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From space to trade

HRH CP, PM's Japan visit unlock fresh opportunities

● Bahrain and Japan deepen ties with landmark agreements across key sectors

● Bilateral relations strengthened through high-level talks

● Bahrain and Japan chart new horizons with strategic partnerships

TDT | Manama

Space collaboration, digital transformation, and air transport were among the key areas of focus as His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, began an official visit to Japan.

The deals came as HRH the CP, PM held talks with His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Fumihito, His Excellency Shigeru Ishiba, the Prime Minister of Japan, and other senior officials, in addition to leading business figures.



During a meeting with HE Shigeru Ishiba, HRH the CP, PM affirmed that Bahrain-Japan relations continue to grow stronger with the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Majesty Emperor Naruhito. HRH noted that this support has opened new horizons in bilateral relations, particularly in priority sectors, and stressed Bahrain's commitment to unlocking mutually beneficial opportunities.

HRH the CP, PM also praised Japan's preparations for Expo 2025 Osaka, describing the event as a platform for inno-

vative solutions to global challenges. The meeting further highlighted the importance of consolidating cooperation to generate opportunities that benefit both nations and their peoples, alongside discussions on regional and international developments and global peace efforts.

Later, HRH the CP, PM and the Japanese Prime Minister witnessed the signing of several agreements before attending a dinner banquet in honour of the Bahraini delegation.

Separately, HRH the CP, PM held discussions with His Maj-

esty Emperor Naruhito at the Imperial Palace, His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Fumihito at the Akasaka Imperial Residence, and with a delegation from the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai). Talks were also held with HE Takeshi Iwaya, Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs.

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister of the Prime Minister's Court, and senior officials attended the meetings.



In 2024, Japan imported goods from Bahrain worth about US\$426 million. The largest portion of this was mineral fuels, oils and distillation products, which alone accounted for over US\$220 million.

The deals signed

Bahrain and Japan sealed a series of co-operation agreements across key sectors during high-level meetings in Tokyo.

Space

The Bahrain Space Agency and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) will partner on joint projects, R&D, training, and knowledge exchange. The deal was signed by Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Hiroshi Yamakawa, President of JAXA.

Civil service

The Civil Service Bureau and the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) agreed to cooperate in human resources management for the public sector. The agreement was signed by Dr. Al Zayani and Yamana Kenji, Senior Vice President of JICE.

Digitisation

The Information and e-Government Authority (IGA) inked a deal with Japan's Digital Agency to exchange expertise in e-government and digital transformation. Dr. Al Zayani and Masaaki Taira, Japan's Minister for Digital Transformation, signed the agreement.

Intellectual property:

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Japan Patent Office will collaborate under the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) programme. The deal was signed by HE Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, and Futoshi Yasuda, Deputy Commissioner of Japan Patent Office.

Air transport:

A consultation document on air transport services and direct flights was signed by HE Ahmed Al Doseri, Bahrain's Ambassador to Japan, and Miyazawa Koichi, Director General of Japan's Civil Aviation Bureau.