**Remarks by Ambassador Yoshihiko Kamo at the Reception in Celebration of the Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan**

**November27, 2012**

**Abu Dhabi**

Her Excellency Dr. Maitha al Shamsi

Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to welcome you all here this evening. Our guest of honor is Her Excellency Dr. Maitha al Shamsi who is one of the most intelligent women in the UAE. She is also known as an outstanding cross-cultural communicator. We are honored to have you, Madam Minister!

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan will turn 79 on December 23, 2012. It is indeed my pleasure to celebrate His Majesty’s birthday together with our UAE friends in Abu Dhabi just three weeks after my arrival in this beautiful and dynamic country. It is also my privilege to wish for his further longevity and Japan’s brighter future at this festive time of UAE Independence Day. Japanese Emperor is arguably the oldest institution in the world. The Emperor is our source of pride and character. He has reigned as the ultimate authority in Japan over the past 1600 years. Much could happen in 1600 years. We have seen the rise and fall of different rulers or power enforcers in Japan: aristocrats, samurais and Japanese nationals. The ruling political leaders of Japan have changed from time to time, but the ultimate authority has always remained with the Emperor. Based upon this core value Japan has nurtured over the years, we have developed our distinctive culture and traditions with which we built our nation. While we imported the quintessence of the western civilization to modernize our industries, we never gave up but tried best to preserve our own culture and values. Perhaps you remember that the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami hit Northeast Japan in March 2011. The survivors of the disaster-stricken areas showed us remarkable discipline, stoicism and compassion at the most difficult time. Our traditional values account for that.

The UAE is a vibrant and future-oriented country. Even my short stay here reveals the UAE is showcasing what a harmonious society of tradition and modernity looks like. I wish to offer my sincere admiration and respect to the government and people of the UAE for their untiring effort to bring about this illustrious accomplishment. With their engaging leadership, seven Emirates that constitute the UAE are vigorously pursuing their economic, cultural and social potentials to their fullest by exploring various business opportunities and addressing new challenges. What strikes me most is the open-door policy that the United Arab Emirates is implementing. It is said that peoples from more than 200 countries come and reside in the Emirates to seek better life and better future. As a country the UAE may be small in size, but big in heart as she is sharing most generously her wealth and opportunities with so many people worldwide. This is by no means a small contribution to the entire human race.

The inspiring spirit of the Late His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founder of the United Arab Emirates, prevails over the country under the mighty leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. His Highness Sheikh Muhammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum and His Highness Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan are assisting, with dedication, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed, President of the UAE by providing visions and taking initiatives in their respective capacities, which I am confident, leads this great nation to even higher glory and prosperity.

Japan enjoys cordial relations with the UAE for the past long years. We have been developing mutually beneficial relationships with our UAE friends in business, culture, education and more. We are proud of and cherish the wonderful ties we have built over the years. Since Japanese are shy and not out-spoken, I am afraid you may not be aware of this, but we Japanese would like to remain your good friend and partner. We would like to learn more from you. We would like you to know about us more. To achieve these goals, I am determined to do my best.

In concluding my remarks, I wish His Majesty the Emperor the continued good health and further wish the Ruling families of the UAE the continued success. Last but not least, may our friendship go deeper and last longer!