

It is my great honor to have the presence of HE Ambassador Dr. Khalid bin Said Al-Jaradi, Chief of Protocol Department, the Foreign Ministry as today's chief guest.

Highnesses, Excellences, Honorables, Dignitaries,
Assalamu Alaikum. I would like to thank you all for your kind attendance. Many thanks for many words of consolation for these two days. I really looked forward to Japan-Korea quarter final.

I came to Oman in January this year, the beginning of the 50th anniversary of our diplomatic relations. How to celebrate it, however, was a tough agenda in January, as even in Oman, pandemic still imposed enormous restrictions upon social exchanges. Yet my Embassy kept trying to organize occasions for exhibits, performances and other cultural gathering, however small the size may be: as we did not like Covid to dictate us and cut off our precious contacts. Rather, we believed in the power of culture to reconnect people, sustain human contacts, and reunite people.

Under such difficult circumstances, it was only March this year that the Embassy cohosted an outdoor performance in the courtyard of the House of Musical Arts just for one night with 300 audience, many of those wearing face masks. Last month, we were able to come back to the same Opera House, but this time on the opposite side of street, in the big courtyard of the Main House for three nights with 3000 audience each day. Japan's music band participated in the military tattoo. It was made possible due to the complete control by Omani authorities over pandemic by now, and also due to a steady accumulation of cultural collaborations between the Embassy and its Omani partners.

Yes, the culture has reconnected people, and now is the time to revive our bilateral relations to the full capacity, make it more active, more comprehensive, and more beautiful. In June, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs visited Muscat, the very first high-ranking visit after two and half years absence. Vice Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry as well as the Governor of Japan Bank for International Cooperation attend the currently ongoing Green Hydrogen Summit. I am looking forward to another visit of Minister within three weeks to come. Perhaps in February next year, a long-awaited visit of business mission of Japanese companies, and perhaps, not a single delegation but two or three missions, will be arranged. All those revived exchange of people will surely enhance and expand our bilateral, and make it more active, move comprehensive, and more beautiful.

Japan's national security strategy will be revised very soon. One of my Embassy's most important duties it to exhaust its explanations on this new strategy. Oman is Japan's precious strategic partner, and your full understanding will be very necessary.

HE Ambassador Al-Jarady, and all the dignitaries,

The past 50 years of our diplomatic relations is a beautiful 50 years. Each of you has given us orientations and dedications, and made it so beautiful. Please accept my sincerest gratitude, admiration and respect. For making this bilateral more beautiful, your support and guidance is indispensable. Please extend your continued reassurance to my country.

Today, we have guest artists, coming to join us on this celebratory occasion. Yoho and Seiren Kawaguchi-san, and Ingrid van der Heyden-san. They will show us an impromptu performance to put their inspiration onto paper. I wonder how this atmosphere of our celebration can be translated into their artistic work. I hope that will be a beautiful shape, and we shall make our bilateral equally beautiful.

Praying for many blessings to our friendship, I would like to extend my sincere wishes for the continued happiness and prosperity of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, and people in the Sultanate of Oman. Shukran Jazilan.