

Very good morning, Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Just before, when I first came entered into this hall, I was astonished at the heated-up excitement atmosphere.

So, first, I should say, “are you excited?”

I’m so excited. And, I’m delighted to share with you the historic moment of the first Emirati astronaut performing the research project in the space.

Last year, the first Emirati-made satellite, Khalifa Sat, was successfully launched-into space, onboard the Japanese made H-IIA rocket. This year, the first Emirati astronaut, Hazza Al Mansouri as the first Arab person, stays on the International Space Station to do an educational mission in the Japanese laboratory Module. Yesterday, Japanese cargo space craft, “Kounotori”, successfully docked with the International Space Station and delivered six tons of supplies to support Astronaut Hazza’s mission. I appreciate the close relation between our two countries, Japan and the UAE, in the space sector.

In addition, for Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), this is a first of its kind to perform the educational mission using the Camera robot, “Int-Ball”, under the fully cooperation with Mohamed Bin Rashid Space Centre. This mission seems to be just an initial step to promote space science, but as the first person to walk on the moon, Mr. Neil Armstrong said: “That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

Definitely, H.H. Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid al Maktoum said “a new chapter in our history begins with the launch of the first UAE Astronaut Program.” This is a great milestone of the UAE, contributing in ways that enrich human knowledge and support scientific development worldwide.

Today’s milestone arouses a great hope in Emirati and Japanese to achieve a significant future success in the space sector. We Japanese and Emirati promote the energetic cooperation continuously. Along with this streamline of our successful cooperation, I hope the great success of Mars Mission by 2021, as the next milestone for commemoration of the 50 years anniversary of the UAE’s inception.

Today’s educational mission of the International Space Station is conducted in the Japanese Module, named as “Kibo”. A word, Kibo, means hope in Japanese. Coincidentally, UAE Mars Mission’s space craft is named as “Al Amal”, hope in Arabic, and the “Al Amal” will be launched into space by the Japanese H-IIA rocket.

Japan is always with the UAE for the development of the space sector. But also our cooperation extends in every sector, at every moment, and for every person.

Thank you very much.