

H.E. Nasir Ahmad Durrani, Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock  
Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

It's my greatest honor to host a today's Afghanistan business seminar, as a first of its kind, inviting an incumbent cabinet members from the Afghanistan government, to coordinate a direct interaction with Japanese companies which are operating their business in entire Middle East.

Last year, when I was invited to the Afghanistan National Day Reception in Dubai, I was so astonished that a tons of jewel stones and mineral were exhibited simply on the table without any cover. Afghanistan has rich of mineral resources as well as rich of agricultural products.

Our two countries have soulful ties in terms of agri-foods. Some of indispensable ingredients of Japanese cuisine are native of Afghanistan. They are carrot, spinach, and turnip. Now, these Afghanistan origin vegetables furnish a foundation of Japanese cuisine which is the UNESCO's intangible world cultural heritage.

In the meantime, Japan has tackled the conservation of the Afghanistan World Cultural Heritages such as Bamiyan's heritage assets. That is one of the most intensive works under the Japan's ODA, official development assistance. For Afghanistan. Japan is one of the largest economic cooperation partners through its ODA, implementing almost 7 billion US dollars assistances in total.

So, now, Afganistan has developed so rapidly. Everyone knows there are extensive business potentials in Afganistan. Unfortunately, my Japanese government issues the travel advisory for entire Afganistan, except for Kabul, at this moment. However, there is nothing for us to start too early to prepare any potential business chances. Especially, Afganistan people have good favorable public sentiment toward Japan. In Kabul, a capital of Afganistan I have been there once before, there are a lot of Japanese cars driven around the city.

Today, many Japanese companies are interested in this seminar. They are from sectors of trade, finance, foods, manufacture, energy, chemical, advisory and so on. Definitely, there will be suitable business matching between Afganistan and Japanese in the near future.

So, today's seminar is very precious opportunity to learn the economic trend and the improvement of business atmosphere, directly from the incumbent Afganistan Minister in charge of agriculture, irrigation and livestock. We can't expect any further better opportunity to learn such extensive knowledges at once. In addition, you can create your networks with Afganistan minister, senior government officials, and business representatives on the today's seminar.

I hope we have a productive dialogue and fruitful outcomes for the future of our business success.