

Your Highness,
Excellency, Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's my great honor to take a moderator role at the session of the first edition of the World Tolerance Summit, organized by the International Institute of Tolerance which was established by His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. I also express my sincere gratitude to the International Institute of Tolerance, chaired by H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance.

First session kicked-off the grand start of this Summit. Second session focuses on a more practical dimension which is aimed at exploring what is a role of the governments in encouraging "tolerance".

As the introduction, what is my interpretation of "tolerance" from the view point of my country, Japan. A word "tolerance" inspires me a Japanese moral precept "Harmony with tolerance is prime importance of virtues". This is the first sentence of article 1 of the Japanese first legal document, the "Seventeen Article Constitution," issued in more than a thousand years ago.

We are living in a diverse community, where the society is constituted by people having wide variety of opinions, cultures, backgrounds, belief and goal. In the meantime, historically, a well-ordered society has been driven by virtue of mutual trust and cooperation based on shared values. How can we share values to create virtue of mutual trust and cooperation? In achieving such mutual trusted society, prime key should be harmony with tolerance.

According to the homepage of the UAE government, "Tolerance is a virtue and an intrinsic part of the Islamic culture". Surprisingly, we, Japanese are not Muslim, but have almost identical essence. That is "Harmony with tolerance is prime importance

of virtues". It makes me inspire that we human being have common shared values "tolerance".

But, why is so important to promote the tolerance in the society? Without tolerant and harmonious society, people may seek maximizing their own interests unilaterally with their natural desire. We may see such unilateral selfish example in the current world. It cannot expect any synergy based on cooperation, but also it deteriorates the social assets which have been accumulated through mutual trusts. In a worst case, non-tolerant and non-harmonious society may fall into a conflict. History has repeatedly revealed this phenomenon.

That's why tolerance is prime importance to attain peaceful prosperity. Especially in today's diverse community in a close proximity of the world due to rapid technological and economic developments, tolerant harmony among diversity upholds a society in terms of resilience and sustainability.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When we think about a society in a very simplified form which is composed of citizens, politicians and a government, both citizens and politicians are entities having extensively diversified views based on each opinion, culture, background, belief, and goal. In the meantime, a government is expected to harmoniously coordinate such different views to maximize the whole society's benefits. So, the first role of the government in promoting tolerance with inclusiveness is to facilitate collaboration and cooperation among diverse people, through the policy coordination harmoniously without any bias.

But, how would a government coordinate the policy in such harmonious manner? Can laws directly force citizens to be tolerant? It might be no directly. As we are human being, every human has instinctively a kindness to contribute to someone's life. In cultivating such mutual trusted society, people as member of society have to respect others. But, more importantly, people have to strive to be respected by others in Japanese sense. So, the second role of the government is to facilitate better education to encourage people to be disciplined both academically and socioculturally for being respected by others. That makes society more tolerant and harmonious both domestically and internationally. That's why we are here to discuss how important to promote the tolerance is.

Thank you very much.