

Speech by H.E. Kanji Fujiki, Ambassador of Japan to the UAE  
at Conferment Ceremony of Decoration in Honor of H.E. Nasser Alsowaidi  
(31 May 2016, 17:00-18:30, Liwa Majlis, Inter Continental Abu Dhabi)

It is my great pleasure to hold this decoration award ceremony in honor of His Excellency Nasser Ahmed Alsowaidi with attendance of his family members and friends, high-level officials in the governments of the UAE and Abu Dhabi, and so many representatives of Japanese companies.

Last month the Government of Japan decided to decorate His Excellency Nasser Ahmed Alsowaidi with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon in recognition of his significant contribution to strengthening economic relations 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,

His Excellency Nasser Alsowaidi started his illustrious career at the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), and then moved to the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), where he worked as marketing director. Since then His Excellency successively held various important posts. He was a member of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Security Exchange, and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (DED).

His Excellency currently serves as Chairman of the National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD), Chairman of the Etihad Rail, and Board Member of Mubadala and the International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC) among others.

Since 2006 as Chairman of Abu Dhabi Department of Planning and Economy, now Abu Dhabi DED, His Excellency has devoted himself to promoting bilateral cooperation with Japan through numerous mutual visits and intensive as well as extensive discussion with his Japanese counterparts in the government and the business community.

Among his many valuable achievements, I would like to highlight his pivotal role in the establishment of Abu Dhabi-Japan Economic Council or ADJEC.

ADJEC was established in 2011 with a view to exploring and identifying new business opportunities through high level dialogue not only in the conventional oil and gas business, but in other areas such as manufacturing industry, education, human resources development, infrastructure, media contents, and others.

His Excellency, in his capacity as the Chairman of DED, took a strong initiative to coordinate the Abu Dhabi departments and authorities concerned in creating and developing ADJEC. Based on the firm foundation established by His Excellency, the 4th ADJEC meeting was successfully held in Abu Dhabi earlier this month with many attendees from both Japan and the UAE and produced fruitful outcomes.

I really admire his inspiring foresight to establish ADJEC which has become recognized today as an important platform to make our bilateral economic relation more multi-layered, multi-dimensional, and diversified.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

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

Mr. Okabe, President of UAE-Japan Society, who came all the way from Japan only to attend this ceremony today, is among those who have kept warm friendship with His Excellency for many years. Probably Mr. Okabe will talk about his long personal relation with His Excellency later.

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 the decoration.

Lastly, Your Excellency, on behalf of the Japanese Government and the Japanese community in the UAE, I would like to offer 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 the economic relations between the two countries.

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

To that end, I would like to ask all of you attending here for your continued support and cooperation, while I will remain committed to do my best.

Your Excellency, as a true friend of Japan, I would appreciate if you could continue to watch over our efforts in ADJEC and other cooperative endeavors and sometimes provide us with your precious advice.

Thank you very much.

Shukran jazeelan ala majiikum wa isghaaikum, wassalaam akeikum.