

**Celebration of Professor Kondo on Receiving the FM's Commendation, 2024
2024.11.11 @Crowne Plaza Muscat**

His Excellency Engineer Ibrāhīm bin Saīd Al-Kharusī, Undersecretary for Heritage Affairs, Excellencies, distinguished guests, Assalamu alaikum.

It is my pleasure to welcome you this evening as we gather to celebrate the achievements of Prof. Yasuhisa KONDO, who has been honored with Japan's Foreign Minister's Commendation. This award proves that his years of efforts have further enhanced mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the Sultanate of Oman.

Prof. KONDO's work in excavating archaeological sites is a pursuit of historical artifacts and serves as a bridge, transcending time and space to foster mutual appreciation for our lives and cultures. His dedication has even illuminated past dialogues and collaboration, pointing the way toward "Designing Future Society for Our Lives," which exactly is the theme of upcoming EXPO 2025 Osaka/Kansai.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for its initiatives in preserving Oman's cultural legacy and leveraging it as a cornerstone for tourism. The commitment to attracting international experts from many countries including Japan, US, UK, Italy and so forth enhances our attention to Oman and also stimulates global archaeological development.

Oman's dedication to safeguarding its heritage, while also recognizing its role as part of the cradle of world civilization, is truly inspiring. Japan values this commitment and eagerly anticipates a future of long-lasting cooperation in cultural preservation and mutual exchange, with the hope that the outcomes will be widely recognized and shared in public.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt wishes for the continued happiness and prosperity of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, and my congratulations one week ahead of the National Day of the Sultanate. May all of you present enjoy good health and joy, and may Prof. KONDO's contributions continue to inspire us all. I wish you a wonderful evening ahead.