

Dear Mr. Ali Al Kamali, Managing Director, Datamatix.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It's my greatest honor to be invited as the keynote speaker at this glorious event, 22nd Global Women Leaders Conference.

Just now when I entered this conference hall, I was so overwhelmed by your vibrant empowerment enthusiasm. Honestly speaking, I'm nervous to make a speech in front of so many active, fascinated fabulous ladies. But, I can say, this is the abundant evidence how the Global Women Leaders Conference has been successfully organized for past two decades. I celebrate the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of this Conference.

20 years after the first Conference was founded in 1999, now, every participant here is an inspiring exemplary model for all women in the region and the globe. You all have invested in enhancing the role of women and ensured women's active participation in building rightful society. You have demonstrated women's empowerment as a crucial element to all sectors.

Now, let me introduce the Japan's footsteps of addressing the women's empowerment. The issue has been discussed in Japan for over 4 decades. In the 70s and 80s, it was argued from a human right perspective. In the 90s and 2000s, it was reframed to respond the Japan's demographic issues, such as persistently declining birth rate and shrinking labor force.

Today, women's empowerment is discussed as a pillar of the national strategy in terms of critical force for the economic growth, vibrant society, and future prosperity. Japan is now strongly promoting a public perception, a society in which all women shine. Here, you have been already shining and shining.

In this sense, the UAE has paid a rich tribute to Emirati women. Last December, the UAE cabinet adopted a new package to empower Emirati women, in line with the directives of President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to ensure that Emirati women are conducive partners in the UAE's development journey. In addition, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoun, Vice president and Prime Minister of UAE said "Women build the foundations of our renaissance in education, medicine and engineering. H.H. also said we must enhance the women's dynamic role in both the UAE and the global communities, across multiple sectors.

Today, you all have already played a shining role in multiple sectors. So, I congratulate all the participants here on your greatest achievement for empowering women as the pride of humankind.

Finally, I also congratulate Datamatix, which has successfully conducted Global Women Leaders Conference for the last two decades, to recognize the achievements of pioneering women in the Middle East and worldwide.

Again, congratulation to all. Thank you very much.