

Japan-Arab Conference
A New Dawn: Arabs Looking East
November 20-21, 2007, Alexandria, Egypt
Alexandria Statement
{Towards a New Japan-Arab Partnership}

Representatives of governments and members of civil society from Japan and the Arab world met in Alexandria, Egypt, on November 20-21, 2007, for the Japan-Arab Conference with a desire to further strengthen and develop partnership between Japan and the Arab world. The Conference was hosted by the Library of Alexandria along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the League of Arab States and in cooperation with the Government of Japan.

Over 250 leading policymakers, academics, business executives, scientists, artists, representatives of civil society and others from 17 countries participated in the Conference and discussed a variety of issues of common interest and concern, as well as means to advance cooperation to higher levels. The issues were examined in four sessions: *political and diplomatic, economic trade and financial, cultural and social, and science and technology and environment*. The discussions were frank, meaningful and constructive. The participants examined a variety of proposals to enhance our ties.

At the conclusion of the Conference, the participants, confirming the importance of strengthening cooperation between Japan and the Arab countries in order to face serious challenges in a complex world, adopted the following statement:

1. We believe that Japan and the Arab countries, both having longstanding cultures and civilizations, can complement each other in pursuing sustainable development in a globalized world while preserving their unique cultures and traditional values. This is with recognition of Japan's success in maintaining its rich culture while achieving rapid economic development, and taking note of the Arab countries' desire for Japan's support and cooperation in current efforts to achieve modernization and reform in the Arab world.

2. While we note with satisfaction the steady development of the bilateral relations between Japan and Arab countries, which have been nurtured mainly in the economic field, we believe that it is time to advance future Japanese-Arab relations to a new level of cooperation involving wider economic relations. Therefore, we discussed possibilities of exploring new domains of economic partnerships in areas such as high-tech related investment, IT, telecommunications, nanotech, generic pharmacy, etc. the participants addressed various issues concerning renewable energy cooperation to go beyond oil and benefiting from new technologies in this report.
3. We also believe that at the heart of any reform, and as the basis of economic and social development, there is a pressing need to promote human resource development. We agree, therefore, that improvement in the fields of education and vocational training should be placed at the top of the agenda for any modernization and reform effort. With this in mind, we discussed possibilities of increasing educational and cultural exchange opportunities between Japan and the Arab world.
4. We concur that climate change is a challenge deeply related to the goal of achieving human safety and prosperity, in tandem with economic development for all. In order to achieve this goal, it is of vital importance to develop innovative technologies that will contribute to energy efficiency and conservation. Sharing the same concern over the problem of climate change, we intend to work together to address global warming.
5. We are deeply concerned over the continued conflicts and signs of instability in the Middle East and reaffirm our commitment to work together to achieve peace and stability in this important area of the world. In particular, we underline that ensuring a lasting, just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict is one of the most important tasks of the region as well as the international community. We note with appreciation Japan's efforts to help the Palestinian people develop a viable economy of their own through the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" project and welcome Japan's continued active involvement in the Middle East.

6. We welcome the timely holding of the Japan-Arab Conference as our joint effort to further promote mutual understanding and cooperation between Japan and the Arab countries.

7. Building on the fruitful discussions of the Conference, we agree to examine how to maintain momentum created by this conference and to examine the possibility of convening follow-up meetings, including similar conferences in the future.