

**Ambassador's remarks at Conferment Ceremony in honor of Mr. Harib Al Kitani
2024.3.7 @Crowne Plaza**

Excellencies, Honorables, distinguished guests, Assalamu alaikum.

I have the privilege to host this ceremony to congratulate Mr. Harib Al Kitani for the conferment of Japan's Order of Rising Sun. It is all the more pleasing to celebrate this occasion with all the distinguished guests present here, as each of you is the very witness of Mr. Kitani's dedication, leadership and achievements.

Distinguished guests from Oman LNG, Mr. Kitani's home-ground, may tell us how he has earnestly facilitated and achieved the growth of the company and power of the country as a LNG giant.

Excellencies from the Ministry of Energy and Minerals may tell us how his achievement has ensured the prosperous economy and society in the Sultanate of Oman, in the partner countries and in the entire regions.

Honorable members of the State Council may tell us how this stable and reliable supply of LNG has enhanced the fame and status of the Sultanate of Oman as a responsible member of the international community.

Many people, many contexts, many agenda have benefitted from Mr. Kitani, and Japan-Oman relationship is no exception. LNG partnership has been the very engine to enhance, expand and deepen the bilateral relationship between the two countries. I believe representatives of the Japanese companies and corporations may well testify how it was, and how it is.

Indeed, Mr. Kitani has initiated and cherished so many relationships, partnerships and networks between people, companies and countries, which will be our common basis for continued collaboration towards clean energy, carbon neutral, and new avenues of business cooperation with Japan and any other countries.

We appreciate all these achievements and thank him. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to his family too. Mr. Kitani's achievements are great, and those were made possible only with the understanding and constant support from his family.

Now is the time to exercise my great honor, on behalf of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, to confer upon Mr. Harib Al Kitani, the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette. Mr. Kitani, thank you for sharing your wisdom, initiative, enthusiasm, and friendship with all the people here.