

**Ambassador's remarks at Emperor's 66th Birthday Reception
2026.2.3 @ Crowne Plaza Muscat Hotel 'Al Sindbad Ballroom'**

His Excellency Engineer Salim bin Nasser bin Said Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, Highnesses, Excellencies, Honorable, Distinguished Guests, Assalamu alaikum. Good evening.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for attending the reception to celebrate the 66th birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan today.

I am Kiyoshi Serizawa, the Ambassador of Japan to the Sultanate of Oman.

I am very pleased to welcome His Excellency Engineer Salim bin Nasser bin Said Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, all our distinguished guests and colleagues here today.

In the friendly relations between Japan and Oman, the exchanges between the Imperial Family of Japan and the Royal Family of Oman symbolize the strong bilateral ties that have existed for many years. The last year 2025 marked a significant development in these exchanges.

In April, at the occasion of EXPO 2025 Osaka/Kansai, His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, then Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Chairman of the Main Committee for Oman's Participation in EXPO 2025 Osaka, and His Excellency Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, then Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, visited Japan at the opening ceremony of the Oman Pavilion and His Highness met with His Majesty the Emperor at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.

Then in September, His Highness Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said visited Japan to attend the Oman National Day ceremony at the Expo. These two visits have opened a new chapter in the history of relations between the two countries.

Furthermore, high-level exchanges and people-to-people interactions across various fields have made essential contributions to the bilateral relations.

In April, the 8th Japan-Oman Foreign Policy Dialogue was held in Tokyo, where His Excellency Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Issa Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs represented the Omani delegation.

The dialogue was more deepened when Mr. IWAYA Takeshi, then Minister for Foreign Affairs, who was visiting Kuwait to attend the Japan-GCC Foreign Ministers' Meeting, held a meeting with His Excellency Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister of Oman.

In the defense sphere, Mr. MIYAZAKI Masahisa, State Minister of Defense of Japan visited the Royal Navy of Oman facility in Salalah at the end of the year.

The journey continues this year as well.

This year, from September to October, the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 is scheduled to be held in Japan.

Athletes from 45 countries and regions, including Oman, will participate in this international sports event, exchanging through the common language of sports in Nagoya City in Aichi Prefecture.

I am confident that the bilateral relations between Japan and Oman, strengthened last year, will continue to develop further this year.

In closing, I sincerely wish for the continued health and prosperity of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and the people of Oman.

I will continue to strive to deepen the friendly relations between Japan and Oman.

I wish you all a very good evening.

Thank you. Shukran Jazeelan.