

6<sup>th</sup> TRC-JCCP/Idemitsu International Symposium

(10/2/2016)

H.E. Ahmed Omar Abudulla, Chief Operating Officer, Abu Dhabi Oil Refining Company,

Mr. Eiji Hiraoka, Senior Executive Director, Japan Cooperation Center Petroleum,

Distinguished guests,

ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express many thanks to the people of TAKREER, JCCP and Idemitsu Kosan attending here for inviting me to this important international symposium in oil refining industry. This TRC-JCCP/Idemitsu International Symposium originally started 10 years ago as a bilateral workshop only between Japan and the UAE. Today, however, it has significantly developed to acquire an international dimension with the increased participation of experts from many other countries and has produced not a few number of excellent outcomes of global importance over the past years. In this regard I would like to congratulate all those who dedicated themselves to the development of this symposium as well as TRC itself on their great success and achievement.

Today oil industry is facing various kinds of new technological challenges, such as greater need for environmental preservation, greater need for higher efficiency of oil refining process, greater need for more enhanced oil recovery and others. And it is clear that international cooperation is desirable and effective, or I would say, indispensable to cope with these difficult challenges. In this regard I feel very happy to see that a strong bilateral partnership in oil development, refining and trade has been brought up between Japan and the UAE on the basis of a long-term mutual trust and respect. And when we look at the remarkable development of TRC which has been continuously contributing to technological advance as well as process and product innovation in the field of oil refining, I cannot help but respect TRC, a research institute which is one of the best examples we can achieve through our untiring joint efforts.

TRC has been working as a very effective focal point not only for conducting research collaboration but also for nurturing and inspiring young generation who are intending to dedicate their lives to oil industry. One excellent example of the success of TRC is its training program for young engineers. Until now more than 700 people have taken training courses in Japan so far and now they comprise an indispensable workforce in oil industry in the UAE. In particular it is my great pleasure to see that many of them have contributed to the successful start of operation of the Ruwais Refinery West last year.

Having witnessed the remarkable success, I am very much determined and pleased to make an utmost effort, as an Ambassador of Japan to the UAE, to make the cooperation through TRC more expanded and strengthened towards future together with all of you here.

In closing, I really hope that today's symposium will not only be rewarding for all of you but also be a significant step forward toward more strengthened relationship between Japan and the UAE in oil refining industry.

\*Thank you and shukran.