

## Morocco at forefront of COVID-19 response

By Rachad Bouhlal  
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco

Today marks the 22nd anniversary of the Enthronement of HM King Mohammed VI. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to convey my respectful greetings to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress, the members of the Imperial family, the Hon. Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, as well as the Government and the friendly people of Japan.



Rachad Bouhlal

Commemorating Morocco's National Day in Japan is a great opportunity to underscore the historical relations between our two countries, founded upon a lasting friendship between the Moroccan Royal Family and the Japanese Imperial Family.

Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that multilateral cooperation is essential to overcome the challenges facing the world. In this regard, Morocco's strategy against COVID-19 has been marked by active solidarity towards Africa. This approach comes within the framework of south-south cooperation, one of the pillars of the Kingdom's diplomacy. Thus, upon the instructions of HM King Mohammed VI, Morocco dispatched medical assistance to 20 African countries to support their efforts in fighting the pandemic. Furthermore, the Kingdom launched on July 6 the first project for the fill-finish manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccine in Africa, making Morocco the leading biotechnology platform on the continent. As the first African country to launch its national vaccination campaign, Morocco also expressed its willingness to share its experience with African countries to support their vaccination efforts.

COVID-19 has also impacted the global economy. In this regard, Morocco has launched an ambitious economic recovery plan, with a budget of \$13.5 billion, equivalent to 11% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). Its corner stone is the Mohammed VI Strategic Investment Fund, which is playing a leading role in fostering investment and national economy capacities. This plan places Morocco at the forefront in terms of post-crisis economic recovery policy.

In May 2021, the Kingdom launched a New Development Model, which is a roadmap bringing together political parties, institutions and civil society in order to set up the new strategic development goals of the nation towards 2035. This model is a new phase in consolidating the social and economic policies in Morocco.

The Moroccan approach to sustainable development places active solidarity at the center of its priorities, in order to strengthen social cohesion and to boost the purchasing power of all Moroccans. Thus, HM King Mohammed VI launched in April 2021 the national plan for the generalization of social security to all Moroccans, including health insurance, pension schemes and family allowances.

Lastly, I would like to commend the excellence of the relations between Morocco and Japan, which have witnessed steadfast development on all levels. I am glad to note that over the past 10 years, the number of Japanese companies operating in Morocco has more than doubled, reaching 75 companies, making Morocco the second-largest destination for Japanese companies in Africa.



His Majesty King Mohammed VI

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*on the 22nd Anniversary of the Accession to the Throne of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI*

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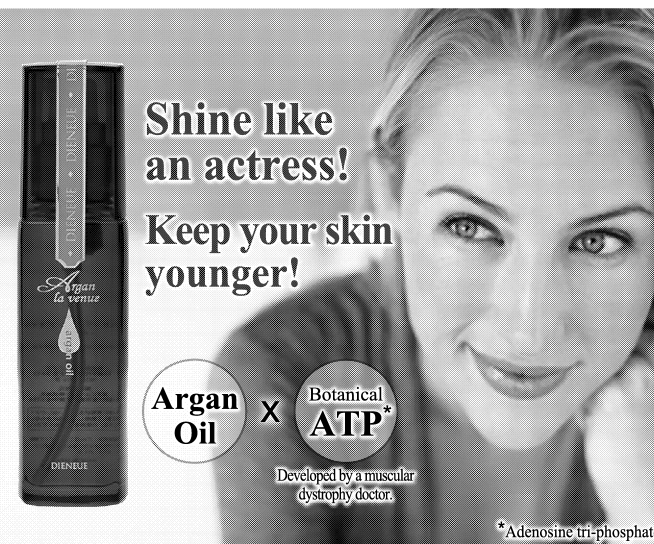


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### Congratulatory messages

By Hirofumi Nakasone  
President of the Japan-Morocco Parliamentary League

On this occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the enthronement of HM the King Mohammed VI, I am delighted to extend my sincere congratulations, on behalf of the Japan-Morocco Parliamentary League, to HM the King, the Royal Family and the people of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Since 1956, Japan and Morocco have built excellent relations at all levels, including between the Imperial and Royal families.

As for the fight against COVID-19, I would like to express my sincere respect for Morocco's strong efforts against the pandemic under the leadership of HM the King Mohammed VI.

I would like to extend my sincere wishes for the prosperity of the people of Morocco, as well as for further development of the cordial relations between our two countries.



Hirofumi Nakasone

By Haruko Hirose  
President, Japan Morocco Association

On the occasion of Morocco's Throne Day, I would like to extend my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty King Mohammed VI on behalf of all members of the Japan-Morocco Association.

On this auspicious occasion, I would also like to express my sincere greetings to all members of the Royal Family, as well as to the people and government of the Kingdom of Morocco.

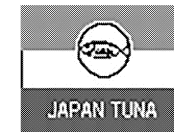
We have been witnessing the sense of discipline, the spirit of solidarity and responsibility shown by your citizens for dealing with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I truly hope that we will overcome the pandemic soon and that our countries' close relationship will continue to further develop dialogue, trade, investment, and friendship under His Majesty's reign.



Haruko Hirose

### Congratulations on the National Day of the Kingdom of Morocco



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### WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

TO HIS MAJESTY,  
KING MOHAMMED VI  
OF MOROCCO

on the 22nd anniversary  
of his accession to the throne  
of his glorious ancestors



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