

Morocco and Japan enjoy enduring ties

By Rachad Bouhlal

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Japan

This year marks the 26th Anniversary of the Enthronement of His Majesty 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, His Excellency Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, as well as the Government and the friendly people of Japan.



Rachad Bouhlal

Celebrating the Kingdom of Morocco's National Day in Japan is always a wonderful opportunity to highlight the long-standing and enduring relations between Morocco and Japan, founded on mutual respect and the deep friendship shared between the Moroccan Royal Family and the Japanese Imperial Family.

Under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Morocco has emerged as one of the key developing nations in Africa and the Middle East, and is increasingly recognized as a vital actor and partner in addressing global challenges.

In terms of economic infrastructure, several strategic projects — such as the Tangier Med Port and the establishment of high-end industrial free zones across the country — have been successfully completed. Additional major initiatives are currently underway, including the construction of the deep-sea ports of Dakhla Atlantic and Nador West Med.

Connectivity is also a national priority. The extension of the existing high-speed rail line from Casablanca to Marrakech, which will add 430 kilometers of track for trains reaching speeds of up to 350 km/h,

is a key milestone. New rail connections to Mohammed V International Airport are also under development, and the total capacity of Moroccan airports is set to double by 2030.

At the regional level, His Majesty King Mohammed VI has launched the ambitious Atlantic Initiative for the Sahel, aimed at connecting landlocked Sahel countries to international trade routes via the Dakhla Atlantic Port.

In the field of sustainable energy, Morocco has pursued an ambitious strategy since 2009, aiming to get 52% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030. These efforts have already yielded significant results: Morocco is home to one of the largest solar power plants in the world, and is advancing major regional and international projects, such as the Morocco-Nigeria gas pipeline, which will connect 13 African countries and facilitate gas exports to Europe.

In agriculture and food security, Morocco is implementing a forward-looking strategy to mitigate the impacts of climate change and enhance water management efficiency. This includes the development of "water highways," new dams and seawater desalination plants. These complex projects, which require advanced technology and engineering capabilities, underscore Morocco's commitment to global sustainability goals.

In terms of digital development, Morocco boasts one of the most advanced information and ICT infrastructures in Africa and is set to launch its 5G network this November. Moroccan telecommunications companies also have the broadest presence on the continent, building and operating networks in numerous African countries.

Tourism continues its upward trajectory. In 2024, Morocco welcomed 17.4 million international visitors. From January to April



Courtesy of Morocco Embassy

His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco

this year alone, 5.7 million tourists visited Morocco — a 23% increase compared to the same period in 2024. This record performance illustrates that Morocco's tourism sector has not only fully recovered from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic but has surpassed pre-pandemic levels.

The upcoming 2030 FIFA World Cup, which Morocco will cohost alongside Spain and Portugal, is expected to give a further boost to national development projects and energize multiple sectors of the economy.

These accomplishments have been made possible in part thanks to the strong and fruitful partnerships between the Govern-



Courtesy of Morocco Embassy

Chefchaouen, nicknamed "The Blue City," is a popular tourist destination in Morocco.

ment of Japan and major Japanese companies, which have consistently invested in and operated from Morocco.

Finally, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Moroccan community living in Japan. They play an essential role in strengthening the human and cultural ties between our two nations.

I also commend the excellent bilateral relations between Morocco and Japan,

which have witnessed remarkable progress across all sectors in recent years. I am pleased to note that over the past 14 years, the number of Japanese companies operating in Morocco has more than doubled, now exceeding 70. This makes Morocco the second largest destination for Japanese companies in Africa. Moreover, Japan is the largest foreign private employer in Morocco, creating more than 50,000 local jobs.

Morocco, Japan deepen ties further Congratulations to Morocco's vibrancy

By Hirofumi Nakasone

President of the Japan-Morocco Parliamentary League

On this auspicious occasion of the 26th anniversary of the enthronement of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, I am delighted to extend my sincere congratulations on behalf of the Japan-Morocco Parliamentary League to His Majesty, the Royal Family and the people of the Kingdom of Morocco.



Hirofumi Nakasone

Japan and Morocco have enjoyed excellent relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1956, as symbolized by the close friendship between the Imperial and Royal families and active high-level reciprocal exchanges.

The year 2026 will mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Morocco, which took place shortly after Morocco's independence. I would also like to celebrate this momentous year together with the people of Morocco.

Located at the crossroads of the Middle East, Europe, and Africa, and across the Atlantic Ocean from the United States, Morocco has seen increasing economic exchanges.

This growth is due to its geopolitical importance, political and social stability, good access to the European market, numerous economic zones, and the

growing number of overseas companies attracted by Morocco's free trade agreements with many countries.

In terms of automobile exports to Europe, Morocco has achieved the world's leading position, a testament to its remarkable growth.

People-to-people exchanges have also become more and more active. Last year, H.E. Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita and H.E. Investment Minister Karim Zidane made consecutive visits to Japan. The foreign ministers of Japan and Morocco signed a Memorandum of Cooperation for a Reinforced Partnership, which stipulates bilateral cooperation not only in traditional political and economic fields, but also in a wide range of promising fields such as space, fisheries, culture, science and technology, and sports. It is hoped that this memorandum will serve as a basis for further developing bilateral relations between the two countries.

We look forward to high-level participation from Morocco at the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9), to be held in Yokohama next month.

As President of the Japan-Morocco Parliamentary League, I myself will continue to work diligently to further promote bilateral relations.

I wish for the health and prosperity of the people of Morocco, as well as further development of the cordial relations between our two countries.

By Haruko Hirose

President of the Japan-Morocco Association

On the 26th anniversary of the enthronement of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, I extend heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty, the Royal Family, and the people of Morocco on behalf of the Japan-Morocco Association.



Haruko Hirose

Our nations share a longstanding friendship, characterized by mutual respect and active high-level exchanges since we established diplomatic relations in 1956.

Thanks to Morocco's initiatives to strengthen its legal, economic, and trade framework with Japan through bilateral agreements on investment promotion, protection, and the elimination of double taxation, Japanese companies are increasingly interested in investing in various Moroccan industries, including the automotive sector, benefiting from strategic industrial clusters and a skilled workforce. This expansion has also contributed to the growth of employment in Morocco.

I applaud Morocco's commitment to enhancing its resilience in the face of the tense regional and global situation and challenges related to climate change, energy, and food security. We also celebrate Morocco's vibrancy in fields beyond the economy, including infra-



Courtesy of Morocco Embassy

Water desalination plant in Casablanca

structure development, tourism, and sports. It is particularly impressive to see the 20% increase in tourists visiting Morocco last year compared to the previous year, making it the most visited tourism destination in Africa. It is also wonderful to see the energetic advance of Moroccan football. I have been glad to see a dynamic young Japanese player on a Moroccan team who is adapting fully, enjoying playing with his Moroccan teammates and his life in Morocco.

Once again, my congratulations to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, and may our enduring friendship continue to flourish.

Our Warmest Congratulations
on the National Day of the Kingdom of Morocco

 **TAIYO CORPORATION**

Importer, Exporter and National Wholesaler of Automotive Parts, Auto Accessories and Electronic Parts

President Takeshi Ito

2-13-33 Tamagawa, Fukushima-ku, Osaka 553-0004, Japan
TEL: (06) 6443-5291 FAX: (06) 6443-5534 E-MAIL: ito@taiyo-j.co.jp
<https://www.taiyo-japan.com/>

Warmest Congratulations
To His Majesty,
KING MOHAMMED VI OF MOROCCO
on the 26th anniversary of his accession to the throne of his glorious ancestors.

 **Lightera** |  **FURUKAWA ELECTRIC**

Lightera Morocco SARL
Lot no95 Zone Franche Automotive City
Commune Jouamaa, Province Fahs-Anjra, Tanger, Maroc
Office: +212 05 31 06 30 41
WWW.LIGHTERA.COM

Congratulations
on the National Day of
the Kingdom of Morocco



Headquarters
Fujikura Ltd.
1-5-1 Kiba, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-8512 Japan

Morocco Subsidiaries
Fujikura Automotive Morocco Tangier, S.A.S.
Ilot no 7, local 4, Zone Franche D'exportation de Tanger,
Tanger, MOROCCO
Tel: 212-539-394-143

Fujikura Automotive Morocco Kenitra, S.A.S.
Atlantic Free Zone, Lots 216, 217, 218 et 219, Route Nationale 4,
Commune Ameer Safia, Kenitra, MOROCCO
Tel: 212-530-300-530

<https://www.fujikura.co.jp/>

Our Warmest Congratulations
on the National Day of
the Kingdom of Morocco



Head Office:
SUMITOMO ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES, LTD.
4-5-33, Kitahama, Chuo-ku, Osaka 541-0041
Tel: 06-6220-4119

Subsidiaries in Morocco:
SE Bordnetze Morocco S.A.R.L.
SEWS-CABIND Maroc S.A.S.
SEWS-Maroc S.A.R.L.
SEWS MFZ S.A.R.L.
<https://sumitomoelectric.com/>

Congratulations
on the National Day of
the Kingdom of Morocco



Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association
31-1 Eitai 2-chome, Koto-ku, Tokyo
TEL: 03-5646-2382 FAX: 03-5646-2652

Our Warmest Congratulations
on the 26th Anniversary of the Accession to
the Throne of His Majesty King Mohammed VI



Tel:03-3545-2266 Fax:03-3545-3338
<https://www.kiyomura.co.jp>