

Bahrain National Day Special

Friendship, economic ties continue to grow

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AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF
BAHRAIN



On this auspicious occasion of the 48th National Day of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and of the 47th 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 warmest congratulations on the new era of Reiwa and the enthronement of His Imperial Majesty Emperor Naruhito, and my sincere and best wishes of continued good health, prosperity and happiness to their majesties the emperor and empress, the imperial family, the government and the people of Japan.

I also extend my heartfelt felicitations 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.

Ties between the two countries have continued to flourish across various fields since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1972. The economic, trade and investment sectors are particularly prosperous, with bilateral trade being about \$2 billion this year.

Bahrain's economy had a good year in 2018 with a gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 2.2 percent, and non-oil sectors growth of 2.5 percent. At the same time, direct investment reached nearly \$830 million compared to \$733 million in 2017, showing an increase of 13.2 percent from 2017, of which 63 percent is concentrated

in tourism, real estate, education and health care. Furthermore, major projects worth over \$32 billion have been established in industry, logistics, infrastructure, health care, education and tourism.

As for 2018's massive offshore discovery of an estimated 80 billion barrels of oil and 10 to 20 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, the National Oil and Gas Authority has stated that the Italian oil and gas multinational Eni will start drilling the first oil well in the first quarter of 2020. In addition, the king has inaugurated the Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) Line 6 project, which is expected to make Alba the world's largest smelter excluding China. Potline 6 is predicted to increase Alba's per-annum production by 540,000 metric tons, bringing Alba's total production capacity to 1.54 million metric tons per year.

With a cosmopolitan capital city, an attractive liberal lifestyle and a rich history and culture, Bahrain provides a wide variety of tourist attractions. The booming tourism sector attracted 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 building of over 100 new five- and four-star hotels in the past five years is supported by Bahrain's significant infrastructure project developments,



King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

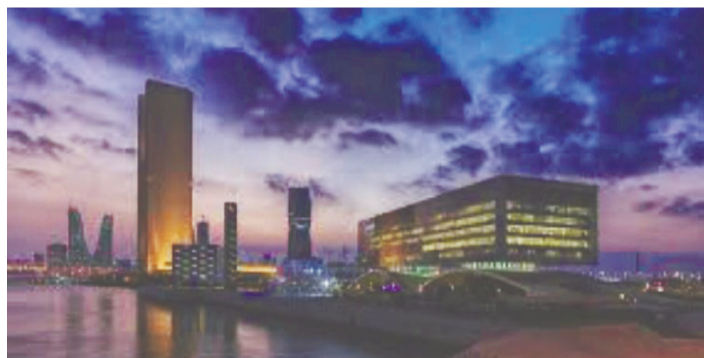
providing further excellent opportunities in this growing key sector of the economy.

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.



Top: Bahrain Bay. Above: Bahrain will host the Formula One race at the Bahrain International Circuit on March 22, 2020. BAHRAIN EMBASSY / BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT



Bahrain Bay with Bahrain Economic Development Board HQ on the right
BAHRAIN EMBASSY

Congratulations
to the People of
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Their National day



Japan Bahrain Economic Cooperation Association

<http://jbeca.jp/>

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AL AIN

Enjoy our delicious Arabian cuisine prepared by our Arabian chef. All meat served is prepared in accordance with the Halal method.
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