

It is my great honour to welcome you all. Professor Takumi Moriyama and distinguished members of the delegation from the University of Tokyo, distinguished representatives of the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation, Sultan Qaboos University, German University of Technology in Oman and Muscat University, Assalamu alaikum.

Ambassador Professor Morimoto, welcome back to Muscat and this residence. Some apparent features seem to have changed, but very basics of nice Omani atmosphere remain unchanged. Welcome back home, and thank you very much indeed for making this visit and contact possible.

Oman has departed beautifully and completely from the pandemic period, and fully restored normalcy. To ensure ever-lasting prosperity, Oman is now launching and starting a series of challenging but strategic initiatives. Some keywords seem to be a trade & service connectivity, human networking and communal sustainability. In every context, how to enhance the attention and capability of young generations will be of utmost importance.

Thus, the revival, initiation and expansion of academic, research and cultural contacts and exchange between Japan and Oman is a very timely and mutually benefitting agenda. I believe this occasion of face-to-face encounter between the delegation of Japan and the guests of Oman will surely give us the impetus to kick off the necessary collaboration.

The Embassy will also keep its effort to sustain the contact and exchange, and most probably and for the first time, the Embassy will actively participate in the Global Higher Education Exhibition Oman in April.

Facilitation is a nice word and another genius of Oman. Today, the Embassy tries to be a humble and good facilitator. My chef, who came to Muscat with me about one year ago, was commended by my Foreign Minister last year, and is given the title excellent executive chef for ambassador. I believe his food will facilitate our conversation, and I hope you like and enjoy it.

Wishing for the health and prosperity of HM Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, I wish you all the continued success and happiness, and a very good afternoon.