

National Day of Egypt

PUBLICITY

Egypt celebrates its partnership with Japan

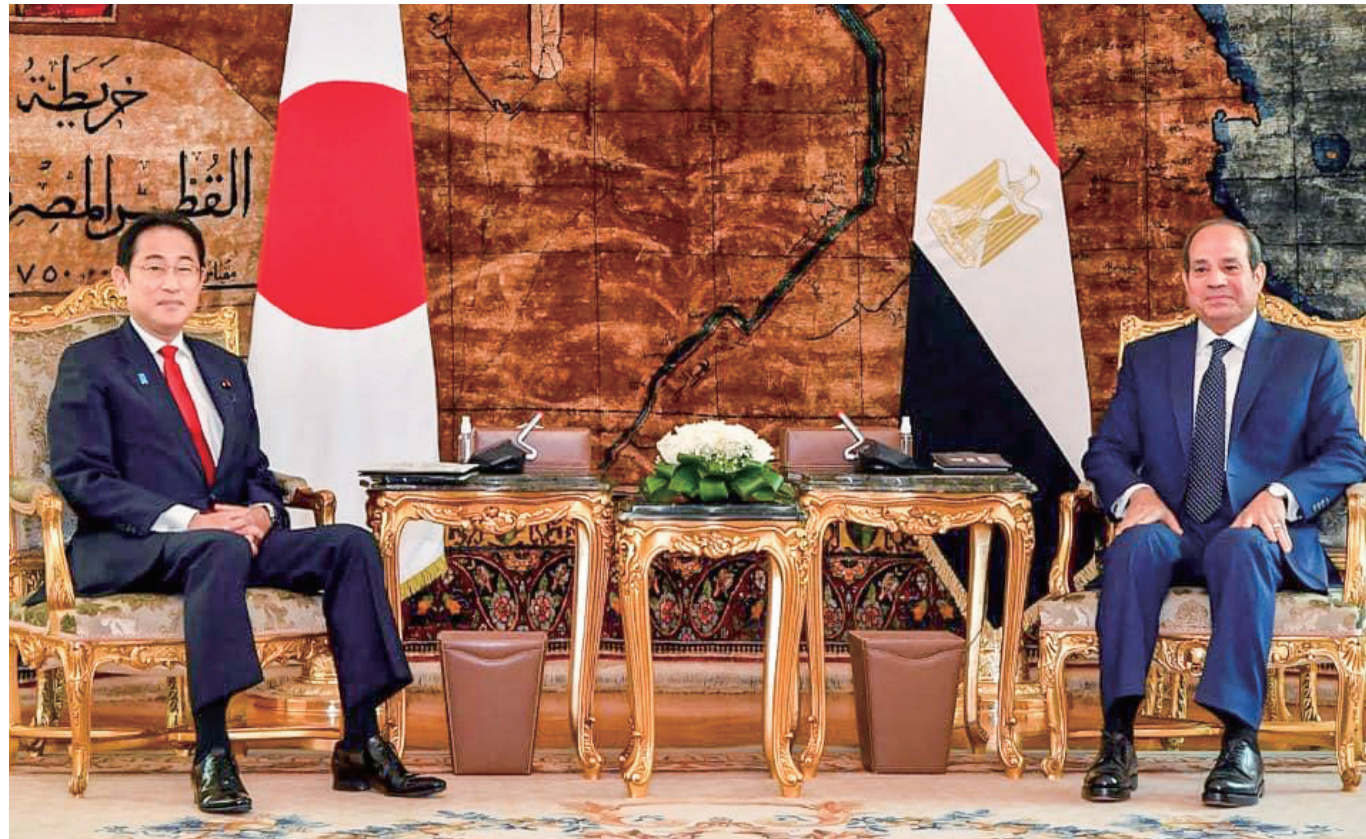
By Mohamed Abubark Saleh Fattah
Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Today marks the 72nd anniversary of the National Day of Egypt, the "July 23rd, 1952 Revolution," a historic occasion that holds great significance for the nation and its people, and a significant event that led to the establishment of the Republic of Egypt and the dawn of a new era not only in the country's history, but in the region by inspiring African movements to end colonialism and solidify the right of the peoples to self-determination and independence.



Mohamed Abubark Saleh Fattah

This exceptional occasion provides an opportunity to review the deeply rooted relationship between Egypt and Japan. Japan has always been a key partner in Egypt's infrastructure projects, technological advancements, and human capital development. As two ancient civilizations with rich traditions and modern aspirations, both countries have forged a strong partnership that spans various fields from trade and investment to cultural exchanges, education, development projects, and high-level political coordination. This long-existing cordial relationship was officially realized and upgraded to the level of "Strategic Partnership" during the summit held between the leadership of both countries in Cairo in April 2023. A number of agreements were also



Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, right, and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida hold a summit meeting in Cairo on April 30, 2023.

signed during the summit as a sign of the growing partnership, including agreements in the field of transportation, communications, and judicial cooperation.

Thanks to the mounting partnership between both countries in abundant fields, many projects were co-implemented in Egypt, including the fourth line of the Cairo Metro, the Comprehensive Health Insurance Project, digital transformation, water treatment and seawater desalination, enhancing food security, rehabilitation of the outpatient clinics

at the Cairo University Specialized Children's Hospital, and developing Burg El Arab and Hurgada Airports.

Cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is also an immense part of the bilateral relationship between Egypt and Japan, through which multiple technical fields have been tackled and numerous training courses have been carried out in different disciplines including training medical personnel (doctors, paramedics, and administrative staff),

and private sector employees in managing businesses.

The partnership between the two countries also extends to the energy sector, with renewable energy at its core. This common interest resulted in cooperation with a Japanese private sector to build a 560 MW solar plant and a 505 MW wind project in Egypt. Cooperation in the field of hydrogen and ammonia energy in Egypt is also ongoing with discussions between the Egyptian government and Japanese private sectors led by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO).

With regards to cultural cooperation, the Grand Egyptian Museum, the largest archaeological museum in the world, which is to be inaugurated soon, can be cited as one of the iconic bilateral cooperation projects between the two sides, with special recognition of the technical and financial support provided by JICA to ensure the project's success.

At the economic level, Japan plays a significant role in supporting Egypt's infrastructure development, energy projects, and manufacturing sector. Egypt quickly gained the attention of Japanese companies as a suitable investment hub and a gateway to access the African markets, with numerous companies opening branches to benefit from the different initiatives launched by Egypt in the Suez Canal Investment Zone and other multiple Free Trade Areas. This is evident in the growing number of Japanese companies opening branches in Egypt, including Sumitomo, which is constructing the world's largest factory for pigtail



Courtesy of Egyptian Embassy

The Grand Egyptian Museum, also known as the Giza Museum, is expected to be fully opened in late 2024, according to its official website.

and wiring harnesses in Egypt.

Additionally, cooperation in education, with the Egypt-Japan Education Partnership at its core, cannot be overlooked when touching upon bilateral relations with Japan. This partnership, which was signed in 2016, aims to strengthen the capacity of the youth in various learning stages, and includes the "tokkatsu" (special activities) model at the Egypt-Japan School, transfer of the kosen (college of technology) technical education system, and establishment of the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology, which became a flagship Japanese initiative in Africa after committing to offer 150 scholarships to African postgraduate students during the TICAD 8 Summit.

In that regard, it is worth mentioning the keenness of both countries to play an effective and valuable role in the region and widen their collective effort to support the African continent's stability, peace and security, development, and institution building. An enormous part of this cooperation was facilitated via the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCCPA), through conducting field visits to assess the situations in different countries on the ground and executing tailored training programs in many fields, including peacebuilding, peacekeeping, antiterrorism and antiextremism. The contributions of the CCCPA in many geographic areas of common interest, including the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea area, cannot be overlooked. This cooperation is also reflected in Japan's continuous support for the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development, which offers a platform to discuss challenges and risks facing Africa, with the CCCPA serving as its secretariat.

Cooperation between Egypt and

Japan extends to the political level as well, with continuous discussions at the bilateral, regional and international levels, with the latest being on the situation in Gaza. Egypt emphasizes in this regard the importance of an immediate ceasefire and opening the border crossing to allow the entrance of food and aid supplies.

This occasion provides an opportunity to highlight Egypt's recently adopted ambitious national agenda "Egypt's Vision 2030," which was formulated on the principles of comprehensive sustainable development and balanced regional development, with special focus on economic, environmental and social dimensions, and how it contributes to the overall global goals and targets. Egypt's recent successive achievements, especially in the areas of infrastructure, new urban communities, energy, and the localization of industry, stand as a witness to the determination of the leadership to achieve progress, and create a solid national economy that attracts worldwide investments, among the latest of which is a striking \$35 billion investment deal in the North Coast area of Egypt, and the signing of 35 agreements with European companies during the Egyptian-European Investment Conference, bringing an additional €49 billion of investments. I invite the Japanese private sector to further explore the diverse investment opportunities in Egypt and partner with Egyptian companies to implement projects, not only in Egypt but Africa and the Middle East as a whole.

On a final note, I point to the valuable contributions of the Egyptian expat community in Japan, with many Egyptians present in the academic field, research centers, business sector, and innovation and technology industry, working hand in hand with their Japanese counterparts for the benefit of both countries.

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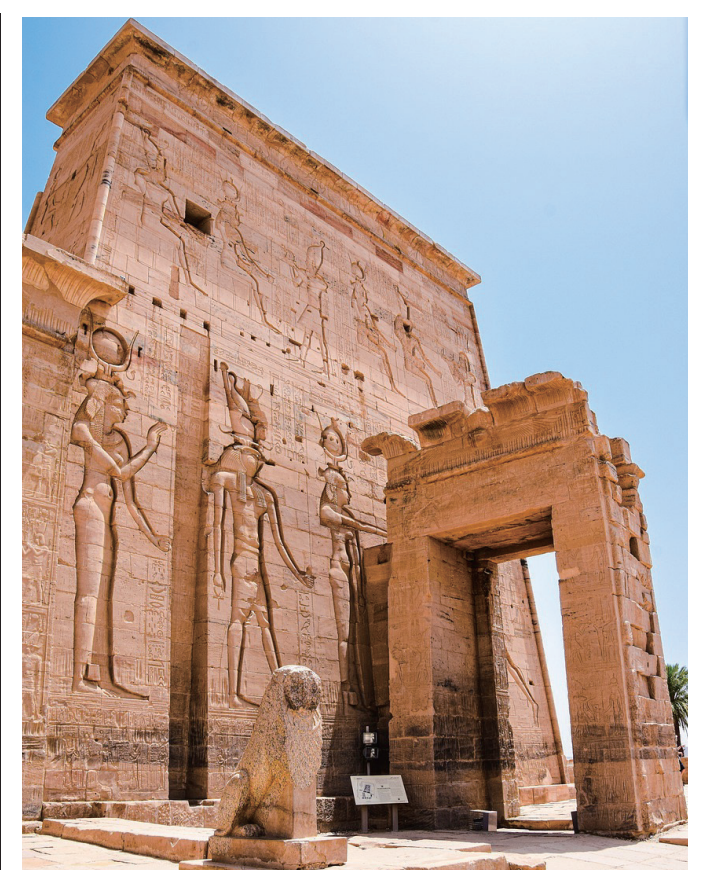
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Congratulations
to the People
of
the Arab Republic
of
Egypt on
their National Day

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Courtesy of Egyptian Embassy

The Philae Temple complex, built on a Nile River island near Aswan, is known as the "pearl of Egypt."