

**Ambassador's remarks at Conferment Ceremony in honor of HE Dr. Rawya bint Saud Al Busaidiya
2024.5.5 @Sinbad Ballroom, Crowne Plaza**

HH Sayyid Kamil bin Fahad Al Said, HE Dr. Madiha bint Ahmed Al Shaibaniya, HE Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Excellencies, Honorables, Dignitaries, distinguished guests, Assalamu alaikum.

It is my great pleasure to have this opportunity to honor Her Excellency Dr. Rawya bint Saud Al Busaidiya, who received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star as bestowed by HM the Emperor of Japan, with whom Her Excellency has shared a meaningful connection over many years.

Her Excellency's efforts in cultivating relationships with Japan extend beyond successive ambassadors and embassy staff. Particularly noteworthy is her dedication to fostering academic collaboration, exemplified by her instrumental role in establishing the Sultan Qaboos Chair in Middle East Studies at the University of Tokyo, which now stands as a beacon of scholarly cooperation between Japan and Middle East.

Therefore, I have today received a congratulatory message from the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Tokyo, as we call UTCMES. With your permission, I would like to read it out on their behalf.

I quote:

“Her Excellency Dr. Rawya bint Saud Al Busaidiya
Your Excellency,

On your conferment of ‘the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star’ by His Majesty the Emperor, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Your Excellency in the name of the Sultan Qaboos Chair in Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Tokyo and the University of Tokyo Centre for Middle Eastern Studies (UTCMES).

Your strong help and commitment to the generous endowment by His late Majesty Sultan Qaboos enabled the creation of the Sultan Qaboos Chair at the University of Tokyo. Since then, the Chair has developed in a variety of fields of Middle Eastern studies and promoted academic exchange and cooperation in the international arena.

We owe all this success to Your Excellency.

We will continue to endeavour to progress further, building upon the achievements that the Chair has accomplished thus far. I kindly ask Your Excellency to continue to support the activities of UTCMES and to provide the Sultan Qaboos Chair with endorsement in the future.

I wish Your Excellency health, prosperity, and peace, as well as all the best.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Hidemi Takahashi, Director of UTCMES

Professor at the Graduate School & College of Arts and Sciences, The University of Tokyo”
Unquote.

Excellency,

In commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Japan-Oman diplomatic relations 12 years ago, you gave us a message and emphasized the importance of internationalizing Higher Education in a global society. We have indeed witnessed our strengthened collaboration over the past decade in facilitating educational exchange.

Our embassy has tried to enhance Japan's presence in the academic and educational field, as seen through our active involvement in EduTrac, Ghedex and so on. Japan's networking agency J-MENA is now a constant visitor to Muscat.

To expand the youth exchange, it is now not the agenda for the government alone, and so many companies of Japan have joined forces to expand educational opportunities for Omani youth to stay and study in Japan.

I like to thank Mitsubishi Corporation for its long standing Scholarship, launched during Her Excellency's tenure, and thank Sumitomo Corporation for its recently started but already active Scholarship. Other companies also provide a various scheme to experience active contacts with Japan.

Her Excellency visited Japan to present a paper at the 7th Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology in Society Forum (STS Forum), held in Kyoto in 2010. This event showcased our shared commitment to promoting innovation and technological progress. Now, as Japan prepares to host Expo 2025 Osaka/Kansai, the Ministry of Higher Education's involvement as a member of Expo Committee will surely benefit our collective efforts to combine and drive advancements in education and technology.

Japan would like to signify and keep requesting Your Excellency's guidance and orientation towards our shared goals. Goals to long sustain sustainable human connections between our two countries.

In concluding my remarks, I extend my heartfelt wishes for the well-being and prosperity of HM Sultan Haitham bin Tarik ,and wish all present continued health and happiness. Wish you all a pleasant evening.