Saudi Arabia over many years. In 2016, Saudi Arabia unveiled the Saudi Vision 2030, a comprehensive national strategy aimed at overcoming its dependence on oil resources. I understand that, since then, the Saudi economy and society have undergone transformations at whirlwind speed. This has coincided

with Japan-Saudi relations entering an entirely new stage.

In March 2017, when the king visited Japan, the two countries agreed on the Saudi-Japan Vision 2030. This agreement states that Japan supports the Saudi Vision 2030 with public and private sectors working together not only in conventional areas, such as energy and infrastructure cooperation, but also on programs for developing manga and game creators, training financial specialists, human resource development projects, including for small and medium enterprise planning, and cultural exchanges.

In June, a ministerial meeting was held in Tokyo, attended by then-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshige Seko and former Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al Falih. The two sides agreed upon the Saudi-Japan Vision 2030 2.0 outlining the progress of the cooperation projects carried out between the two countries.

When the Saudi-Japan Vision 2030 was agreed upon in 2017, it covered 31 projects by 41 government agencies and private companies in the two countries. Today, the number of projects has increased to 64, and the number of participating government agencies and private companies in both countries has risen to 64. Japan has already established the Saudi-Japan Vision Office in Riyadh for supporting the Saudi-Japan Vision 2030 cooperation projects, and it has been announced that Saudi Arabia plans to establish the Saudi-Japan Vision Office in Tokyo by the end of this year for advancing the projects. With these developments, I expect that the two countries will have even closer cooperative relations.

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TO THE PEOPLE OF
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SAUDI ARABIA
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 89th ANNIVERSARY OF
THEIR NATIONAL DAY



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Warmest Congratulations to
The Custodian of the Two
Holy Mosques King Salman
bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
and his People
on the Occasion of
the 89th Anniversary of
Their National Day



JAPAN-SAUDI ARABIA SOCIETY

Chairman: Osamu Ishitobi

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ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR NATIONAL DAY

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