

**Ambassador's remarks at Foreign Minister's Commendation Ceremony in honor of Dr. Suad Al Mudhaffar
2024.4.24 @Mandaloon Ballroom, Crowne Plaza**

At the outset, I would like to extend my condolences on the victims of the recent heavy rainfall. As a nation frequently visited by natural disasters, Japan keep standing with the government and people of the Sultanate of Oman. Very recently, Prime Minister of Japan, HE Fumio Kishida delivered the message of his condolences as addressed to HM Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

Excellencies, distinguished guests, Assalamu alaikum.

I am happy to organize this party in honor of Dr. Suad Al Mudhaffar, who received Japan's Foreign Minister's Commendation. スワダ先生、おめでとうございます。

Dr. Suad, as we always call Suad-sensei, is now the big name among many people. But it was not the easy way at all to achieve such fame. The path of Suad-sensei is the path of pioneer to overcome many difficulties and tough moments.

When Suad-sensei first set foot in Oman, and later came back to Oman, there was no internet information what Oman was for Japanese, what Japan was for Omanis. There was no Japanese embassy in Muscat. Her endeavor was fraught with so many challenges.

With her courage, perseverance and dedication, Suad-sensei made her success possible, only after enormous accumulation of tireless and proactive efforts. Many things were able to go ahead and manage only through a tough and time-consuming face-to-face contact. There was no easy, automatic means of networking.

Nowadays, human contacts seem to be much easier with information technologies, but the value of Suad-sensei's networking will remain unchanged. We should never forget how Suad-sensei overcame difficulties, tackled with many misguided preoccupations, inspired friends, and after all assured leadership.

We are lucky as we can build future Japan-Oman relationship upon the achievements of Suad-sensei. In the academic and educational field, my Embassy tries to enhance the presence of Japan, as in EduTrac and Ghedex. The government and companies of Japan try to expand opportunities for study in Japan to Omani people. Number of Omani alumni with experience in Japan and Japanese good officers like J-MENA are always helping us.

Suad-sensei has nurtured educational environment, which is by now matured enough to sustain steady exchange of youths. By lucky coincidence, we see two young Japanese currently studying at Sultan Qaboos University, who join us today to celebrate together this occasion. It speaks volumes to where we are thanks to the efforts of Suad-sensei. スワダ先生、ありがとうございます。

In concluding my remarks, I wish for the happiness and prosperity of HM Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, wish you all health and happiness, and extend my wholehearted respect to Suad-sensei. I thank you all for your warm attention. I wish you a very good evening.