

# UAE National Day Special

## Forging ahead with hope, innovation

**MUNA AL MAEENI**  
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AND DEPUTY HEAD  
OF MISSION  
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



The celebration of the 49th National Day of the United Arab Emirates' founding constitutes an occasion to consolidate the values of giving and tolerance instilled by the late Sheikh

Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. He worked hard to spread them with his brothers, the founding fathers of our beloved nation. Together they worked to lay the basis for a federal project based on an inclusive national identity, inherent values and traditions under a single flag, forming a solid foundation and central pillar for the UAE to achieve its accomplishments and inception toward the future.

The UAE's achievements in 2020 have proven that this year of preparations for

the next 50 years will significantly contribute to development.

Despite the difficult circumstances caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the UAE has succeeded in turning challenges into innovative development opportunities. These achievements include launching the probe Hope to Mars, signing the Abraham Accords Peace Agreement, operating the first nuclear power plant, preparing for Expo 2020 and limiting the spread of COVID-19.

Hope blasted off from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center on July 20. The UAE will celebrate the golden jubilee of its formation when Hope enters Mars' orbit in the first quarter of 2021.

This outcome could not have been achieved without the incredible support of Japan's government, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and other stakeholders. I believe our nations' diligent efforts toward success sent an optimistic message that we can still have hope even in difficult times.

As for regional and global peace and security, the UAE achieved a diplomatic

breakthrough with Israel, signing the Abraham Accords Peace Agreement on Sept. 15. This deal promises great potential in the diplomatic, scientific, cultural and economic fields.

Addressing climate change, Emirates Nuclear Energy Corp. announced on Aug. 1 that its operating and maintenance subsidiary, Nawah Energy Co., successfully started Unit 1 of the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant in Abu Dhabi. When all four plant units start operating commercially, the plant will produce up to 25 percent of the country's electricity requirements while also preventing the release of 21 million tons of carbon emissions each year.

With less than one year to go until Expo 2020, Dubai is ready to convene the global community in a spirit of collaboration and innovation to build a robust and sustainable future for all. Excitement is building for the event that will run from Oct. 1, 2021, until March 31, 2022, inspiring hope among more than 190 participating countries and millions of visitors.

Japan has remained firmly committed to Expo 2020 Dubai. The Japan Pavilion will



**H.E. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan,**  
**president of the UAE**  
UAE MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION,  
MOFAIC

be exhibited as planned, with four UAE high school students appointed as honorary ambassadors.

Since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, the UAE has taken swift action to help countries contain and prevent the disease's spread by providing necessary medical supplies and shipping them to affected countries. So far, the UAE has provided more than 1,000 tons of medical aid to 70 countries, supporting more than 1 million people working in global medical care.

In closing, I have the utmost pleasure to extend my sincere gratitude to our partners for their efforts and Japan's friendly people for giving significant momentum to bilateral relations.

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

**Congratulations**  
**to the Government and People**  
**of the United Arab Emirates**  
**on the Anniversary of**  
**Their National Day**

 **Mitsubishi Corporation**