

Tunisia National Day Special

Tunisia, united with the world

MOHAMED ELLOUMI
AMBASSADOR OF TUNISIA

As Tunisia celebrates today the 65th anniversary of its independence, I would like to take this auspicious occasion to express my great pleasure to address the distinguished readers of The Japan Times.

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

For more than a year, the international community has been facing the threat



and we had the opportunity to speak up for the voice of human solidarity. The initiative of President Kais Saïed echoed in the realm

of the COVID-19 pandemic and its repercussions.

This global battle coincides with Tunisia's nonpermanent membership on the United Nations Security Council (term 2020-2021)

Ties of friendship and gratitude

HIROSHI KAMEYAMA
MAYOR OF ISHINOMAKI



On the occasion of the 65th independence anniversary of the Republic of Tunisia, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the people of Tunisia on behalf of the city of Ishinomaki.

Our city has had the pleasure of continually strengthening relations with the Republic of Tunisia since 1992. After the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, we received an outpouring of support from Tunisia that helped guide our recovery.

I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to the Tunisian people. Thanks to your generous support, Ishinomaki has largely recovered over the past decade.

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of the nations, and through a joint effort conducted by Tunisia and France, the U.N. Security Council adopted resolution 2532 on July 1, 2020, calling upon all parties in armed conflicts to engage in a durable humanitarian pause, to tackle the pandemic.

Tunisia and Japan continue to witness an excellent partnership. My heartfelt gratitude goes to all our partners and friends in Japan for their continued support. Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi paid a visit to Tunisia from Dec. 8 to 9, 2020, and had top-level meetings, showcasing the closeness of our countries. For the time being, our two countries are endeavoring to hold a successful eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Tunisia next year, which should confirm the major role Tunisia can play in triangular cooperation, as a privileged gateway connecting Japan to Africa.

As Japan commemorated a few days ago the 10th anniversary of the March 11, 2011, catastrophe, I would like to restate Tunisia's solidarity and sympathy with its government and people. I also commend the



inspiring spirit of resilience demonstrated by the Japanese people, as well as the reconstruction efforts undertaken by the affected regions, including the city of Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture, with which Tunisia has strong and long-standing ties.

I seize this occasion to renew our support for the Japanese authorities' determination to hold a safe and secure Olympic and Paralympic Games, which we believe will send a signal of victory and hope to the whole world. We are looking forward to having Tunisian athletes in Japan participate in pre-camps with our friends and partners under the Host Town and Arigato Host Town frameworks.

The Tunisian Olympic Committee and Tunisian Ambassador to Japan H.E. Mohamed Elloumi pose with representatives of sports-related organizations in Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture, on Dec. 1, 2018.



Olympic swimmer Ahmed Ayoub Hafnaoui greets schoolchildren during his pre-camp in Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture, on Jan. 28, 2020.

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



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