

**<<< Press release from the Embassy of Japan >>>
15th February 2015**



On 15th February an Inauguration Ceremony was held at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) to mark the opening of a Japanese language course at SQU. The ceremony was presided over by H.E. Dr Ali al Bimani, Vice-Chancellor of SQU and H.E. George Hisaeda, Ambassador of Japan.

Also in attendance were Dr. Abdullah al Kindi, Dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences and Ms. Midori Asoh, the Japanese language teacher who will be running the course. Before coming to Oman in March 2014, Ms. Asoh taught the Japanese language across the world; in Argentina, Turkey, Russia, Mongolia and Malaysia. She began teaching Japanese here in Oman last April at the Oman-Japan Friendship Association (OJFA), where she is currently running four classes, composed of both Omanis and expatriates.

Following the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe's visit to Oman in January 2014, a joint communique was issued, in which both governments expressed the importance of strengthening cooperation in the field of education and their expectation that offering an introductory Japanese language course at SQU will further promote Japanese language education in Oman. During the visit, the Prime Minister's wife, Akie Abe visited SQU accompanied by H.E. Dr. Madeeha bint Ahmed bin Nassir al Shibaniyah, Minister of Education, and met with H.E. Dr Rawiya bint Saud al Busaidiyah, Minister of Higher Education and H.E. Dr Ali al Bimani as well as female students and gifted books to the SQU library, which included Japanese language books and those relating to Japanese culture and literature.

At the SQU Inauguration Ceremony, the Japanese Ambassador remarked that he was delighted to see the opening of the Japanese language course, which he considers will make another valuable contribution to strong Japan-Oman bilateral relations.