

Speech by H.E. Kanji Fujiki, Ambassador of Japan at Conferment Ceremony of Decoration in Honor of H.E. Abudulla Nasser Al Suwaidi, Member of the Supreme Petroleum Council (23 July 2018, Intercontinental Hotel Abu Dhabi)

- *His Excellency, Abdulla Nasser Al Suwaidi, Chairman of Federal Authority of Nuclear Regulation, Member of Abu Dhabi Supreme Petroleum Council, and a person of honor today,
- *His Excellency, Suhail Al Mazroui, Minister of Energy and Industry,
- *His Excellency, Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of State, Chairman of ADNOC, the UAE representative for Comprehensive strategic partnership initiative between the UAE and Japan,
- *Mr. Keizo Morikawa, Representative Director and CEO, Cosmo Energy Holdings, and Representative of Japan, UAE-Japan Society,
- *Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, Assalamu aleikum.

- *First of all, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of you for your attendance at the decoration awarding ceremony in honor of H.E. Abudulla Nasser Al Suwaidi.
- *It is my great honor and pleasure to share this wonderful moment tonight together with many Excellencies in the governments of the UAE, His Excellency's family members and friends, as well as many representatives of Japanese companies.

- *Last April the Government of Japan decided to confer the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon on His Excellency H.E. Abudulla Nasser Al Suwaidi in recognition of his significant contribution to strengthening economic relationship between Japan and the UAE.
- *This decoration, which is given in the name of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, is one of the most prestigious decorations in Japanese honors system.
- *Today, I feel extremely honored to award the decoration to His Excellency on behalf of His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan.

- *Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

- *Let me first introduce briefly His Excellency's career and achievement in terms of bilateral relationship between the UAE and Japan.
- *After graduated from Wisconsin University in the US, H.E. joined ADNOC and since then has been dedicating his life to developing oil and gas industry in the UAE in cooperation with international partners including Japanese companies.
- *In particular, His Excellency has devoted himself to promoting bilateral cooperation in oil and gas industry with Japan through numerous visits to Japan and intensive discussion with his Japanese counterparts in the government and in its business community.
- *His Excellency's contribution in establishing friendly and cooperative bilateral relationship is immeasurable. Through His Excellency's efforts, mutual trust, respect, and cooperative spirits between our two nations have been nurtured, solidified and further strengthened not only in oil and gas area but in much more diversified areas including education and culture, environment, health care, and so on.

- *Now let me touch upon some of his great achievements which are valuable for Japan.
- *Firstly in 2011 when the Great North-East Japan Earthquake occurred, LNG was additionally supplied from the UAE to Japan based on the UAE's special and kind decision which His Excellency was deeply involved. The decision really saved many lives in the damaged area. Japanese people will never forget this invaluable decision.
- *Second, His Excellency has strenuously promoted human exchange between our two countries. I am deeply impressed by His Excellency's very forward-looking perspective that those human resources exchanged will eventually support the development and prosperity of our nations.
- *Third, His Excellency was deeply involved in starting up bilateral cooperation in downstream refining area where TAQREER, JCCP, and Idemitsu established TAQREER Research Center in 2006 with a view to strengthening technological and human resource development cooperation, which has been proven to be very effective in improving refining capability of our two countries.

*Fourth, I would like to highlight his pivotal role in awarding Japan a new historic on-shore oil concession in 2015, which was a vitally important decision for Japan in terms of energy security and economic prosperity.

*Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

*Through his warm and sincere personality in addition to his vast experience and knowledge, His Excellency has gained trust and respect of many Japanese people and has built good personal connections with them.

*Mr. Morikawa, who came all the way from Japan to attend this ceremony and to make a congratulatory speech a little bit later, is among those who have kept warm friendship with His Excellency for many years.

*I believe His Excellency's many friends in Japan, who are regrettably not able to come to attend this ceremony, are also delighted at the news of this decoration.

*Lastly, Your Excellency, on behalf of the Japanese Government, I would like to reiterate my heartfelt congratulations on your decoration.

*I would also like to express my deep respect and gratitude for Your Excellency's invaluable efforts in promoting our friendly relationship between our two countries.

*I do hope that this mutually beneficial relationship that has been built by Your Excellency's contribution will further develop and expand toward our prosperous future.

*Your Excellency, as a true friend of Japan, I would appreciate if you could continue to watch over our cooperation and sometimes provide us with your precious advice which, I believe, will be benefitting both of our two nations for our bright future .

*Thank you.

Shukran jazeelan ala majiikum wa isghaaikum, wassalaam akeikum.