

Tunisia National Day Special

Commitment to economic revitalization

MOHAMED ELLOUMI
AMBASSADOR OF TUNISIA



As Tunisia celebrates its 64th Anniversary of Independence, I would like to take this auspicious occasion to express my great pleasure in addressing The Japan Times' distinguished readers.

I would also like to convey my best wishes to all Tunisian expatriates in Japan, for whom this day is indeed a special

occasion.

Tunisia held its third presidential and legislative election last year with an election praised worldwide, including by the Japanese observer delegation led by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Shinichi Nakatani.

President Kais Saied's inauguration took place on Oct. 23, 2019, the same date as His Majesty Emperor Naruhito's enthronement ceremony. I am delighted about this gracious coincidence whereby both Japan and Tunisia are witnessing a new era.

With more than 9 million tourists and an increase of more than 7 percent in foreign direct investment in 2019, Tunisia is mov-

ing forward in revitalizing its economy. Furthermore, the new government, sworn in on Feb. 27, is committed to taking further steps toward economic recovery and tackling socioeconomic problems both independently and with help from our friends, including Japan.

Japan has stood with Tunisia since its independence, post-revolution period and through official development assistance projects. Today, our relations involve regular official visits and a multilayered partnership.

We are also regularly consulting and cooperating on international and regional issues, particularly as Tunisia began its two-year mandate as a nonpermanent member

of the United Nations Security Council on Jan. 1.

In this regard, choosing Tunisia as the host of The Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in 2022 offers an unprecedented opportunity to further consolidate this partnership and Tunisia's major potential as a gateway to Africa.

Tunisia is looking forward to contributing to Japan's efforts in hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games through agreements with several cities such as the Host Town Initiative, "Arigato" Host Town for Supporting Reconstruction and pre-training camps. We are keen to work with our Japanese friends to bring Tunisian culture to Japan.

Cooperation, support at the center of historical partnership

NOBUO KISHI
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-TUNISIA
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE



On the occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Tunisia, I am pleased to extend, on behalf of myself and honorable members of the Japan-Tunisia Parliamentary Com-

mittee, my warmest congratulations and best wishes to the Tunisian members of parliament, government and the friendly people of Tunisia. The world has witnessed the success of Tunisian presidential and parliamentary elections that took place in the

fall of 2019, when the Tunisian people chose their president and their representatives in a transparent and democratic manner.

Japan, as a longstanding and historical friend of Tunisia, will continue its support of the Tunisian government and people as it further boosts its economic revitalization and enhances its democracy. As several Japanese companies invested in Tunisia last year, we are still looking forward to working together to make this land, full of opportunities and skills, an outstanding business platform.

After the excellent participation of the Tunisian government in The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development in August 2019, we are looking forward to active Tunisian involvement in the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo that could contribute to the unprecedented momentum between our two countries.

Bonds of friendship, mutual exchanges continue to deepen

YOSHIRO MORI
HONORARY PRESIDENT, JAPAN-TUNISIA
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE



It is my great pleasure to offer greetings on the occasion of the 64th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Tunisia.

Since my first visit to Tunisia in 1991, I believe that

strengthening relations between Tunisia and Japan is important not only for both countries, but also for the region and the world. Therefore, I have been contributing in this regard as former prime minister of Japan, as honorary president of the Japan-Tunisia Parliamentary Committee, and as chairman of Hannibal Club Japan. Today, the ties and exchanges between both countries are deepened and I am truly glad that the Japanese Garden in Tunis became a relaxing place for local people.

In addition, being designated as the host country of the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in 2022 illustrates the trust and

expectation from African nations and the whole world. As the chairperson of TICAD III and deputy chairperson of TICAD IV, as well as someone who has been hoping for further development of this process, I am excited to witness this wonderful page in the history of both countries.

Tunisia, which successfully completed presidential and general elections in fall 2019, should be considered as the corner-

stone of regional peace and prosperity. In the past, I met twice with Moammar Gadhafi of Libya in a bid to contribute to the development of the Arab Maghreb Union, a key organization connecting Europe and Africa. Then, just like today, despite the difficult regional situation, I look forward to seeing Tunisia — supported by wonderful citizens and a great history — become the leader of the region.

Having my name curved on the memorial monument of the Japanese Garden in Tunis, Tunisia is now my second home country. As president of the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, I look forward to welcoming Tunisian athletes to make the games an opportunity to further consolidate the bonds of friendship between Japanese and Tunisians.

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



Sidi Bou Said, a coastal town in Tunisia
EMBASSY OF TUNISIA / ONTT

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to the People of
the Republic of Tunisia
on the Anniversary of
Their Independence

 Mitsubishi Corporation

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Their Independence

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Congratulations

to the People of the Republic of Tunisia
on the Anniversary of Their Independence



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