

## SAUDI ARABIAN CROWN PRINCE'S VISIT

## A life devoted to service and philanthropic works

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Bin Abdurahman Bin Faisal Al Saud is a son of the late King Abdulaziz Bin Abdurahman Al Saud — the founder of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He was born on Oct. 11, 1931, in Riyadh.

His Royal Highness received regular and court education in religion, modern culture and diplomacy. He was tutored by great "ulemas (religious scholars)" at his father's palace. His education was supplemented by extensive reading in all fields of knowledge as well as visits to various countries.

The Crown Prince has headed official delegations on various state visits, including the kingdom's delegation to the



**CROWN PRINCE Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Aviation, and Inspector General of Saudi Arabia**

United Nations' 40th anniversary in 1965, 50th in 1995 and 60th in 2005.



**KING Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud**

His Royal Highness concurrently serves as Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense

and Aviation, and Inspector General. He chairs many other important organizations, includ-

ing the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs and the Supreme Committee for Education Policy.

The Crown Prince has received many orders of merit (first class) from various Arab, Muslim and friendly countries, including the Italian Order of Merit (Premium class), as well as honorary doctorates from universities in Malaysia and other foreign countries.

His Royal Highness has an extensive record of charity work. The following are among the most notable:

The Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Foundation — a nonprofit charity organization set up and funded by His Royal Highness in 1995. The foundation has several humanitarian and social objectives, including provision of social and health care as well as rehabilitation to the disabled and the elderly; creation of convalescent rehabilitation and nursing centers to provide specialized advanced medical services; effective participation in spreading awareness among the disabled and elderly of the ideal applications of care in the home and society, as well as promoting awareness of the symptoms of early senility and physical and mental disability, to reduce their complications; providing equipment to those in need and helping them to socialize; conducting research in the fields of medical humanitarian work in cooperation with international research centers; and following up scientific and technological advances, with special attention to fields related to medicine and health. And the foundation aims to achieve its goals through such projects and activities as:

(1) Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Humanitarian City — the biggest rehabilitation complex of its

kind in the world. It contains a complete center for medical checkups; it has a rehabilitation center for the elderly with a capacity of 150 beds. Its main goal is to carry out early intervention treatment to assist children who have minor disabilities to enable them to join public schools normally and independently.

(2) Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Medical and Educational Telecommunications Program (Medunet), which offers medical and educational communications service via satellite and fiber-optic networks. It spreads health education inside and outside the Kingdom.

(3) Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Science & Technology Center, which aims at spreading knowledge and supporting scientific and technological inventions, especially among children. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 13**



**THE KINGDOM CENTER** is more than 300 meters high.



**THE WATER TOWER** in Riyadh casts its shadow over the Saudi Arabian capital.

## Crown prince's visit opens new chapter

By **FAISAL HASSAN TRAD**  
Ambassador of Saudi Arabia

I am honored to announce that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense and Aviation, and Inspector General, began a historic two-day visit to Japan on Thursday.

This is H.R.H. Crown Prince's first official visit to Japan since he became crown prince. His first visit to Japan in 1960 in his capacity as Minister for Transportation and Communications, was the first royal visit from Saudi Arabia to Japan and opened the pages of the history of the friendly ties between the two royal families.

Japan depends on Saudi Arabia for about one-third of its energy demand, and Japan is the kingdom's second-largest economic partner. Saudi Arabia and Japan hold important positions in the world,

especially in Asia, and the two countries' efforts toward peaceful coexistence are highly regarded worldwide.

Japan highly values its ties with Saudi Arabia under the guidance of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

Furthermore, in a message Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi sent on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations, he mentions the strong relations between the two countries and emphasizes the importance of bolstering these even further. Also, Prime Minister Koizumi places Saudi Arabia as a key presence among members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Saudi Arabia, which connects Arab and Islamic countries, is the most important country in the world in terms of energy resources. Saudi Arabia is also the largest country in the world in regard to oil reserves and production.

Peace and stability in the Middle East are very important, and taking an impor-

tant role in the development of the world economy is also essential. Japan highly values Saudi Arabia's efforts in this field.

Saudi Arabia and its people have great respect for Japan, and relations between the two countries are very close. As the Japanese people know, the guarantee of safe, continuous oil supplies from Saudi Arabia helped Japan to become an advanced and industrialized economy.

Also, the fact that more than 2.5 million people visited the Saudi Arabian Pavilion during the Aichi World Expo 2005 is clear evidence of the interest in Saudi Arabia by the Japanese people.

I am sure H.R.H. Crown Prince's visit to Japan will open a new chapter toward the building of a strategic partnership between Saudi Arabia and Japan. Relations based on mutual respect, common interest and work, and dedications toward global peace and stability, will bring benefit and prosperity to the world in general, especially to the people of our two countries.



# SAUDI ARABIAN CROWN PRINCE'S VISIT

## Strong bilateral relationship spans half a century

A major centerpiece of the relationship between Japan and Saudi Arabia has been oil. The kingdom provides 29 percent of the energy needs of Japan, Saudi Arabia's second-largest trading partner.

Saudi Arabia-Japan acquired business entails providing 300,000 barrels per day of Saudi oil to the Japanese petrochemicals market.

In 2004, trade between the two countries totaled almost \$22 billion. Several big joint ventures between the two nations are sufficient to show the strategic importance of bilateral relations.

Japan has contributed significantly to Saudi Arabia's development effort while the kingdom has helped Japan to become one of the world's leading industrial countries by providing it with much of its energy needs.

Japan and Saudi Arabia, in the 50th anniversary year of the establishment of their diplomatic ties, are committed to solidifying the relationship through further cooperative efforts.

Friendly ties between the two countries, established primarily through oil deals, constitute the foundation for Japan-Saudi relations.

There are some 20 projects, including ones at the planning stage, for joint-venture enterprises in the manufacturing of

petrochemical products and others. At a governmental level, an Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation was signed in 1975 to promote joint-venture operations and specialist-fostering projects in areas of economic development.

In 1997, then-Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto visited Saudi Arabia and called for a "comprehensive partnership toward the 21st century," which came to be formally signed in the form of the Japan-Saudi Arabian Cooperative Agenda the following year. This step accelerated reciprocal interchanges between the two nations as exemplified in sending Japanese experts to Saudi Arabia and accepting Saudi trainees to Japan, and established a cooperative structure for such broad areas as the environment, medicine, technology, culture, sports and investment.

Official contacts between Saudi Arabia and Japan began in 1938 (six years after King Abdul Aziz Al-Saud founded the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), when Haifa Wahba, the Saudi envoy to Britain, visited Japan to attend the inauguration of the Tokyo Mosque. In reciprocity, Masayuki Yokoyama, Japan's envoy to Egypt, visited Saudi Arabia in 1939 and had an audience with King Abdul Aziz. In 1953, Japan sent an economic delegation to Saudi

Arabia. In 1965, the two countries formally established diplomatic relations.

The Saudi Arabia-Japan relationship, which has been solid for the past 50 years, is distinctively built on common values and shared interests. It has proven to be a model for bridging the gap between peoples and cultures. Visits by members of the royal families and government officials from both countries contributed significantly toward strengthening the bonds and scope of cooperation. Japan enjoys respect and admiration around the globe for its industrial might.

Bilateral relations have taken a smooth course to date. The arrival in Japan of Saudi Defense and Aviation Minister H.R.H. Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz in 1960 marked the beginning of bilateral visits by dignitaries of both nations, and in 1971 King Faisal visited Japan. Reciprocal visits by members of the Saudi royal family and Japanese imperial family, and prime ministerial and Cabinet-level visits have grown more frequent. In November 1994, the visit of Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako to Saudi Arabia opened a new chapter in the history of friendly relations between the two royal families. In September 1995, Prime Minister Tomichi Mura-

yama visited the kingdom.

In 1998, H.R.H. Crown Prince Abdullah (the present king) and then-Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi signed and issued the Joint Statement Concerning Cooperation Directed Toward the 21st Century between Japan and Saudi Arabia, which was designed to present a new direction to strengthen the bilateral relationship for the new century, and witnessed the signing of the Japan-Saudi Arabia Cooperative Agenda, which comprehensively covers political, economic and new areas of cooperation between the two countries. Then-Foreign Minister Yohei Kono visited Saudi Arabia in 2001 and announced initiatives in the following three areas: promoting dialogue with the Islamic world, developing water resources and engaging in diverse political dialogue. During the visit of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to Saudi Arabia in May 2003, he and H.R.H. Crown Prince Abdullah decided that both countries host commemorative events in

2005.

This year, SABIC celebrates the 25th year of a successful partnership with Japan. Saudi Arabia Methanol Co., a Japanese consortium headed by Mitsubishi Gas Chemical. This joint venture led to the development of the first Saudi petrochemical plant, AR-RAZI (Saudi Methanol Co.), which went on stream in 1963. AR-RAZI is undergoing another enhancement in production capacity and once completed in the second half of 2007, it will be the largest single methanol-producing complex in the world, with an additional capacity of 1.7 million metric tons a year of methanol, bringing the total production to 4.8 million metric tons annually.

Sharq (Eastern Petrochemical Co.), established 24 years ago, is another facility developed through SABIC's successful partnership with a Japanese consortium called Saudi Petrochemical Development Co. (SPDC) headed by Mitsubishi Corp. Sharq went on stream in 1985.



KING FAHD FOUNTAIN, one of the most distinctive nighttime sights in Jidda

## Saudi hospitality awaits all visitors

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the cradle of Islam and a land of ancient civilizations, with a history stretching back to the Stone Age, about 1 million years ago.

While continuing to welcome Muslims on pilgrimages, new development plans under the auspices of the Supreme Commission for Tourism call for an expansion of the kingdom's traditional hospitality and tourist

capabilities to appeal to a wider audience.

By this means Saudi Arabia can continue to build bridges of cooperation and unity among all people.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a great deal to offer discerning visitors, from archaeological wonders and historic sites to a great diversity of modern attractions, scenic beauty and remarkable wildlife, served

by a rapidly expanding high-quality infrastructure to take care of visitors' every requirement.

While upholding its Islamic heritage and its values and traditions, Saudi Arabia is dedicated to providing a quality experience for all our guests, at the same time contributing to economic diversification, increased employment opportunities and community enrichment.

## Women's growing role is evidence of kingdom's investment in its people

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia means different things to different people. For millions of followers of Islam across the world it is the ultimate Holy Land and pilgrimage destination. For a large number of expatriates from Asia, Europe and the United States, it is a land of opportunities. For the rest of the world, Saudi Arabia means oil — the lifeline of present and future economies.

The government has implemented a number of reforms to encourage political participation, promote economic growth, increase foreign investment and expand employment opportuni-

ties. It has been updating and modernizing its academic curricula, and monitoring its charities. In August 2003, the King Abdul Aziz Center for National Dialogue was established to promote the public exchange of ideas as an essential part of life in Saudi Arabia. In November 2004, a municipal election was held as part of streamlining local governments. Two independent Human Rights Commissions were established to provide views and consultations on human rights in the kingdom.

The true wealth of any nation is its people, for it is their ability to manage

the country's existing resources and to identify and develop new ones that determines the prosperity of the economy, and the health of society for present and future generations.

The position of women in Islamic society in general and in Saudi Arabia in particular is complex and frequently misunderstood. It is true that Muslim and Western views of the role of women show sharp cultural differences, but the stereotype of Muslim women, as uneducated, with no rights and no opportunities is a caricature born of ignorance or malevolence. Islam gave women economic and social

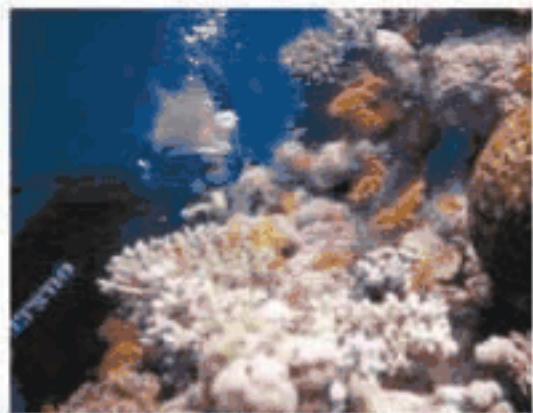
rights long before such rights were attained by Western women.

From the beginning of Islam, women have been legally entitled to inherit and bequeath property, holding their wealth in their names even after marriage, without obligation to contribute that wealth to their husband or their family. In fact the first businesswoman in Islam was the wife of the prophet Muhammad.

Women in Saudi Arabia have an important role within society and the family, but it would be a mistake to think that the role of Saudi women is confined to homemaking. The devel-

opment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has brought with it increasing opportunities for women in education and employment. In 1960, the government undertook the introduction of a national education program for girls. By the mid-1970s, about half of all Saudi Arabian girls were attending school. Now, 90.3 percent of Saudi women are literate.

In 2003, there were about half a million Saudi women in the labor force, this represents 15 percent of the workforce. Saudi women are owners or part owners of more than 22,000 businesses.



WATERSPORTS can be enjoyed in the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf.

## A life devoted to service, charity

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King Fahd University for Petrol & Minerals in Dhahran 2005.

(4) Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Foundation's charity housing projects, enabling families in need to possess houses. Several projects in the southern region, Tabuk region and Hail region have been developed. Each project consists of 100 fully furnished villas, all provided with the necessary utilities.

(5) Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Special Education Program at the Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain, which is designed to train specialists in the field of special

education.

(6) Prince Sultan Center for Speech and Hearing in Bahrain — a positive result of the cooperation between the Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Foundation and the Bahraini Society for Child Development, which aims to help people with hearing disabilities.

(7) King Abdulaziz Center for Islamic Studies at Bologna University, Italy, which specializes in Islamic studies, including Islamic "sharia" law, history, philosophy, Arabic and Oriental languages.

(8) Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Arab and Islamic Studies Program at

the University of California, Berkeley, which teaches Arabic and Islamic sharia law. It provides support to researchers, visitors, graduates and post-graduate students, who have interest in studying subjects related to Arabic and the Islamic world. It aims at introducing the noble Islamic principles to foster bridges between the East and West. There is also the Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Private Committee for Relief, a body that organizes relief and medical convoys, and sets up camps to combat diseases like malaria and blindness.