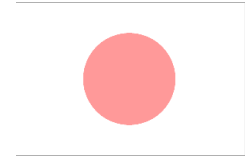


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**News Release**

May 2, 2012

**Japan-Bahrain diplomatic relations' 40th anniversary**  
**to be celebrated**

Japan Foreign Minister H.E Mr. Koichiro Gemba has sent a cable to his Bahraini counterpart, H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, marking the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Japan and the Kingdom of Bahrain. Attached herewith is a provisional translation for the cable.

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For further information in regard to this press release, media inquiries can be directed to Mr. Hiroto Asaoka, Public Affairs Section of Japanese Embassy at 17716565 and [hiroto.asaoka@mofa.go.jp](mailto:hiroto.asaoka@mofa.go.jp) or to Japanese Embassy's Web site at <http://www.bh.emb-japan.go.jp/index.htm>

May 2, 2012

*H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Kingdom of Bahrain*

*Excellency,*

*I would like to express to Your Excellency my pleasure on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Japan. I would also like to express my thanks to Your Excellency and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and its people for the continued efforts you have made to strengthen and develop relations between the two countries.*

*The diplomatic relations between our countries began in 1972 thanks to the continued efforts of both countries and those relations have been well-established in the fields of politics, economy, and financial sector and in educational and cultural fields. On the occasion of the visit of HM King Hamad and Your Excellency to Japan in April 2012, it was agreed to strengthen cooperation at all levels in the fields of politics and security and to strengthen economic cooperation including the establishment of Bahrain-Japan Economic Cooperation Association, in addition to the cooperation in the field of education and other fields which contribute in tightening the bonds of friendship between our two countries.*

*I would also like to express my thanks from the bottom of my heart for the friendly messages sent by HM King Hamad, HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister and HRH Prince Salman bin*

*Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Your Excellency and other Bahraini officials.*

*The future of the relations between our two countries promises wide possibilities and I hope to take advantage of the planned events in the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the two countries to enhance mutual understanding for fruitful and strong relations.*

*Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and good wishes for your personal health and wellbeing, as well as for the progress and prosperity of the Kingdom.*

*Koichiro Gamba  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan*