

Mr. Hiroshi Nagamine, Managing Executive Officer, Mizuho Bank,
Mr. Yuzo Kanamori, Managing Executive Officer, Mizuho Securities Company,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's my great honour to take a floor to be a toastmaster at the celebration of the "10th Anniversary of Mizuho Bank, DIFC Branch - Dubai" and the "Grand Opening of Mizuho International, DIFC Branch". Tonight, I'd like to join you to celebrate these two great achievements attained by the Mizuho Financial Group, especially people of Mizuho on this floor.

This year 2018 is splendidly special in the United Arab Emirates. This year rings in the celebration of the 100 anniversary of the birth of Sheikh Zayed, a founding father of the UAE, who led the UAE to new a height of progress and prosperity, as a nation-building pioneer.

In the meantime, 60 years ago, as previous speakers mentioned boldly, a Mizuho's predecessor which consists the current merged form had participated in founding the Arabian Oil Company which explored and developed oil and gas in the Middle East as a Japanese pioneer.

That was 60 years ago of pioneering monument, and what happened 50 years ago in Dubai? H.H. Sheikh Zayed, a founding father of the UAE, agreed to union with the H.H. Sheikh Rashid, a pioneer of Dubai. 40 years ago, Dubai witnessed the nation's pioneered skyscraper, the World Trade Centre. 20 years ago, it rebuilt the Grand Mosque, a tourism landmark in Dubai. Then, a decade ago, the Mizuho opened its DIFC Branch in Dubai.

Dubai has demonstrated a decade cycle of the pioneering monuments as a historical milestone inherited from the DNA of the UAE's founding father who has a farsighted vision for the future progress. Then, today, Dubai witnesses the Grand Opening of the Mizuho International DIFC Branch.

According to many medias last week, the world stock markets hovered close to all-time highs as the best start to a year, and 2018 is globally a year of the active in financial business. EU kick-started the launch of MiFID II, making the financial markets more efficient, resilient and transparent. In the U.S, the stock markets kicked-off the new year on outperforming, betting particularly the US economic expansion. Tokyo stocks opened also successfully higher, with Japanese stocks surging. Then here in Dubai, there is a momentum in bonds, as GCCs are keen to develop domestic bond markets. Then, Mizuho's opens the security branch to invite Asian money to the Middle East bond market, on a farsighted vision as a typical strategical pioneering in the Year of Zayed. Excellent.

I'm convinced, years later, everyone says there is a decade cycled story of the pioneering milestone in Dubai, as we'll celebrate another decades anniversary of the double DIFC Branches of Mizuho Financial Group in Dubai.

Finally, I'd like to propose a toast in wishing all the success of two DIFC Branches of Mizuho Bank and Mizuho International, and all your good health and great successes of all of your business,

May I ask to join me. KAMPAI.

Congratulations, thank you very much.