

**Joint Statement**  
**on the Strengthening of the Comprehensive Partnership**  
**between Japan and Saudi Arabia**  
**-From Energy to Synergy-**

H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the period from 20-21.6.1434 H corresponding to April 30 to May 1, 2013.

HRH Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, the Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense held talks with the Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe, on a range of bilateral issues and issues of common interest. The leaders of the two countries expressed their deep satisfaction with the significant development in their bilateral relations in the political, economic and cultural fields, and expressed their intention to strengthen the comprehensive partnership between Japan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in every field in order to achieve the common interests of the two friendly countries.

Both sides reiterated the importance of cooperation and consultation through such measures as follows.

- Both sides expressed their intention to enhance high-level political dialogues between the two countries.
- Both sides discussed regional situations, maritime security, the safety of the sea lanes of communications, counter-piracy, non-proliferation, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, among other issues. Both sides expressed their intention to promote security dialogue in these fields.
- Both sides expressed their willingness to promote dialogues and exchanges on international terrorism situations and discuss possible cooperation/coordination of the two countries.
- Both sides welcomed defense cooperation between the two countries,

and expressed their intention to continue to exchange the visits of the high level officials from the Saudi military forces and Japan Self-Defense Forces.

- Both sides welcomed the outcome of the meetings of the Saudi-Japanese joint committee, as well as the meetings of the Saudi-Japanese Business Council. Both sides emphasized the importance of continuous holding of the Saudi-Japanese joint committee as well as the Saudi-Japanese Business Council, and welcomed the bilateral cooperation between the governments and private sectors in the two countries.

Both sides reiterated the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the economic, technical, educational, scientific and cultural fields and noted with satisfaction the development of industrial cooperation, including the Japan-Saudi Industrial Cooperation Task Force. Both sides expressed their expectation that there will be an increase in the size of the flow of Japanese investments in the industrial and service sectors in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and reiterated that they will work together to benefit from the comparative advantages available in the Saudi economy as well as its stability and development.

- Both sides stressed the importance of the stability of the oil market for the global economy. The Japanese side expressed its appreciation for the balanced oil policy pursued by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a secure and reliable source in supplying oil to the international markets in general, and to the Japanese market in particular. The Saudi side stressed its commitment to continuing its stable supply of oil to the Japanese market. Both sides also stressed the importance of further promoting the bilateral cooperation in the field of energy, including energy efficiency and exchange of expertise in this area, through Japan-Saudi Energy Consultation, based on the close relationship between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Japan.
- Both sides recognized the importance of promoting bilateral cooperation in renewable energy and nuclear energy.
- Both sides welcomed the signing of the Japan-Saudi Investment Agreement on the occasion of this visit.

- Both sides recognized the importance of promoting information sharing and technical cooperation in the fields of agriculture and medical services.
- Both sides stressed the importance of strengthening educational cooperation among universities and research institutions in the two countries, and welcomed the increase in the number of Saudi students who wish to pursue their undergraduate and graduate studies in Japan, as well as Japanese students wishing to study in the universities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Recalling 2015/1436 AH is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, both sides stressed their great keenness to continue the close cooperation in the various fields for promoting the distinguished historical relations between the two countries and friendly peoples to achieve their common interests and aspirations.
- The Japanese side expressed its appreciation for the initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud for dialogue among religions, civilizations and cultures, and praised the establishment King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) in Vienna.
- Based on the shared understanding that their cooperation is of great importance for the stability and prosperity of the Middle East and the international community as a whole, both sides stressed the importance to further enhance cooperation in the international arena.

Both sides confirmed their commitment to a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and the Arab peace initiative. Both sides shared the urgent need to make progress on the Middle East Peace Process towards this goal within an acceptable time frame, in order to reach a two-state solution aimed at establishing a Palestinian state that is sovereign, independent, united and viable, and they underscored the need for the major international efforts to drive the Peace Process forward. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expressed its appreciation for Japan's position which supported the United Nations General Assembly resolution to grant Palestine Non-member Observer State

status in the United Nations.

Both sides expressed deep concern about the serious and aggravating situation in Syria. Both sides condemned the continuation of grave violations of human rights by the Syrian authorities and confirmed that the regime had lost its legitimacy. Both sides expressed their support for The National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces and hoped that the Coalition plays a leading role in advancing a Syrian-led political transition. Both sides also stressed their concerns for the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Syria, and confirmed their continuous efforts to contribute to the urgent needs in coordination with the international organizations.

Both sides stressed the importance of urging all States in the Middle East to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to make the Middle East and the Gulf region free of all nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. Both sides emphasized their support for international efforts exerted for a peaceful and negotiated resolution to the Iranian nuclear issue, and both sides urged Iran to respond to these efforts by fully implementing the relevant United Nations Security Council and IAEA Board of Governors resolutions.

Both sides expressed their willingness to cooperate to make progress in international talks regarding North Korea's continued development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles as well as the abductions issue to restore security and stability in Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner according to relevant United Nations resolutions. Both sides also expressed their intention to promote dialogues on other issues related to the peace and stability in the Asian-Pacific region.

Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe expressed his thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome he and his accompanying official and business delegations had received from the Saudi side.