

Youth Recommendations in Tokyo

~ Towards 2015, the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Saudi Diplomatic Relationships~

We, a group of youth from Japan and Saudi Arabia, gathered in Tokyo for Japan-Saudi Policy Dialogue and Seminar held on December 24 and 25, 2013. We believe this dialogue is an effective means to further deepen the mutual understanding between the youth of both countries, as well as an important step to follow up the accomplishments of the Japan-Saudi Youth Exchange Program from 1999 to 2012.

Under the theme “Towards strengthening the comprehensive partnership between Japan and Saudi Arabia – future cooperation for further mutual development and prosperity –,” we discussed on the way to further promote the bilateral cooperation in the following four aspects: (a) means to tackle the challenges surrounding the youth in the both countries, (b) bilateral cooperation in the field of human resources, (c) the strengthening of the Japan - Saudi bilateral economic relationships, and (d) the bilateral cooperation toward securing the peace and stability in the Middle East.

Through our candid discussion, we all shared the recognition that there remains much potential for further widening our bilateral cooperation in various areas, and decided to submit to our governments the following proposals, which we expect the both governments to address as main targets as the both countries are approaching toward 2015, the year of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relationship between Japan and Saudi Arabia.

【Youth Exchange】

- *Hope to achieve further cooperation in the fields of Youth and Sport,*
- *Establishment of Saudi-Japanese youth councils such as in the fields of Science and Technology, Culture and Business, which can contribute to be a house for mutual activities,*
- *Create a program that introduces to the Kingdom of Saudi*

Arabia(KSA), Japanese volunteerism and lessons learned from the different important experiences from Japan and the world,

【Culture and Education】

- *Increase the number of the learners of both Arabic and Japanese languages in Japan and Saudi Arabia respectively and take necessary measures to encourage them,*
- *Promote Saudi research by Japanese scholars and Japanese research by Saudi scholars such as establishing a Japan-Saudi Arabia research center in both countries,*
- *Take measures to further introduce to Saudi Arabia Japan's educational values and methods in terms of discipline and harmonization inside and outside schools and to further promote the understanding of Islamic culture and its values among the Japanese youth,*
- *Strengthen educational cooperation among universities and research institutions in the two countries and promote human exchanges among the youth, especially university students of the both countries,*

【 Economic Cooperation】

- *Encourage Japanese companies to open their operational entities and branches in KSA to enhance economic relationship,*
- *Further promote the bilateral cooperation in the field of energy, including renewable energy and nuclear energy,*
- *Increase the two-way flow of investments between the two countries,*
- *Study the possibility to open branches of Saudi Company in Japan and do consultation services for Japanese companies willing to enter Saudi Market,*
- *Give preferences for Saudi students those who studied in Japan when they would like to work for Japanese Companies in Tokyo and KSA,*
- *Set up broader cooperation for human resources in various fields, not only industrial sectors, but also new fields such as tourism,*
- *Continue providing Japan's technical assistance to the Saudi youth through such means as cost-sharing technical assistance program by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA),*

- *Further develop the industrial cooperation through such means as the Japan-Saudi Industrial Cooperation Task Force,*
- *Exchange internship programs and experiences by Saudi and Japanese companies,*

【Politics and Security】

- *Further deepen political and security dialogues and continue defense cooperation in the Gulf and East Asia,*
- *Enhance security cooperation between KSA and Japan for conflict prevention in the Middle East and East Asia,*
- *Increase security dialogue and share values between the two countries.*

On the other hand, recognizing that we ourselves are also the players in advancing the bilateral cooperation, we emphasize that it is our responsibility to do the followings as our contribution:

- *Play important roles to introduce the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Japanese people, especially Japanese companies, and introduce Japan to Saudi people and promote mutual understanding,*
- *Continue dialogues about various fields and visits to each country,*
- *Make mailing list of the participants of the seminar and discuss various issues,*
- *Joining Saudi and Japanese cultural and educational events and promote mutual understanding,*

Finally, recognizing the significance of this Policy Dialogue and Seminar described above, we hope that the next round of Policy Dialogue and Seminar will be held in Riyadh during the fiscal year of 2014 with the participation of promising youngsters of the both countries, including university students, young intellectuals and government and private company officials.

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