

H.E. Dr. Mohammed Al Zarooni, Director-General, Dubai Airport Free Zone,
DAFZA

Mr. Nasser Al Madani, Assistant Director-General, DAFZA

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's my honor to participate in the today's fabulous award ceremony under the theme of DAFZA Gateway to Growth, Japan Edition.

DAFZA was established in 1996. Two years later, the first Japanese company started its business in DAFZA in 1998. The year 2018 commemorates the 20 years anniversary of the Japanese presence in DAFZA, which has enjoyed the most advanced and competitive free zone throughout the Middle East and across the globe.

Just now, I learned 86 Japanese companies are named in DAFZA and they operate in diverse industrial sectors. As this year celebrates the year of Zayed who stated we have to diversify and construct economic projects, Japanese companies in DAFZA eventually realize what H.H. Sheikh Zayed had dreamed.

I also learned, now DAFZA hosts more than 1,600 international and multinational companies which showcases the brilliant business in the region's key industrial sector. DAFZA's homepage also showcases 34 DAFZA's top companies. Surprisingly, 6 out of 34 on the list are Japanese companies, consequently account for 18% of DAFZA showcase. As DAFZA contributes about 5% of Dubai's economy, Japanese companies in DAFZA mathematically support about 1% Dubai's economy.

In the past two decades, Japanese companies in DAFZA has increased steadily. Especially in the last 6 years, the number of Japanese companies has increased rapidly. It brings us prosperous business relationship between Dubai and Japan, based on the DAFZA's top quality of facilities and services. We, Consulate-General, makes the best endeavors to **facilitate** the cooperation between DAFZA and Japanese companies.

On today's effective opportunity with positive and friendly circumstance, I would like to convey some constructive voices from Japanese companies to DAFZA. First, we hope to see a further development of DAFZA's supporting system, especially the portal system. It's crucially important for each company to have such an efficient and productive one stop service. Also, we expect the improvement of the level of DAFZA's assistance in various procedures for running business in Dubai. It's remarkably effective for us to get swiftly the appropriate service and information without any miscommunication. I'm convinced we can achieve the title of the best free zone in the region based on our mutual trust.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the main purpose of today's event is to firmly recognize Japanese companies who have successfully run their business in DAFZA. In the meantime, the winner of the past two decade is of course DAFZA because of its dedicated service and facility making international company operate productively. So, finally, I congratulate DAFZA for the remarkable contributions to not only the Dubai's competitiveness but also the global economy in effective cooperation with Japanese companies.