

Great evening, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen,
It's my greatest pleasure to celebrate the launch of "Arab News" Japan Edition. I congratulate Mr. Faisal J. Abbas, Editor-in-Chief, and Mr. Ali Itani, Regional Head, on their tremendous efforts to successfully publish this milestone Japan edition. I also have a great privilege to welcome all the guests to the tonight reception. I thank you very much for your acceptance to my invitation.

Today, I'm a bit surprised. Usually, when I invited the guests to the event in this residence at 8:00PM, our guests would arrive around 8:20 or 8:30 PM. But, today, all our distinguished guests have already taken their seats now at 8:20 PM. Even the first group of guests arrived at 7:50 PM. It's very Japanese who love punctually. The Arab News have already influenced of Japanization on the Arab people. Thank you very much, the Arab News.

This year, Arab News achieves the first ever initiative to establish the direct media coverage focusing particularly on the close ties between the Arab and Japan. Before that, historically, between the Arab and Japan, our connections had been somehow distantly. Geographically, Asian continent lies down between us. Practically, many information had been intermediately transmitted by the third person, thus no direct news had been mutually conveyed. Even "no news is good news", this indirect media relation is necessarily unhealthy. We might unconsciously look each other in a biased image through the third person's discretionary filter. However, this situation will be changed from now on by the Arab News.

Today, on this floor, thankfully, Dubai's all major media gather on this occasion. So, if anything special happens here tonight, it might be spread all over the world in a minute. Later, we have a great presentation made by Arab News. I also offer youngsters' another background live music. Then, I may open the floor for anyone

who want to do a performance to be covered by the world media. Marvellous! So, are you ready?

Ladies and Gentlemen, We all expect the Arab News gives us fruitful and productive media coverage to-and-from Japan. We also hope the Arab News presents us the first-class reporting on full of professionalism, especially inspiring us with our peaceful nature. Because our Japan and Arab relations are so exceptional in the world, as we have never been involved any war against each other, and have never experienced in any hostile relation in the history.

Now, take a look back our recent history. In 70th and 80th, “made-in-Japan” products had expanded in the global market, including toward Arab region. This started the first direct contact between Japan and the Arab on the daily basis. After that, Japanese companies have been investing in the Arab market further and further. Arab people has been also visiting to Japan more and more. Now, we have many close business relations, people-to-people exchanges, and social collaborations.

However, there is still a missing link between us. That is a mutual direct media coverage. Japan has already sent media correspondents in Arab countries including here in Dubai. Now, Arab News opens a new page of our cordial relations, not only establishing a media office in Tokyo but also publishing the direct news coverage in Japanese. Our relations are getting further comprehensive ones, and our mutual understandings are deepening and deepening through the Arab News Japan edition. Great, isn't it. I'm convinced the Arab News will never disappoint us.

Finally, I hope you all enjoy fantastic Japanese cuisine after the program. Before that, So, Live sushi cooking is awaiting for your appetite. Thank you very much.