



Bahrain, the Pearl of the Gulf



Ahmed Mohamed Yusuf ALDOSERI
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to Japan

Ambassador Ahmed Aldoseri joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1990, beginning his journey in Bahrain's international relations. His first step was being appointed to the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations, where he served for 8 fruitful years between 1992 and 2000. He was then selected to be the Director of GCC affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2006-2008, before becoming Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany from 2008-2011. After this successful posting, he was appointed Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium between 2011-2014 and has been Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to Japan since 2018.

Similar to Japan, the Kingdom of Bahrain is an island country, comprising a total of 760km² in the Arabian Gulf. If compared to Tokyo, it is three times smaller, yet both have their big stories to tell. Bahrain's is one of rich and unique history, dating back to the 3rd millennium BC with its ancient civilization of Dilmun. From then to this day, our island has always been known for its rich cultural diversity and most importantly its value as a trading point. In modern times, Bahrain was the first GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) country to diversify its economy towards non-oil sectors such as financial, services, logistics, tourism, ICT and manufacturing, and has consolidated its diversification efforts as part of its national "Economic Vision 2030".

Our Bond with Japan

The bond that we share with Japan is indeed one of a kind. Even though bilateral diplomatic relations were only officially established in 1972, Bahrain's first ever produced oil was shipped to Yokohama in 1934. Going even further back in time, both countries have strong links to the pearl industry, whether traditional pearl diving in Bahrain or the cultured pearls developed by Kokichi Mikimoto here in Japan.

Today, a prime example of Bahrain-Japan economic relations is the Yokogawa Electric Corporation's MENA (Middle East and North Africa) headquarters in the Kingdom. As a leading provider of industrial automation, and test and measurement solutions, Yokogawa Middle East & Africa B.S.C.(c), serves customers across the Middle East and Africa through 7 affiliate companies, 8

engineering centers, 22 sales/service offices and 1 manufacturing center. More than this, with the support of Tamkeen, our labor fund which supports the private sector and empowers Bahrainis to be the engine of economic growth, Yokogawa has fostered and employed young Bahraini talent to execute projects and maintain customers' assets in the Kingdom.

Bahrain's Strategic Location

With logistics being a key element of international trade, Bahrain is ideally situated in the heart of the Gulf, with outstanding to diverse markets not only in the region but the rest of the world, with the GCC and MENA markets containing 54 million and 472 million consumers respectively. Further, Bahrain benefits from 22 free trade agreements, including the first ever US FTA with a GCC member and 41 double taxation avoidance agreements, giving unparalleled trading potential.



企業がバーレーンの競争上の優位性を活用できる経済セクター



Why Invest in Bahrain?

Bahrain is currently well advanced in diversifying its economy, with a clear Economic Recovery Plan which places attracting foreign investment and achieving growth in non-oil sectors as top priorities. In doing so, the first advantage we point out, in addition to the Kingdom's strategic location, is Bahrain's best value setup and operating cost, including 100% foreign ownership of companies and 0% corporate tax. For any company looking to expand internationally, this should play a big role in their decision. In 2021, our FDI stock relative to GDP stood at 86% compared to a global average of 47%, underlining how welcoming the Kingdom is for companies looking to expand or set up a regional presence.

Bahrain continues to shift its economic focus away from oil, and towards sectors such as financial services, industry, telecommunications, IT and the digital economy. And as I have seen for myself, Japan too is a leading innovator in these fields, rising to prominence in the financial, industrial and IT realms, and establishing itself as one of the largest and most successful economies in the world.

From these foundations, I strongly believe that Japan and

Bahrain can work closely together to advance our shared goals and interests. There is room for us in Bahrain to incorporate what Japan has already contributed in these fields, and an outstanding opportunity for Japan to expand in our region as we continue to grow this important and flourishing relationship.



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