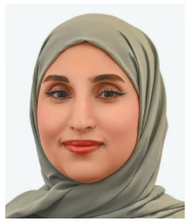
Oman and Japan fostering a partnership for the future

By Asila Nasser Zaid Al Kiyumi
Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman

As the Sultanate of Oman celebrates its National Day, I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to the people of Japan and to reaffirm the deep appreciation of the Omani people for the long-standing friendship between our two nations. This occasion is not only an opportunity for Omanis to celebrate their country's history, identity and achievements, but also a moment to look ahead and share our aspirations for a future built on peace, cooperation and mutual prosperity.



Asila Nasser Zaid Al Kiyumi

For me, as the newly appointed ambassador of Oman to Japan, it is a particular honor to represent my country in a nation with which Oman shares a remarkable history of friendship, mutual respect and understanding. Although geographically distant, Oman and Japan have long been connected by common values: respect for tradition, appreciation of knowledge, dedication to craftsmanship and a strong belief in the importance of harmony and stability.

A country shaped by history and openness

Oman is one of the oldest independent states in the Arab world. Its history reflects centuries of maritime trade, cultural exchange and interaction with communities across Asia, Africa and the wider Indian Ocean. For generations, Omani sailors and merchants traveled along maritime routes connecting the Arabian Peninsula with the Indian subcontinent, East Africa and Southeast Asia. These exchanges helped shape a society that values openness, dialogue and peaceful coexistence.

Oman's geographical position has played an important role in this history. Located at the southeastern corner of the Arabian Peninsula, overlooking the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman, the country has long served as a meeting point between regions and civilizations. Its strategic location continues to be an important asset in today's interconnected world.

Yet Oman's identity cannot be understood through geography alone. It is equally defined by its people, traditions and distinctive cultural heritage. The country's historic forts, castles, traditional markets, ancient settlements and archaeological sites tell stories of generations who built communities, developed trade and preserved their knowledge. These landmarks are not simply reminders of the past; they are living expressions of a national identity that continues to guide the country's development.

Oman offers visitors a remarkable diversity of landscapes and experiences. From the dramatic mountains of Al Hajar to the golden dunes of the Al Sharqiya Sands, from the green terraces of Jabal Akhdar to the pristine beaches along its extensive coastline, the country offers a natural environment of exceptional beauty.

Visitors can explore the historic streets and traditional markets of Muscat, discover the magnificent forts of Nizwa and Bahla, experience the tranquility of mountain villages, or enjoy the unique landscapes of the desert. In the south, Dhofar presents a particularly distinctive experience during the Khareef season, when seasonal monsoon winds transform the landscape into a green oasis, attracting visitors from across the region.

A friendship built on trust

The relationship between Oman and Japan is founded on a long history of friendship and mutual respect. Our diplomatic relations were officially established on May 7, 1972, while our historical contacts extend back several centuries through maritime trade and cultural exchange.

Over the decades, our partnership has developed across political, economic, educational and cultural fields. Both countries value dialogue, stability and international cooperation, and share an appreciation for the role that culture and education play in bringing societies closer together.



Courtesy of Embassy of Oman

Sohar is one of Oman's key industrial and historical cities.

Japan has been an important partner in Oman's development. Japanese companies have contributed to various sectors of the Omani economy, particularly energy, industry, infrastructure and technology. At the same time, Oman has played an important role in supporting Japan's energy security through the supply of oil and natural gas.

However, our relationship is not limited to traditional economic cooperation. We are determined to expand it into new fields that reflect the changing priorities and opportunities of both countries. The comprehensive partnership between Oman and Japan provides a strong foundation for this next stage.

The year 2027 will mark the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries. This milestone offers an excellent opportunity to celebrate our achievements, strengthen people-to-people exchanges and explore new areas of cooperation for the generations to come

Oman Vision 2040: Building a diversified and sustainable economy

Oman is pursuing an ambitious national development agenda through Oman Vision 2040, which seeks to build a diversified, competitive and sustainable economy while investing in human development, innovation and quality of life.

The Eleventh Five-Year Development Plan (2026-2030), the second executive roadmap for Oman Vision 2040, places particular emphasis on economic diversification, private-sector participation, sustainability and improved competitiveness.



Courtesy of Embassy of Oman

Duqm Port accomodates a wide range of commercial cargo.

For Japanese businesses and investors, Oman offers opportunities across a wide range of sectors. These include renewable energy, green hydrogen, manufacturing, logistics, mining, fisheries, agriculture, tourism, health care and information technology.

Oman's strategic location, modern ports, industrial zones and free zones provide an attractive platform for companies seeking access to markets across the Gulf, the Middle East, Africa and South Asia. The ports of Sohar, Duqm and Salalah, together with the country's road and logistics infrastructure, strengthen Oman's position as a regional center for trade and industry.

Recently, Sohar Free Zone has ranked fourth globally and earned the title of "Best Industrial Free Zone in the Middle East" for 2026, as part of the Global Free Zones Awards organized by *fDi* magazine, a publication of the Financial Times group.

We particularly welcome Japanese expertise in advanced manufacturing, robotics, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, infrastructure development and environmental technologies. Japan's reputation for precision, quality and technological innovation complements Oman's resources, strategic location and development priorities.

A shared commitment to a greener future

One of the most promising areas of cooperation is clean energy. Oman possesses abundant solar and wind resources and is working to establish itself as a major producer of renewable energy and green hydrogen. Our ambition is to develop an integrated green hydrogen industry that encompasses production, transportation, storage and associated technologies.

In this regard, cooperation with Japan is particularly valuable. Japanese companies and institutions possess advanced knowledge in energy efficiency, hydrogen technologies, ammonia, carbon management and industrial decarbonization.

An important recent milestone was the signing, on April 9, 2026, of a Memorandum of Cooperation between Oman and Japan on the Joint Crediting Mechanism. This agreement provides a framework for cooperation on emission reductions through the deployment of advanced technologies and contributes to the climate objectives of both countries.

We also see considerable potential for collaboration in water management, desalination, waste treatment, environmental protection and sustainable industrial development. These are areas in which Japanese experience and technology can make a meaningful contribution to Oman's national priorities.

Bringing our peoples closer

The strength of bilateral relations ultimately depends not only on agreements and economic projects, but also on the connections between our people.

We therefore place great importance on cultural, academic and tourism exchanges. Japanese visitors have much to discover in Oman's traditional crafts, architecture, music, cuisine and heritage. Likewise, Omani visitors are increasingly interested in Japan's culture, technological achievements, educational institutions and natural attractions.

There are also meaningful similarities between our societies. Both Oman and Japan attach great importance to family, respect for elders, craftsmanship and the preservation of cultural heritage. Our traditional crafts, although different in form and technique, reflect a shared appreciation for patience, dedication and knowledge passed from one generation to another.

We hope to expand opportunities for students, researchers, artists, entrepreneurs and young professionals to meet, exchange ideas and build lasting relationships. Such encounters create a deeper understanding that official meetings alone cannot achieve.

As ambassador, I look forward to working closely with the Japanese government, business community, academic institutions and civil society to further strengthen the bonds between our countries.

Congratulations
to the People of
the Sultanate of Oman
on their National Day

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This year, **GLOBIS** proudly established its Middle East headquarters in **Muscat**, marking a new chapter in our relationship with the Sultanate.

We look forward to advancing leadership, education, and collaboration across the region.

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