

Jordan National Day Special

Mutual respect fuels relations

LINA ANNAB
AMBASSADOR OF JORDAN



Today, May 25, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan celebrates its 74th Independence Day. These days, we also celebrate the joyous occasion of Eid al-Fitr in which Muslims around the

world celebrate the end of the holy month of Ramadan, and to whom I would like to send our sincerest greetings.

On Independence Day, Jordanians look to the future with unwavering resolve to continue to be a force of good. A force that is inspired by the memory of the fallen heroes who sacrificed their lives for Jordan's sovereignty, as well as by the universal values of peace, freedom and justice that led to the Proclamation of Independence signed in 1946 by the late founder His Majesty King Abdullah I.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1954, Jordan and Japan have enjoyed friendly bilateral relations and warm friendship. Throughout the past decades and under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II, our partnership has steadily evolved and continues to develop, fueled by mutual respect and shared values and vision for a more humane and peaceful world. Our longstanding rela-

tions are further bolstered by the exceptional friendship between the royal and imperial families of Jordan and Japan.

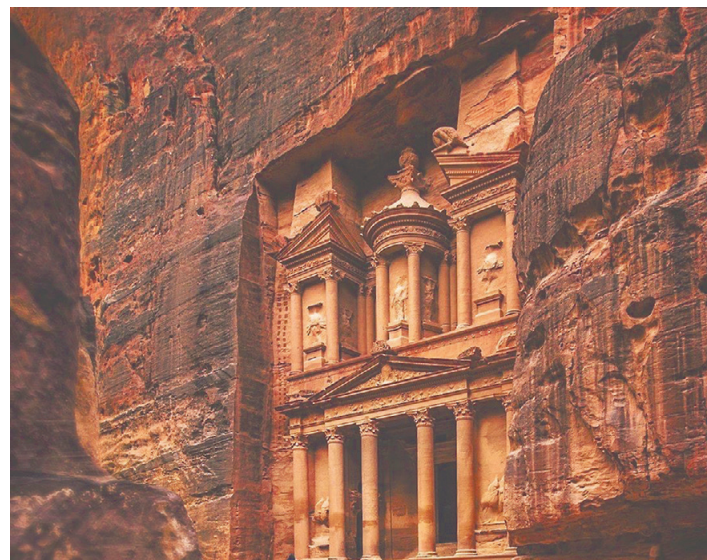
Frequent summit meetings between His Majesty the King and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, as well as ministerial and high-level official meetings have all underpinned areas of cooperation and mutual interest. The recent elevation of bilateral relations to strategic level bode well for increased collaboration in areas of economic, security, people-to-people, cultural, academic and parliamentary affairs. We are genuinely grateful to the entities that deepen the ties between our countries such as the Japan-Jordan Parliamentary Friendship League headed by Reconstruction Minister Kazunori Tanaka and the Japan-Jordan Association headed by Mr. Mikio Sasaki. We are also delighted to deepen our people-to-people relations through the forging of our friendship and host town partnership with the city

of Noshiro in Akita Prefecture.

Jordan is a cornerstone of safety and stability in its region and plays a pivotal role in fostering peace as well as in fighting extremism and terrorism. Although considered one of the highest refugee per capita countries in the world and despite its small size and limited resources, Jordan continues to shoulder the humane and tremendous task of sheltering refugees and providing a safe haven for them. In this regard, Jordan firmly stands out as a beacon of moderation and compassion as well as a country that aids those in need. Jordan highly values the support of the Japanese government and people in assisting Jordan in its humanitarian efforts and in advancing peace in the region through its support of the Middle East peace process and the two-state solution.

This year, COVID-19 has cast a heavy shadow on Independence Day, a usually festive and auspicious occasion. The hardship

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The ancient Nabataean city in Petra is a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Ayla Golf Club is Jordan's first all-grass 18-hole championship golf course.

caused by this pandemic has highlighted how interdependent we are on one another in ensuring a better future and world for all. Our sincere sympathies go out to all those who lost loved ones, and to all fellow human beings who have found themselves bearing the brunt of it. Our deepest gratitude goes out to all the brave medical and all other workers who risk their lives to save ours.

This year and always, may the spirit of Reiwa (beautiful harmony) be with us all!

For further information, visit jordanembassyjapan.com.

Solid ties in face of COVID-19

MIKIO SASAKI
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-JORDAN ASSOCIATION



On behalf of the Japan-Jordan Association, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the occasion of their National Day.

As our world continues to fight the novel coronavirus, I am encouraged by the strong leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II in dealing with unprecedented public health and economic challenges. Thanks to the tireless commitment of the Jordanian authorities and people, the Kingdom is now on the road to recovery and is setting a fine example for other nations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Jordanian government for its provision to Japan of goggles, face masks and other protective equipment, which is so crucial right now in helping us to prevent the spread of the virus.

Jordan continues to play an important role in the stability and security of the Middle East and is one of Japan's most important partners. Our bilateral relationship extends to our respective royal households and is the backbone of a proud and long history shared by our two nations. I am confident that we can count on that relationship to help us overcome this pandemic together, and I look forward to seeing our political, economic and cultural ties grow even stronger in the future.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to the ambassador of Jordan to Japan, and to wish progress and prosperity for both the Kingdom of Jordan and our many shared friendships.

Congratulations
to the People of
the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
on the Occasion
of Their National Day

JAPAN-JORDAN ASSOCIATION

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Mitsubishi Corporation