

Good evening. It's my great pleasure to organise the tonight's Japan-UAE Tomodachi Friendship Reception, inviting our Emirati friend, who have widely supported our cordial bilateral relations. This is a first of its kind the Consulate arranges the friendship gathering of people who have been bridging our close ties.

At the outset, I extend my deepest gratitude to all the guests, who attend it today, in the current situation where we have struggled to contain unprecedented infection disease, corona virus. Of course, neither of us is an origin of the corona. It has been epidemic from other country country. Japan has swiftly, timely and continuously taken various effective measures, so as the UAE. We both countries cooperate in this area as well, based on our friendly relations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

There is no other day to have this kind of friendship gathering more than today. It's because most of guests can speak Japanese. Do you know what this mean? Today is March 9th. March is, of course Maris in Arabic, but, in Japanese, it's San Gatsu. 9th is, in Japanese, 9. So, March 9th is, in Japanese, San gatsu, Kyu, San Kyu, SANKYU, thank you. So, it's a best day to express our deepest gratitude to those who have contributed our bilateral relations. March 9th is, from now on, the Japan-UAE shukuran-Arigato day.

Actually, we are good friend and our friendship is getting deeper and deeper. Whenever I have a meeting with Emirati people, most of them say "Kon-nichiwa" at the beginning, and "Arigato" at the ending. I have never

experienced this kind of friendship feeling, as if everyone seems to be a Japanese.

Sometimes, people change their character depend on their speaking language. For example, when you say something in Japanese, you seem to be a Japanese. Since last October, I have studied Arabic. So I'm wondering if I seem to be Emirati when I speak in Arabic? May I try?

Arabic greetings.

I seem to be an Emirati? I don't think so, as my skill is still very very beginner, being different with your higher skill of Japanese language.

Anyway, the Japanese language is unique as you have experienced by yourself. It has little in common with other language. But, the level of uniqueness of Japanese cultures is incomparable. Thankfully, such Japanese cultures are widely and sometimes deeply accepted in the UAE. That's why, today, many guests arrived in time or on time accurately. It's very Japanese, isn't it.

Tonight, we offer you Japanese foods behind me, Sushi, of course, and Japanese Beef, Wagyu at the garden. According to the today's newspaper, Japanese Wagyu beef has fascinated the movie stars, George Clooney and Brad Pitt, and singer Lady Gaga,.

So, please enjoy the tonight's Tomodachi Friendly night, on March 9th. It's thank you, shukuran-arigato, day.