

H.E. Mr. Ahmed Mahboub, Director of Dubai Customs,
Mr. Masami Ando, Managing Director of JETRO,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's my great privilege to be here for attending the today's Ertebaat Business Breakfast, organized by the esteemed Dubai Customs. It's also my pleasure to participate with notable representatives from many Japanese companies which are energetically running their business in the UAE. First, I express my sincere gratitude to the Dubai Government for inviting our Japanese business communities in order to vitalize our cordial communications aiming at identifying the needs and requirements as well as reinforcing economic and trade relations between us.

We have definitely a strong business bond, closely bound up with each other in the today's world economy. The Japanese community in Dubai and northern Emirates are expanding steadily every year. Last year, it recorded the historically highest at 3,039 Japanese residents here. I also would like to refer that, the number of Japanese companies in Dubai increases very stably at about 10% annually. As of today, 286 Japanese companies have been officially recorded to establish their business basis, enjoying the successful economic activities. Furthermore, our trade volume between Dubai and Japan has also expanded robustly, where the trade volume reached 42 billion dirham last year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We know the success story of the remarkable economic development of Dubai and the UAE. Under the outstanding leadership of every leader, Dubai has maximized the strategic advantages of its geographical and geological standpoints, hence developing dramatically as a hub of the connection to every region especially of the Middle East and Northern Africa. One of the dominant superiority would be the operation of Jebel Ali Port as an impeccable hub function of maritime logistics in the current global economy. Actually, many Japanese companies have enjoyed the Dubai's hub function, especially through the fully utilization of a re-exportation foothold on the maritime logistics. However, without efficient and effective management of the port function, we can't expect enough benefits for not only Dubai but also our entire world. So, Dubai Customs has played an indispensable role for the logistics of entire world economy.

H.E., I pay tribute to the Dubai Customs for its important functional role. In addition, today, I'm looking forward to learning the Dubai Customs' challenges to further accelerate the integrated port management system for the global logistics .

So, we fully appreciate the today's opportunity to explore new horizons of strengthening the Dubai's hub function. I hope we'll have vigorous discussions for making fruitful outcomes at this Ertebaat Business Breakfast. The Japanese Consulate General also offers its maximum supports to this productive process for enhancing our cordial business relations.

Thank you very much.