

Asahab Alssmui, Asahab alsaAdeh, alduyuf alkiram, Saydatee wa sadatee innaho la sharafoon kyabieroon lee, an urahebu Bekom jamyeen fee hafle alaistigbal Alyyon alwatanie alyabanee. oqadem khalis aintinanee le huduurikom.

H.E. Mr. Hussain bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, Minister of Education

Your highness, Excellencies, Diplomatic colleagues.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

It's my greatest honour to extend you a warm welcome to the Japan's National Day Reception to celebrate His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito's 60th birthday.

The year 2020 is splendidly special. This is the first National Day Reception under the new Emperor Naruhito who formally declared his ascension to the Throne last year, as the nation's 126th emperor, having an uninterrupted 2,680 years royal family tree. As is celebrating the world oldest royal family, it represents the symbol of peaceful nations.

His Majesty Emperor Naruhito has a remarkably special relation to Dubai. In 1995, His Majesty, under his title of Crown Prince, visited Dubai to celebrate the newly establishment of the Consulate-General of Japan. In this 1995 visit, His Majesty also met H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum who was just newly appointed as the Crown Prince of Dubai. This year 2020 celebrates a quarter century anniversary of the inauguration of our Consulate by His Majesty, as well as a quarter century anniversary of the commencement of the special royal family relations between Dubai and Japan. This year is undoubtedly splendid.

This month February is also special for Japan and even me. February 11th is a Japan's National Foundation Day, as the day when the 1st Emperor ascended to the throne 2,680 years ago. February 23rd is the day of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito's birthday.

Then, "9id miladi fee al khames wa al 9shreen min fabrayr."

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year 2020 is exceptionally special for Japan and the UAE. January, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited the UAE, as his first visiting countries in this year. And, the biggest reason why the year 2020 is splendidly special is, we'll have the Olympic Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 in July, and in October, Expo 2020 Dubai opens the curtains. Splendidly special, isn't it. Tokyo 2020 Games emphasise "Sport has the power to change the world and our future". The Dubai Expo stresses "Connecting minds, Creating the future". Then, the Japanese Pavilion in Dubai Expo underlines "Crosspoint for the Future". I feel the forceful stream, heading toward the future oriented goals. Especially, the Japanese Pavilion is full of future technologies. So, you must see it.

Just a movement, future technologies can not only be seen in the Japanese Pavilion. For example, in every your pocket or in every your handbag, Japanese technology supports your fruitful daily life without being awareness.

Why? Yes. That's a smartphone battery. Just a few months ago, Japanese scientist, Dr. Akira Yoshino has won the 2019 Nobel Prize in recognition of his invention of the lithium-ion battery. This is the key to a low carbon society. Every your smartphone and every our green life is inevitably supported by the Japanese technology behind the scene.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Every year, Japanese scientists have won the Nobel Prize in natural science. In the last 10 years, 11 Japanese scientists have been awarded the Nobel Prize. Two years ago, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan presented the 1st Zayed Future Energy Prize to a Japanese scientist, Prof. Shuji Nakamura, who won the 2014 Nobel Prize for his invention of the LED light. LED lighting has cut the energy consumption more than 80%.

So, Japanese technologies, such as the lithium-ion battery and LED lights, provide us an eco-friendly solution to conserve beautiful natural resources, behind the scene. In addition, these sustainable solutions brought by Japanese technology led us to a new frontier for humankind on our earth.

But, a new frontier can not only be seen on our earth, but also in space. Now, Japan and the UAE have energetically strengthened the cooperation in space sector. Two years ago, the first Emirati-made satellite, KhalifaSat, was launched into space, onboard a Japanese-built H-IIA rocket. Last year, everyone remembers the first Emirati Astronaut, Hazza Al Mansouri stayed onboard the International Space Station. Japan provided him with the Japanese Experiment Module at the Space Station for his educational mission for Emirati students. Today, we have honour to receive Minister of Education, coincidentally. Excellency, thank you very much for your support.

Back to the the astronaut Hazza's mission, during his mission, a Japanese space cargo-craft, Kounotori, docked with the Space Station to deliver six tons of supplies. Then, this year, the highlight will come to us. Under the UAE Mars Mission, an Emirati-made space craft, Al Amal, will be launched into space onboard again the Japanese-built rocket H-IIA. Japan is always with the UAE everywhere behind the scene.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When the first Emirati astronaut conducted the space educational mission in the Japanese Experiment Module, the Module name is “Kibo”, a hope in Japanese. Under the UAE Mars Mission launched onboard the Japanese rocket, the name of the space craft is Al Amal, a hope in Arabic. I can see boundless hope in the relation between the UAE and Japan.

In the mean time, a key vision of Tokyo Olympic is “a power to change our future”. A key phrase of Dubai Expo is “creating future”. I feel all the guests here have brilliant future with boundless hope, in this splendidly celebration event in the special year 2020, making me never forget every single of tonight guests.

Finally, I’m grateful to every sponsor for showcasing Japanese marvellous foods, products, and technologies.

Tonight, we offer you a special live cooking sushi bar, there.

We also have a live classical music performed by award winning young Japanese players. And of course, we extend you the warmest Japanese hospitality.

Please enjoy.

Shokran Jazilan

ありがとうございました。