

Remarks by Ambassador HE Jota Yamamoto on the occasion of Emperor's Birthday Reception on February 12, 2025 @Grand Hyatt Muscat

Your Excellency Eng. Salim bin Nasser bin Said Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, it is my great honor to have your presence as the guest of honor. I am particularly delighted to welcome Your Excellency today, and you have graced our celebrations so many times. Thank you very much indeed. I would also like to thank the distinguished members of the delegation for gracing this occasion.

Hignesses, Excellencies, Honorables, Distinguished Guests,
Assalamu Alaikum, good evening.

It is my privilege to celebrate with you all the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, who will turn 65 years old on February 23. The imperial era under His Majesty is named Reiwa, which has entered the seventh year. Reiwa means beautiful harmony, and His Majesty the Emperor is always wishing for the beautiful harmony in Japan and in the world.

We see the increased uncertainties in many places in the world. But here in Oman, we keep witnessing the enhanced and expanded mutual understanding, personal exchange and networking among people from many countries. This has been made possible due to the proactive initiative of Oman to host and organize a number of meetings, incentive tours, conventions/conferences, events and exhibitions, as we call MICE.

Japan too is benefitting from MICE in Oman. Only for the past few months, Japanese players of hockey, golf, road racing, iron man, and table tennis came here to participate in tournaments. A couple of business missions came here to talk with Omani counterparts. The big delegation of Japan Business Federation stayed in Muscat up to 40 minutes ago. The visit will surely increase Japan's cooperation in facilitating Oman Vision 2040.

Only for the past few weeks, a Japanese orchestra came and performed in the South Garden of ROHM. I really appreciate this heartwarming occasion generously offered by the Oman Japan Friendship Association. A variety of professors and academic scientists visited here for multilateral and bilateral purposes.

By the same token, during a few days to come, I expect the high-ranking delegation to come and join the Indian Ocean Conference, a big international conference co-hosted by the government of Oman. As both Japan and the Sultanate of Oman are maritime powers, we have many common agenda connected to the complex of maritime domain, from security to trade. Japan's maritime self-defense force continues to actively engage in anti-piracy operations in this region, and Oman continues to be a reliable partner for replenishment and collaboration.

In a few days to come, there will be another event of fine arts to demonstrate strong bonds between the two countries, I am so looking forward to.

This year, Japan, for its part, is also expected to take MICE initiative, 2025 EXPO Osaka/Kansai to begin with. The proactive commitment and engagement of the Sultanate of Oman, under the leadership of His Highness Sayyid Theyazin, is striking and profoundly appreciated. I am convinced that this EXPO will surely strengthen and expand the business-to-business and people-to-people networks between Japan and Oman. With the same spirit, I hope that business-to-business and people-to-people networks among many more countries will be deepened throughout this upcoming EXPO in Osaka.

My tenure in Oman is to expire and I will leave by the end of February. This is my last opportunity to host the national day reception in Muscat. Your kind attendance today is all the more heartwarming and appreciated.

I have worked in many countries, and in some places, local languages are not familiar to me at all. Arabic is no exception. But in every country

every time, I could somehow survive perhaps with only two phrases of the local language meaning Thank you and Thank you very much indeed. If we keep saying thank you very much indeed, we may perhaps find out positive aspects of other countries more easily. If we keep saying thank you very much indeed, we may perhaps try to sort out any outstanding difficulties more enthusiastically.

For your kind attendance, I thank you very much indeed, Bol'shoye spasibo, Bahut sukriya, Paljon kiitoksia, and Shukran Jazīlan. I thank very much Sheikh Abdullah Saud Bahwan and his Oman Japan Friendship Association for constant and critical support to us. I thank very much the Royal Families, the Foreign Ministry and all the ministries, State and Shura Councils, and media agencies of the Sultanate of Oman, for always walking together towards the further height. I thank very much the business companies, and cultural, educational and sports institutions both of Japan and Oman, for consolidating the record of mutual respect and benefits. I thank very much the dean and members of the diplomatic corps, which I am sure is the best diplomatic corps I have ever seen. I thank very much the Japanese community in Oman for always making our stay enjoyable. I thank very much the Embassy members, my chef and the Grand Hyatt Muscat, who made this celebration possible.

I am very lucky to serve with you, such wonderful people at my perhaps last stage of my career as diplomat. I thank very much indeed His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to bestow such moments and circumstances in the Sultanate of Oman.

The last but not the least, I would like to thank my wife, Etsuko. For the past 42 years, she has always supported and encouraged me. She has always propped me. Many things were not made possible without your help. Thank you very much indeed. Hontou ni Arigatou.

Distinguished guests, I hope you enjoy this national day celebration today. I wish you a very good evening.