

Her Excellency Dr. Maitha Al Shamsi,  
Excellencies; Colleagues of diplomatic corps;  
Distinguished guests; Ladies and gentlemen:  
*Konbanwa, Assalam Alaykum* and good evening!

Thank you very much for attending tonight's reception for the National Day of Japan held in commemoration of the 62nd birthday of His Majesty the Emperor. I am very pleased to be able to hold this reception today after an interval of 2 years. And I am also pleased to note that we are celebrating the National Day this year together with the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the United Arab Emirates.

#### 【Situation in Ukraine】

As I celebrate our national day today, my heart is torn by grief at the thought of the crisis we are facing right now regarding Ukraine. Let us firmly stand united with the people of Ukraine. We cannot accept at all ongoing situations there even for a minute, even for a second. Let us see the end of this crisis now.

#### 【Japan-UAE relations over the past 50 plus years】

Japan's relationship with the Emirate of Abu Dhabi started even before the formation of the UAE. Over the past half century, our bilateral relations have steadily developed from cooperation in oil and gas into various areas far beyond them. At the juncture of 50th anniversary, Japan is committed to actively broaden its ever-developing frontier of cooperation with the UAE, with the next 50 years of our relationship in mind. In our efforts for future cooperation, I believe there are two pillars of critical importance: human resource development and innovation.

#### 【Human resource development】

In the field of human resource development and education, accepting UAE students at Japanese universities and graduate schools as well as offering UAE trainees internship or training opportunities at Japanese companies are commonly seen. But, today, I would like to share with you a very interesting example of deeper or more future-oriented cooperation, the venue of which is Japanese School, Abu Dhabi. The school started accepting Emirati students every year since 2006 at the request of His Highness Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi. These Emirati children begin their schooling from the kindergarten at the Japanese School here which adopts Japan's standard curriculum, including Japanese-style discipline and moral education. When they finish junior high

school here, they move on to Japan to continue their schooling at a senior high school in Japan, and then, on to a Japanese university.

Due to a wide difference in culture and social customs, these students have to overcome various challenges as they continue their learning, and so do the teachers and Japanese classmates around them. With tremendous efforts of so many people both in Abu Dhabi and Japan, this educational exchange of remarkable nature continues to this day, and the first batch of these Emirati students are now studying at a Japanese university. They speak Japanese as the Japanese do, understand the Japanese social and cultural norms, and are studying hard majoring in courses that they chose for future career. Whatever jobs they land in the future, each of them will be a strong bridge connecting the two countries. These Emirati youths can inspire other Emirati youngsters to follow, can also inspire Japanese youths to take more interest in the UAE, and can be a driving force of future development of bilateral relations and people-to-people exchange.

#### 【Innovation---Outer space, Decarbonization, etc.---】

With regard to innovation, there can be a variety of cooperation in different fields and forms. But, I believe one of the keys to success is how we can match up technologies of Japanese companies with resources in the UAE in a way that brings about concrete results. For example, in the field of outer space, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, JAXA, worked together with MBR Space Centre in launching Earth Observation Satellite "KhalifaSat" in 2018 and Mars Orbiter " HOPE Probe" in 2020, using JAXA's H2A rockets. Currently, a Japanese startup company is collaborating with MBR Space Centre for the Emirates Lunar Mission and helping deliver a UAE-made rover, Rashid Rover, to the surface of the moon, hopefully to be successful within this year. There can also be similar cooperation in other fields, involving Japanese startups and UAE counterpart entities. We expect these types of cooperation can also contribute to capacity-building of younger generation of Emiratis and encourage them to actively participate in business activities of the private sector.

As the UAE continues to develop rapidly, areas where Japan can closely cooperate with the UAE are also expanding, such as renewable energy, advanced robotics, artificial intelligence, health care and medical equipment, biotechnology, etc. Decarbonization is also high on agenda. Just to mention a few examples, a cooperative project for production of blue ammonia has already started involving multiple companies of Japan and the UAE, and the

establishment of global value chain of hydrogen is also on the table of discussion by relevant parties of the both countries. The UAE has made clear its commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 as the first country to do so in the MENA region, and will lead global discussion on this issue by hosting COP28 next year. Japan, with whatever it can make use of, including various technologies, will continue to work with the UAE for a long-lasting cooperation in the field of decarbonization, too.

**【Expo 2025 Osaka-Kansai】**

Lastly, let me say a few words about Expo. At the outset I mentioned Japan's relations with Abu Dhabi starting even before the formation of the UAE, and it is also true of cooperation in Expo. The Emirate of Abu Dhabi participated in Expo 1970 Osaka, the first-ever Expo held in Asia. 50 years since then, we are now celebrating and enjoying Expo 2020 Dubai, the first-ever Expo in the Middle East and Muslim countries. And the next Expo is, as we all know, Expo 2025 Osaka-Kansai. Expo is a venue and an opportunity where people around the world can see their dreams and hopes for the future. I cannot help but feel that Japan and the UAE are predestined to be close partners in so many things. The theme of Expo 2020 is "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future," and the theme of Expo 2025 is "Designing Future Society for Our Lives." Minds of people in Japan, the UAE and many other countries are being connected closer through Expo Dubai towards Expo Osaka-Kansai, and we are ready to design and create the future together. Looking ahead towards the next 50 years, let us work harder hand in hand for this end. Let us carry on!

Once again, thank you very much for coming and attending tonight's reception. I wish you all good evening. *Arigatou Gozaimashita. Shukran Jazeelan!*