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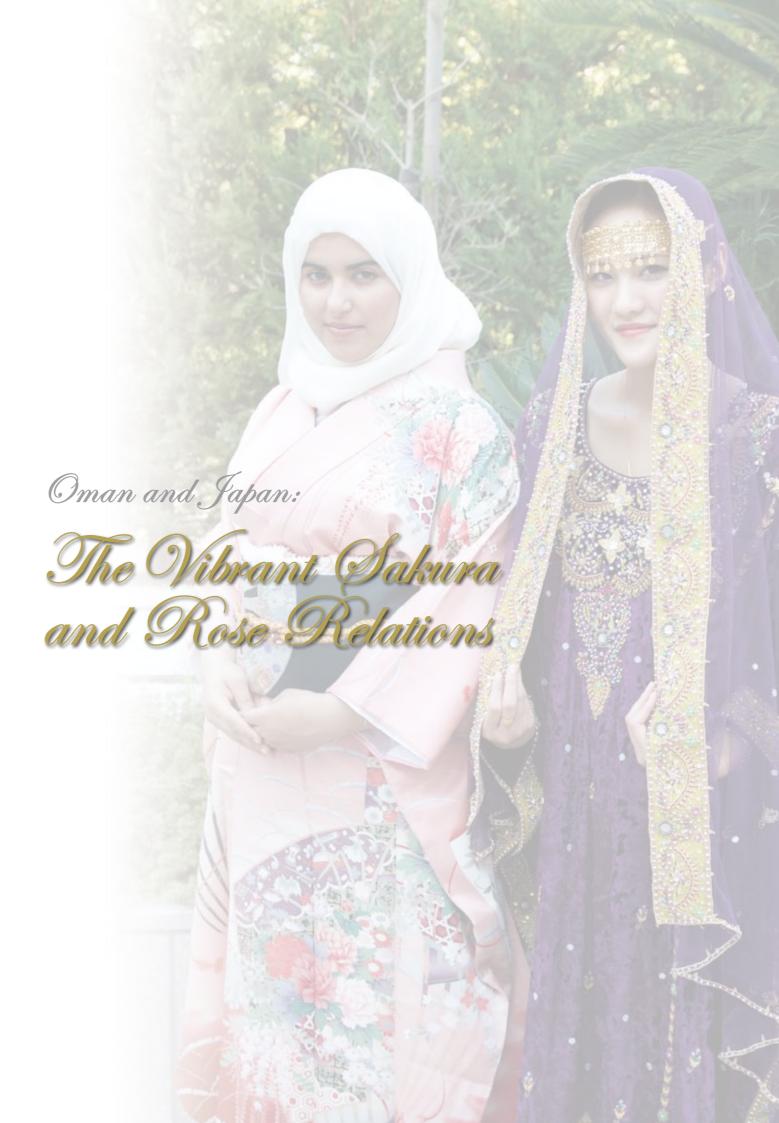
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Cover page:

Ms. Akisa Ono, former Sultan Qaboos University student, currently at Waseda University (right) Ms. Nidhal Al-Jaradi, Tokai University student (left)

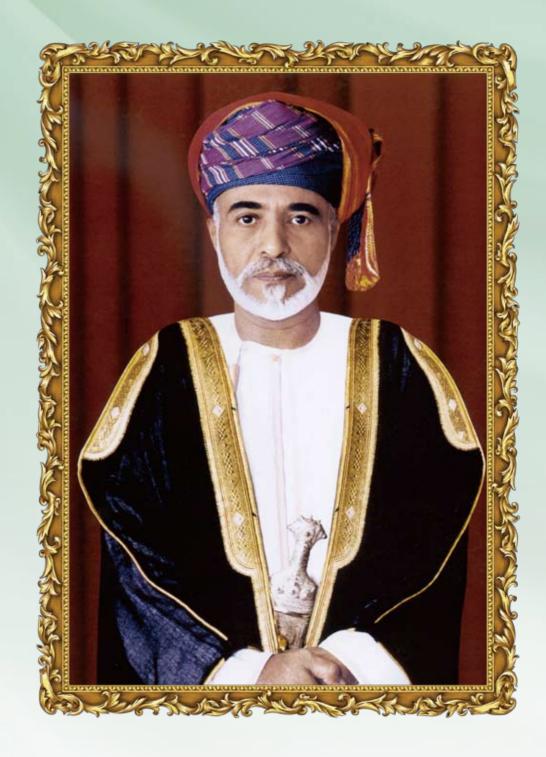
(Photographer: Mrs. Abeer A. Aisha, wife of the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan)

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His Majesty the Emperor of Japan



His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said

Introduction



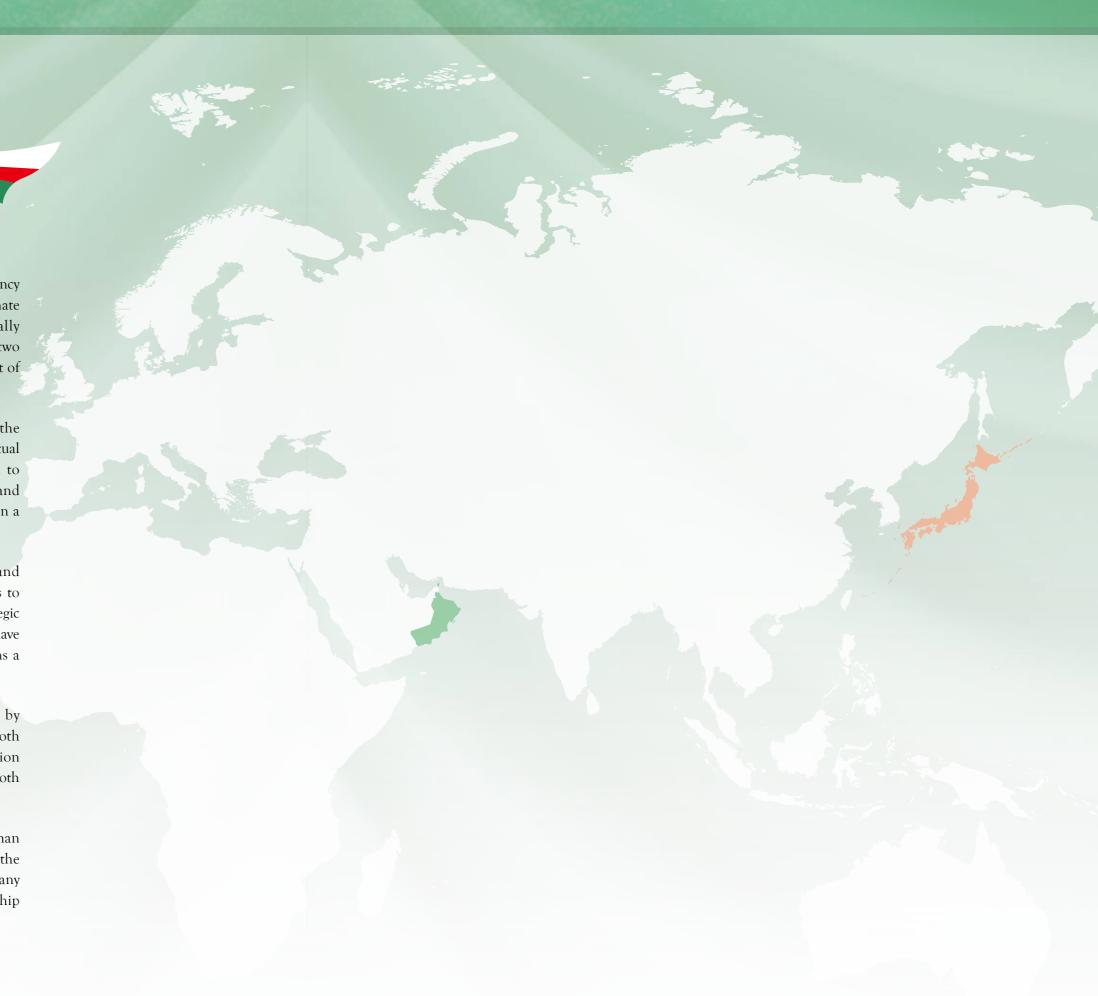
The concept of this unique publication by His Excellency Khalid bin Hashil Al-Muslahi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan, aspired to further advance mutually beneficial relations for both Oman and Japan, as the two nations celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of their official Diplomatic Relations in 2012.

Historically dating as far back as the 17th century, the relationship between the two nations was founded on mutual respect. Both governments have since then continued to foster and develop this friendship with reciprocal trust and cooperation. These committed relations are now reflected in a wide range of sectors.

This book commemorates the economic, political, and cultural partnerships between the two nations, and aims to bring a better understanding and appreciation of the strategic importance of the relations, and pay tribute to those who have contributed meaningfully to making Oman-Japan relations a success story.

It includes statements and articles contributed by prominent officials, business leaders, and citizens from both countries, collected by the Ambassador for this publication during 2012. The book also highlights the events held in both countries to celebrate the 40th Anniversary.

This work not only showcases those ties that bind Oman and Japan, but also the promise that these ties hold for the future. We hope that this publication will be one of many steps in further deepening the long and fruitful relationship between the two nations.



Contents

- 9. Message from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe
- 10. Message from H.H. Sayyid Haitham Al Said
- 11. Exploring Oman
- 25. Exploring Japan

Historical Relations

- 33. Overview
- 35. The Samurai Who Met the Sultan of Oman

Modern Relations

- 39. Overview
- 41. Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
- 42. Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of Oman
- 43. Former Prime Minister Kaifu
- 44. Former Prime Minister Fukuda
- 45. Japan-Oman Parliamentarians Friendship League
- 46. DPJ Japan-Oman Parliamentary Friendship Group
- 47. The Exchange of High-Level Visits
- 53. Prestigious Royal Decorations and Recognitions
- 55. Oman and Japan's Maritime Relations
- 57. The Middle East Desalination Research Center
- 59. Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman
- 65. Embassy of Japan
- 69. Former Ambassadors and Heads of Mission

Economic and Technical Cooperation

- 73. Overview
- 75. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Japan
- 76. Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan
- 77. Minister Responsible for Financial Affairs of Oman
- 79. Minister of Commerce and Industry of Oman
- 80. Minister of Oil and Gas of Oman
- 81. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- 83. Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)
- 85. The Public Authority for Investment Promotion & Export Development (PAIPED)
- 86. Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI)
- 87. Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East
- 89. Japan Cooperation Center, Petroleum (JCCP)
- 91. PAIPED Representative in Japan



Business Partnerships

♦ Japan

- 95. Chiyoda Corporation
- 97. Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd.
- 99. ITOCHU Corporation
- 101. JGC Corporation
- 103. JX Holdings, Inc.
- 105. Marubeni Corporation
- 107. Mitsubishi Corporation
- 109. Mitsui & Co., LTD.
- 111. Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd.
- 113. Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.
- 115. Sumitomo Corporation
- 117. Toyota Motor Corporation
- 119. Japan Petroleum Exploration Co., Ltd.
- 120. Mitsubishi Materials Techno Corporation
- 121. Nomura Holdings, Inc.
- 122. Sojitz Corporation

♦ Oman

- 123. Oman LNG
- 125. Oman Oil Company S.A.O.C
- 127. Oman Oil Refineries and Petroleum Industries Company
- 129. Oman Shipping Company S.A.O.C
- 131. Oman Trading International Ltd.
- 133. Omar Zawawi Establishment LLC (OMZEST)
- 135. Qalhat LNG S.A.O.C
- 137. SABCO Group
- 139. Saud Bahwan Group
- 141. Suhail Bahwan Automobiles LLC
- 143. Tawoos Agricultural Systems LLC
- 145. Zubair Automotive Group



Cultural Relations

- 153. Overview
- 155. Minister of Higher Education of Oman
- 156. Minister of Tourism of Oman
- 157. Minister of Sports Affairs of Oman
- 158. Japan-Oman Society
- 159. Oman-Japan Friendship Association
- 161. The University of Tokyo
- 163. Sultan Qaboos University
- 164. Waseda University
- 165. Sultan Qaboos Chair at the University of Tokyo
- 166. Mitsubishi Corporation Scholarship
- 167. National Archives
- 168. Omani Cultural Days in Tokyo
- 169. Japanese Garden and Sakura in Oman
- 171. Japan-Oman Club
- 172. Oman and I
- 173. Hiroshima-Oman Friendship Association
- 174. A Record of My Experiences Studying Abroad in Oman

- 175. Enhancing Education in Oman
- 176. Impressions of Life and Work in Japan
- 177. Promoting Oman to Japanese Media
- 178. Promoting Culture Through Business
- 179. Passing Through a Different Culture
- 180. Studying in Japan

40th Anniversary

- 183. Overview
- 185. Congratulatory Letter from Japan
- 186. Congratulatory Letter from Oman
- 187. The 40th Anniversary Grand Ceremony
- 189. The 40th Anniversary Logo
- 190. Special Grand Lecture Meeting
- 191. Special Art Exhibition: "Communique Celestial"
- 192. Exhibition: "From Desert to Mantle Explore the Geology of Oman"
- 183. Photo Exhibition: "Oman through the Japanese Eye"
- 195. The Discover Oman Program
- 197. Photo Exhibition: "AL ADYAT" Omani Arab Horses
- 198. "A Wonderland Oman" Book Launch Ceremony

Events Held in Oman

- 199. Japan's Advertising Photography Award Exhibition Rieko Morita Exhibition
- 200. The Dolls of JapanTAIKO LEGEND- Heart Beat from JapanJapan Music Project
- Hideki Togi Special Concert
 Japan Day
- 202. Special Classical Music Concert Oman Century Ride
- 203. Acknowledgements



H.E. Shinzo Abe
Prime Minister of Japan,
Honorary Chairman of JapanOman Society

"I would like to express my

deepest appreciation to the many

people concerned who have

made tremendous exertions to

build today's friendly relationship

between the two countries"

Japan and the Sultanate of Oman are to mark this year the 40th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations. Let me look back on the progress of our friendly relationship. The 1970s was the era when the world started to move ahead toward a new direction. Japan realized Okinawa's reversion to its mother land, and strove towards normalization of diplomatic relations with China. In Oman, H.M. Sultan Qaboos bin Said ascended the throne of Sultan of Oman and initiated to build a modern state.

Under the sagacious leadership of H.M. Sultan Qaboos with his great prescience, successive five-year programmes for the national economy were formulated and Oman has been achieving a speedy transformation into the modern state to the amazement of the world. Our country has greatly contributed to the refinement of its economic and social foundations with economic and technological cooperation.

The six Arabic Gulf States, including the Sultanate of Oman, established the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in 1981 with the purpose of political and social stabilization in the region as well as economic development. Their recent activities, with which GCC states are demonstrating united actions in responding to various situations, are notable, and its regional role is heightened. Oman has been recognized as shouldering an essential role in GCC.

It is the agenda of not only the Sultanate of Oman but other Arabic Gulf States as well, to enrich their politics and society by grappling with various problems including regional stability,

sustainable economic development, education for the increasing number of youth, employment betterment, and environment preservation as they head towards further modernization. Japan, which greatly relies on the Middle East region for its energy supply, has now called for efforts to grapple with those problems and to shoulder the regional social responsibility jointly.

At the start of a new stage of friendship, I believe it is indispensable for both countries to deepen understandings of each other's mutual history and culture, together with renewing the recognition that Oman holds strategic superiorities. For example, Oman's historical background of having flourished with establishing friendly relations with the surrounding neighbors through maritime trade and her geopolitical important position

of the Strait of Hormuz, and location at the mouth of the Indian Ocean. The expansion of measures emphasizing peoples' exchanges, for example educational and cultural exchanges of youth, nurturing of talented people who are actively involved in a wide range of fields, and the promotion of tourism should be anticipated to expand the range and deepen the current foundation.

I am confident that the creation of friendship and a relationship of trust with the Sultanate of Oman will lead to stabilization of the region of the Arabic Gulf States and their further prosperity, and of course contribute to a stable energy supply for our country.

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Oman diplomatic relations, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the many people concerned who have made tremendous exertions to build today's friendly relationship between the two countries, and my prayer goes to further expansion of that relationship.



His Highness Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq Al Said

Minister of Heritage and Culture, Honorary Chairman of Oman-Japan Friendship Association "The historical relations between Oman and Japan, a model of the friendly relations between nations, represents a source of pride for us in the Sultanate of Oman, as it developed over the years solid foundations for cooperation and bonds of friendship and mutual understanding"

I am pleased to see the good level reached by Omani-Japanese relations and its fruitful and constructive development in various areas. I am also pleased to express our sincere congratulations to the peoples of both countries and to their wise leadership on this occasion of the 40th anniversary of the formal establishment of their diplomatic relations

The historical relations between Oman and Japan, a model of the friendly relations between nations, represents a source of pride for us in the Sultanate of Oman, as it developed over the years solid foundations for cooperation and bonds of friendship and mutual understanding. It also helped to engender a clear and honest desire to further develop the relations with the aim to open wider horizons in various fields of cooperation and mutual benefit, especially in the cultural and scientific areas as well as the exchanges between our peoples.

I was pleased to visit Japan in the spring of 2008 at the invitation of His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Japan, Mr. Masahiko Komura. In this context, I tender my deep thanks and appreciation to the Japanese side for their kind invitation and the warm welcome and hospitality extended to me and my accompanying delegation. I have experienced a high level of good treatment and outstanding organization, as well as the prosperity witnessed by the friendly Japanese people, their rich civilization, extraordinary progress and their long history. I also sensed the desire to strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation between both countries.

I wish success to all the endeavors exerted from both sides to develop the Omani-Japanese relations.



Oman

- ➤ The Sultanate of Oman is located in southwest Asia on the southern coast of the Arabian Peninsula. It borders the United Arab Emirates to the northwest, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the west, and the Republic of Yemen to the southwest.
- Comprising approximately 310,000 square kilometers of varied, striking terrain, it is the third largest country in the Arabian Peninsula. Oman's coastline extends 3,165 km from the Strait of Hormuz in the north, to the borders of the Republic of Yemen in the south. The country ranges from the fjord-like majesty of the Musandam Peninsula, to the fertile Batinah plain that inclines southwest towards Muscat, from the vast sandy edge of the Rub al-Khali (The Empty Quarter) through the mountains to the lush, monsoon-heavy Salalah plain in the south.
- ➤ The inhabitants of Oman have long prospered on Indian Ocean trade. Sending dhows from its port at Sohar to trade with merchants in far flung destinations, this former ancient capital of Oman was at the time, one of the largest and most important cities in the Arab world. Historical documents have reinforced this notion, revealing extensive trading ties with China, India, and Mesopotamia, as well as the Eastern Mediterranean, the Nile Valley, and North Africa.
- The official language of Oman is Arabic and Islam is the official religion. Oman's population is 3.314 million (2012). Muscat is the largest city and Oman's capital. Oman's currency is the Omani Rial, and the GDP is \$69.97 billion (2011-current US\$), and GNI per capita \$19,110 (2010-current US\$). According to international indices, Oman is one of the most developed and stable countries in the Arab world.

















Japan

- With a total area of 377,915 square kilometers, Japan is an archipelago consisting of the four main islands of Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku. Honshu's Greater Tokyo Area, which includes the capital city of Tokyo with several surrounding prefectures, is the largest metropolitan area in the world with over 30 million people. The world's tenth largest nation by population, 127 million people call Japan home.
- In the early 17th century after decades of civil warfare, the Tokugawa shogunate (a military-led, dynastic government) ushered in an era of isolation and political stability of over 250 years. This period enabled Japan to enjoy a flowering of its indigenous culture. Music, popular stories, kabuki and bunraku (puppet theater), poetry, literature, and art exemplified by beautiful woodblock prints known as ukiyo-e were all aspects of this flowering of culture. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Japan began to intensively modernize and industrialize, and became a regional power. After the conclusion of WWII, Japan recovered to become an economic superpower.
- A major economic power, Japan has the world's third largest economy and is the world's fourth largest exporter and importer. Its GDP is \$5.86 trillion. Japan is well known for its large industrial capacity, and is home to some of the largest and most technologically advanced producers of motor vehicles and electronics including Toyota, Sony, Toshiba, and Nissan. Also a leader in fundamental scientific research, Japan has produced many Nobel laureates in the fields of physics, chemistry, and medicine.
- > Japanese is the main language, and 98.5% of the total population is of Japanese ethnicity. After Singapore, Japan has the lowest homicide rate in the world. Japan also has one of the longest life expectancies for both men and women.

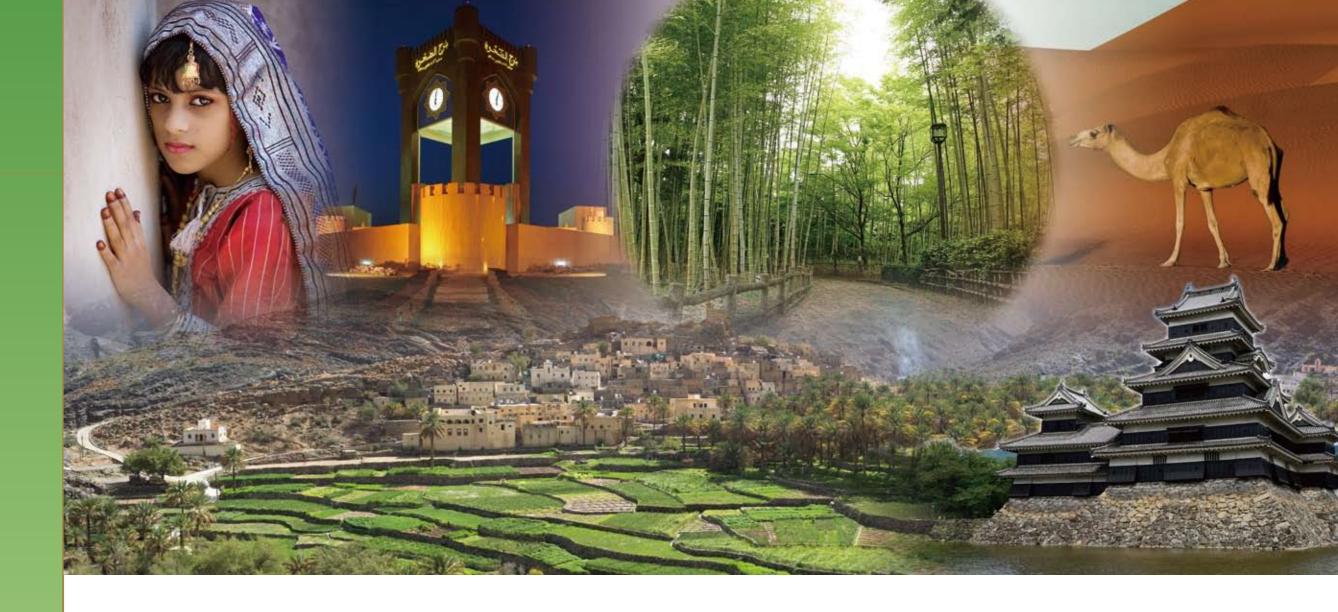








Historical Relations



While the Oman and Japan of today share a unique relationship with one another, until the latter half of the 19th century, little contact had been established between the two nations. Indeed the basis for the strong relations that exist today was largely formulated in the early 20th century and became particularly strong starting in the 1970s.

While limited, there are examples of pre-modern cultural and human exchange. For example the "Wakan Sansai Zue," an Edo era encyclopedia, had entries referring to frankincense, whaling and the cities of Sohar and Mirbat. Also Petro Kasui Kibe, a 17th century Japanese Christian and Jesuit priest, was said to be the first Japanese national to visit Oman in 1619.

However, once we enter the modern history period, these relations started to build at a more rapid pace. Japan, which had endured over 250 years of self-imposed isolation, was forced to end its isolation policy in the late 19th century. After

a new government was formed in 1868 with the Emperor Meiji installed as its state head, various government missions were sent throughout the world to gather knowledge and knowhow, and push Japan into becoming a modern nation state. In 1880, Nobuyoshi Furukawa, a Captain of Engineers of the Japanese army, briefly toured the city of Muscat. Several days later, the Japanese warship "Hiei" commanded by Sukeyuki Ito entered Muscat Bay as the first ever Japanese maritime vessel. Over the next several years, there were other examples of human exchange with various Japanese nationals visiting or passing through Oman.

In 1924, Shigetaka Shiga, an important intellectual of the Meiji era, visited Oman. This was considered a major turning point in the modern relations between the two nations. Arriving unannounced in order to propose closer relations between the two countries, Shigetaka Shiga was nonetheless given an audience by His Majesty Sultan Taimur bin Faisal Al Said. Developing an

interest in Japan following Shiga's visit, Sultan Taimur eventually visited Japan in 1936 following his abdication, lived in Kobe for several years and even married a Japanese woman. Several decades later in 1963, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said visited Japan on his world tour, and in 1971 Japan formally recognized Oman and established its diplomatic relations with the nation in 1972. Since that time, there have been many other notable visits from both nations including the 1994 visit of Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako and the 1997 visit of His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers.

It was against this historical backdrop that the present-day cultural, human and economic exchanges between the two nations were established.



The Samurai Who Met the Sultan of Oman: Shigetaka Shiga and Sultan Taimur bin Faisal



Masayuki Yamauchi Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo

When traveling to Arab countries by ship or plane, Oman is the closest country to Japan when travelling in a straight line, and has the smallest time difference. Oman is the only Arab nation that faces Iran across the Strait of Hormuz. It is an Ibadhi Muslim country of which Qaboos bin Said Al Said is the Sultan, and it is renowned for having achieved modernization in a short period of time through the development of human resources. Many Japanese people also recognize Oman as a peaceful nation with a high level of public safety, and a country with a love of perfumes and flowers. Furthermore, in the past, as a maritime empire whose territory stretched all the way to what is now Pakistan, Iran, and East Africa, Oman also boasts a history interlaced with a diverse range of ethnic groups. It is by no means a coincidence that there are a large number of people of Indian and African descent in modern day Oman.

Oman placed 21st among 144 countries in the 2009 Global Peace Index, and among Asian countries it ranked behind Japan (in 7th place) and Oatar (in 16th place). In addition to Amouage, one of the world's foremost producers of luxury perfume, Oman is also renowned for frankincense, which ranks alongside sandalwood and agarwood as one of the world's three great fragrances.

The first Japanese to visit this country appears to have been Petro Kasui Kibe in 1619. Kibe became a priest in Rome but was martyred upon returning to Japan. In 1880 naval commander Sukeyuki Ito also visited Oman. He went on to become commander-in-chief of the Imperial Japanese Navy's Combined Fleet. The most famous Japanese person to have visited Oman is undoubtedly Shigetaka Shiga. Having been born in the Okazaki domain, which had historically been ruled by hereditary feudal lords that shared close ties with the Tokugawa Shogunate, Shiga was unable to find a prominent position for himself under an administration dominated by the anti-Tokugawa Satsuma-Choshu faction. Upon graduating from Sapporo Agricultural College he remarked on the importance of the Tsushima Strait after witnessing heightened tension in Anglo-Russian relations. Additionally, as a result of an exploration of the South Pacific he wrote

Timeline of the History of Exchanges between Japan and Oman

1619	It is assumed that Petro Kibe visited Muscat as the first Japanese	
1712	"Wakan Sansai Zue," encyclopedia in the Edo period, refers to Sohar, and Mirbat	
1880 June 25	Nobuyoshi Furukawa, captain of engineers of the army, visited Muscat as the first Japanese official on reco	
1880 July 3	The warship "Hiei," commanded by Sukeyuki Ito, entered Muscat Bay as the first Japanese vesse ever. The "Hiei" fired a 21 gun-salute, Ito and other officers on board were given an audience by Sultan Turki bin Said and Ito exchanged personal letters with the Sultan	
1896	Yasumasa Fukushima drops in at Muscat Bay	
1899	Toyokichi Ienaga drops in at Muscat Bay	
1924	Shigetaka Shiga, Japanese thinker and geographer, visited Oman and he was given an audience by Sultan Taimur bin Faisal and was given his personal letter	
1935	Sultan Taimur bin Faisal visits Kobe on his world tour	
1936	Sultan Taimur bin Faisal returns to Kobe, marries Ms. Kiyoko Oyama and resides there. H.H. Sayyida Buthaina was born in 1937	
1937	Sultan Said bin Taimur visits Japan to see his father accompanied by H.H. Sayyid Tariq bin Taimur	
1940	Sultan Taimur bin Faisal leaves Kobe with H.H. Sayyida Buthaina	
1943	Japanese submarine sinks a Norwegian ship at Muscat Bay	
1963	H.M. Sultan Qaboos bin Said visits Japan on his world tour	
1968	Shigeki Nogusa, official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited Oman	
1971 June 1	Japan recognizes the Sultanate of Oman	
1971	H.E. Naotomo Takase, Ambassador to Kuwait, and Kazuo Wanibuchi, official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited Oman	

"Nanyojiji (Current Affairs in the South Seas)" and quickly made a name for himself as a geographer. He also established his position as a commentator on geographical matters in "Nihon Fukeiron (The Japanese Landscape)" and cemented his standing as a statesman by championing the Japanese mind in a magazine titled "Nihonjin (The Japanese)".

In December 1923 Shiga embarked on a trip to India, Iran, Iraq, the Arabian Peninsula, Palestine, Cyprus, Europe, and America, and in February 1924, he traveled to Oman. In Shiga's "Shirarezaru Kuniguni (Unfamiliar Countries)", which was included in the six-volume "Shiga Shigetaka Zenshi (Complete Collected Works of Shigetaka Shiga)" (Shiga Shigetaka Kankokai, 1928), it is possible to gain insight into the various exploits he encountered after venturing all the



Prof. Yamauchi meeting Minister of Higher Education Dr. Rawya Saud Al Busaidi

way to the sun-scorched lands of the Middle East. Episodes introduced in a recent work by former Japanese Ambassador to Oman Seiji Morimoto, "A Wonderland Oman: An Oasis in the Changing Middle East", also appear to be based on this account.

According to Shiga, at the time Oman had a population of 500,000 and the capital city of Muscat had a population of only 20,000 even when including areas in and among the city's spectacular cliffs. Its only exports were dates from date palms, shark fins, salt, pomegranates and lemons. Not to be overlooked are the kidney beans produced in Oman that can now be seen on supermarket shelves in Japan in winter.

Regardless, Shiga's record describes an Oman that is far removed from the prosperous producer nation it is today. As of 2008 the country's GDP was just under ¥5 trillion (about the same as Ishikawa Prefecture or Toyama Prefecture), and its GDP per capita was US\$19,000. When compared to Japan's GDP per capita of US\$40,000 and the Republic of Korea's figure of US\$16,000, Oman's affluence is clear. However, in Shiga's time, except for silver or nickel coins from British-ruled India, there were only copper coins and no gold or silver coins in circulation. Shiga states that India's paper money was accepted at its full value, suggesting that former Japanese Ambassador to Oman Seiji Morimoto's explanation that there was an important connection economically between India and Oman is absolutely correct.

Shiga lived through the tumultuous final days of the Tokugawa Shogunate and then the Meiji Restoration, and his courage is demonstrated by his sudden visit to a coastal royal palace where he requested an audience with the Sultan. His complete lack of servility was due to a sense of samurai realism and pride. The Sultan that Shiga referred to as "Sayyid Timar bin Faisal" was undoubtedly Sayyid Taimur bin Faisal. Shiga depicts the sultan as a "good master," like the refined gentleman Zhuge Liang, with "cashmere silk that was as white as freshly fallen snow" draped around his head, sitting calmly in bare feet on a sofa imported from the West. This impressive spectacle is cited by former Japanese Ambassador to Oman Seiji Morimoto as well.

The Sultan cordially explained to Shiga that if Japan encouraged commerce and industry in the region and strove to cultivate mutual friendships it would lead to an Arab revival and generate benefits for both sides, asking "Why don't Japanese people come to Arabistan right away?" Shiga, who had mistakenly been convinced that Arabs were "ferocious" and "murderous" until his audience with the Sultan, was overwhelmed. Moved by his exceptional grace, Shiga reconsidered the prejudices and misunderstandings that foreigners have a tendency to fall prey to.

The fact that a samurai who lived through the final days of the Tokugawa Shogunate and then the Meiji Restoration traveled the world and was capable of interacting with Arabs with an open mind - regardless of whether they were royalty or commoners - was very much due to his pride over the unification of Japan and his healthy sense of patriotism. When a territorial dispute arose over the southern Marcus Island in the Ogasawara Islands in 1898, it was Shiga who distinguished himself by having the location renamed as Minami-Tori Island and bringing it under the jurisdiction of the Tokyo government. It can incidentally be pointed out that there are many things that post-war Japanese governments, political parties, and other groups that have constantly failed to adopt a resolute stance in territorial disputes, whether over the Takeshima Islands, the Senkaku Islands, or other territories, could learn from Shiga, who possessed a good balance of both level-headed scholarly knowledge and a patriotic sense of responsibility.

1972 May 7	Establishment of diplomatic relation between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan
1972	Muneo Yanagisawa, then a senior at Keio University, visited and was given an audience by H.M. Sultan Qaboos
1973 September	The Japan-Oman Friendship Society is founded in Tokyo
1974 March 21	Oman-Japan Friendship Association is founded in Muscat
1979 April	Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Tokyo was opened
1980 October	Embassy of Japan in Muscat was opened



Modern Relations



Since the official establishment of their diplomatic relations on May 7th, 1972, and with a backdrop of nearly 400 years of friendly contacts between them, Oman and Japan have shared friendly political and diplomatic relations for multiple decades. The growing interaction and cooperation between the two governments has been reflected in various areas over the years.

The exchange of diplomatic representation in both capitals began with the opening of the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Tokyo, and the Embassy of Japan in Muscat in April 1979 and October 1980 respectively. The two missions played an important and vital role in the development of the bilateral relations. Another important catalyst in the early development of courteous relations was the establishment of the Japan-Oman Friendship Society in Tokyo in September 1973, and the Oman-Japan Friendship Association in Muscat in March 1974.

The important exchanges of high-ranking official visits from members of the royal families, senior government officials, members of parliament, and business and academic leaders has also played a fundamental role in strengthening this bilateral relationship and paving the way for growing exchanges and cooperation in many areas. This includes energy and water,

trade and industry, investment, finance, human resources and infrastructure development, tourism, culture, science and education, security, and environment.

Several high-profile visits in particular have further strengthened the friendly relationship between Oman and Japan. From the Japanese side, notable visits to Oman include the 1994 visit by Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince and Princess, H.E. Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in 1990, and H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru in 1991. From Oman, the visits of H.H. Sayyid Thuwaini bin Shihab Al Said, Personal Representative of H.M. in 1989, H.H. Sayyid Faisal bin Ali Al-Said in 1990, H.H. Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al-Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers in 1997, and H.H. Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq Al-Said in 2002 and 2008. These and other ministerial exchanges by both sides have helped to enhance understandings of each other's cultures and traditions.

Frequent exchanges and political consultations between the two country's foreign ministries, both at the ministerial and senior official levels have taken place in Tokyo and Muscat as well as at various international forums. The two governments cofounding the Middle East Desalination Research Center within

the framework of the Middle East peace process, and their support of one another within the United Nations are excellent examples of this international cooperation. These kinds of discussions have contributed to advancing the mutual understanding and exchange of opinions on various regional and international issues.

Oman and Japan have also forged strong ties through the cooperation of their respective navies. The Sultanate has become an important supply base for vessels of the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) operating in the Indian Ocean, and has also welcomed the training squadron during their annual tour. This has led to the enhancement of the security relationship between Oman and Japan. Furthermore, given the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz through which Japan receives upwards of 80% of its oil, further cooperation in this area is of the utmost importance.

In an increasingly globalizing world, the various associations and bonds formed between countries will become as important as ever. As the following chapter will undoubtedly show, both Japan and Oman have continued to strive in their mutual pursuit of global safety, peace and security.



Minister for Foreign Affairs

"Japan thinks highly of the way the

foreign policy of Oman is contribut-

ing to the stability and prosperity of



H.E. Fumio Kishida Minister for Foreign Affairs of

the region"

In 2012, the Japan-Oman diplomatic relationship reached its 40th anniversary. I want to express my heartfelt congratulations on the publishing of this retrospective of our bilateral relationship over these past 40 years.

Under the wise and venerable reign of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, as a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and within dramatically changing conditions in the Middle East, Oman has developed a balanced, multidirectional foreign policy. Japan thinks highly of the way the foreign policy of Oman is contributing to the stability and prosperity of the region.

In terms of Japan-Oman diplomatic relations up to this point in time, our two countries have been steadily developing cooperation in economic areas through such means as the stable supply of energy from Oman to Japan and investment by Japan into Oman's infrastructure.

Furthermore, from a political security perspective as well, in recent years Japan has been cooperating closely for the securing of safe sea-lanes with Oman, which faces both the Strait of Hormuz and the waters off the coast of Somalia. In addition, there have been frequent visits at the Cabinet level by both sides, and person-toperson exchanges are progressing as well thanks to the efforts of people at every level

> of society from both countries within the fields of culture and the sciences.

> In this way, over our 40-year history we have seen the development of a truly multifaceted relationship between Japan and Oman. I intend to continue to make every effort to strengthen our friendly relations even further moving forward.



Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs



H.E. Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah

Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman

As borders become increasingly fluid in a globalized world, the need for close cooperation and communication between nations has never been more important. With this in mind, the Sultanate of Oman's foreign policy continues to pursue a constructive policy of openness, cooperation, and harmony with the rest of the world, taking into consideration geo-strategic realities and pragmatism that seeks mutual benefit and promotes understanding and peace.

While Oman and Japan are in different parts of the world, we have maintained close and friendly bilateral relations now for more than 40 years. These firmly established relations have been demonstrated through diplomatic, commercial, economic and cultural spheres time and again, and we look forward to the further enhancement of this multi-faceted relationship.

I myself have visited Japan on several occasions, and, like Oman, Japan is a peaceful nation rich in natural and cultural beauty. I will never forget the hospitality and courtesy extended to me during my visits to Japan over the years. I am hopeful and confident to see more Japanese and Omanis visiting each other's nations, and enjoying their visits, building new partnerships and beneficial endeavours together.

In the realm of foreign policy, both Japan and Oman share similar strategic perspectives. That is to contribute to the consolidation of international peace and security and the promotion of dialogue and understanding, as well as supporting the resolution of problems through peaceful means. Exemplified in the turbulence shown in both our regions, it is crucial that we work together to build and maintain peace for the benefit of all mankind.

If we stay true to these fundamental principles upon which our nations were built, there is a bright future ahead for everyone.

"If we stay true to these fundamental principles upon which our nations were built, there is a bright future ahead for everyone"

As our two countries celebrate the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations and take the opportunity to reiterate our continued and firm support to this relationship of friendship and cooperation. May it continue to grow from strength to strength, and for many more years to come.

Former Prime Minister Kaifu



H.E. Toshiki Kaifu Former Prime Minister of Japan

My heartfelt congratulations on the 40th anniversary of Japan-Oman diplomatic relations and the publication of this commemorative book.

I understand that the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2012 was celebrated by the opening of a number of cultural events in both countries, including exhibitions of Omani paintings and archeological artifacts in Tokyo, and an exhibition of Japanese paintings and a Wadaiko drum performance in Muscat. I believe that these events further deepened mutual cultural understanding among the people of our two countries.

I myself visited Oman in October 1990 during my tenure as Prime Minister. While there, I was able to speak about the enhancement of Japan-Oman relations with a number of Omani officials including His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said and Special Adviser to his Majesty H.E. Dr. Omar bin Abdul Muniem Al Zawawi. It was an extremely significant visit. I also remember hearing the sound of waves from the Arabian Sea in Salalah, a very calming experience. I hope to visit the beautiful country of Oman again in the near future.

I pray for the greater prosperity of Oman and for the further development of the Japan-Oman relationship in the future.





Former Prime Minister Fukuda ...



H.E. Yasuo Fukuda Former Prime Minister of Japan, Member of the House of Representatives

I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the publishing of this book commemorating the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Oman.

Oman occupies a strategic position at the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz and is a supplier of the crude oil and LNG that are vital to Japan, a country with few natural resources. Given Oman's importance, Japan must further strengthen its ties with the country, not only in the economic and energy sectors, but in a broad array of other areas as well, including politics, culture and sports, and science and technology.

I visited Oman in March 2009, and even now I vividly remember the beauty of Oman, the birthplace of Sinbad from "The Book of One Thousand and One Nights (Arabian Nights)," and recall how touched I was by the warm welcome I received from the people of Oman.

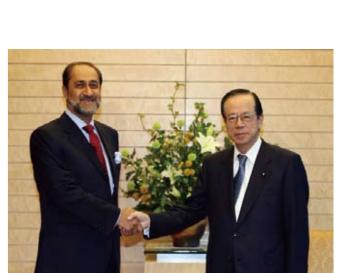
It is my hope that the friendship between the two countries will be further deepened through exchanges and heart-to-heart interaction between the people of Japan and Oman.



Meeting with H.H. Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, in Muscat 2009



Meeting with H.H. Sayyid Haitham in Muscat 2009



Meeting with H.H. Sayyid Haitham in Tokyo 2008



Japan-Oman Parliamentarians Friendship League



H.E. Seishiro Eto Chairman, Japan-Oman Parliamentarians Friendship League, Vice-Speaker of the House of Representatives

"I sincerely hope that new chapters will continue to be added to the history of our countries and the bilateral relationship"

I express my congratulations on the publication of this book, commemorating the 40th anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan in this year, 2012.

Although our countries have had a history of exchanges since the 17th century, I understand that it was only after the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1972 that the bilateral relationship has deepened in various fields, including politics, economy and culture.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, our countries have built a close relationship, including meetings between the Royal Family of Oman and the Imperial Family of Japan, mutual visits of dignitaries, and cooperation in the field of energy, such as oil and gas. In recent years, an increasing number of Japanese companies have started operations in Oman, and cooperation in dealing with piracy and exchanges in academic fields and sports have also been increasing.

When I served as the Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs in 2001, I visited Oman in March and met with a number of Ministers. I recall that the meeting with Mr. Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs, was particularly productive, for having an in-depth exchange of views on the regional situation including that of Iraq and the Middle East in general.

I was captivated by Oman during my first visit. Beautiful Muscat with its white houses and buildings and the rich natural features of Oman left a lasting impression on me. The kindness of the people who thought well of Japan made me feel warmly toward them.

This visit gave me an opportunity to serve as the Chairman of the Japan-Oman Parliamentary League of Friendship, and since then, I have been exerting efforts toward fostering the bilateral relationship.

In April 2010, after I assumed the office of Vice-Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dr. Ahmed bin Abdul Nabi Macki, Minister of National Economy, visited me in my official residence; we had an enthusiastic exchange of views on matters related to the strengthening of bilateral ties as well as countermeasures against piracy off the coast of Somalia.

Various commemorative events have been held this year in our countries. In Japan, under

the leadership of Ambassador Al-Muslahi, cultural events, such as exhibitions of Oman's geology and paintings by an Omani artist, have been held and attracted many visitors. I have learned that in Oman, an exhibition of paintings by a Japanese artist and Japanese drum performances have been held, attended by many Omani

There is an ever-increasing need for bilateral cooperation in such areas as energy issues and measures toward the safety of the seas.

The publication of this book could not come at a better time. I am convinced that it will contribute toward deepening our understanding of each other's country and the bilateral relationship, which will in turn further foster cooperation and exchanges in a wide range of fields, including tourism.

I sincerely hope that new chapters will continue to be added to the history of our countries and the bilateral relationship starting after this anniversary year.



DPJ Japan-Oman Parliamentary Friendship Group



H.E. Issei Koga Chairman, DPJ Japan-Oman Parliamentary Friendship Group Member of the House of Representatives

"I pray that the efforts of everyone involved will see the relationship of goodwill and friendship between the two countries progress further"

Japan and Oman are celebrating their 40th year of diplomatic relations. I would like to express my heartfelt respect and gratitude to the many individuals involved in the effort to promote the two countries' goodwill and friendship thus far. In particular, when the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred on March 11 last year your country preferentially supplied Japan with liquefied natural gas and pledged \$10 million of relief money, and again I thank you sincerely for that kindness.

Oman is located on the southeast end of the Arabian Peninsula, and occupies a strategically important position in the Middle East, facing the Arabian Sea. It is an extremely important country for Japan, providing Japan with a stable supply of crude oil and LNG. Additionally, it is the birthplace of Sinbad, of The Book of One Thousand and One Nights (Arabian Nights), and is a country of abundant scenic beauty. It is also a wealthy country economically and spiritually, and I understand that Japanese people who have visited your country all treasure favorable impressions of it.

The 40th anniversary of the coronation of Sultan Qaboos was celebrated the year before last, and various events were held in both Japan and Oman. In Japan, the Omani Ministry of Heritage and Culture played a central role in hosting "Omani Cultural Days" at the Tokyo International Forum over a period of a week in December, including panel displays of photographs showcasing Oman's natural environment and culture, and demonstrations of traditional crafts, and I have been told this enhanced mutual understanding between the two

In celebrating this 40th anniversary of the establishment of Oman-Japan diplomatic relations, among the events taking place in Japan are an Omani geological and natural history

> exposition and an exhibition of works by an Omani woman artist, while in Muscat an exhibition of works by artist Rieko Morita, Japanese drum performances and other events are being held. The Democratic Party of Japan has also decided to fully launch activities by the DPJ Japan-Oman Parliamentary Friendship Group, in order to build a multilayered relationship with your country. It is my hope that via the activities of the Parliamentary Friendship Group, cooperation with Oman continues to be pursued in a variety of areas.

> With the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations as one milestone, I pray that the efforts of everyone involved will see the relationship of goodwill and friendship between the two countries progress further, and I offer my congratulations.



The Exchange of High-Level Visits

This section highlights some of the most high profile exchanges between Japan and Oman. These include the visit of H.H. Sayyid Fahd in 1997 and H.H. Sayyid Haitham in 2008 to Japan and the visit of Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess to Oman in 1994.

One of the most crucial aspects of furthering bilateral relationships is through the frequent exchange of high-level visits. We live in an age of globalization, where traditional definitions of borders and boundaries no longer apply. Cooperation and communication at all levels are extremely important to promote understanding, mutual respect, and friendship between different nations and cultures. These visits have encouraged further efforts to enhance the uniqueness and richness of the relationship that exists today.



H.H. Sayyid Haitham in an imperial audience with His Majesty the Emperor of Japan



The audience held by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said during the 1994 visit to Oman



Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess converse with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said





The courtesy call by His Highness Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, Minister of Heritage and Culture of the Sultanate of Oman to His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince in 2008

Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess attending the welcoming ceremony



Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess viewing the horse presented by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said



The pedigree paper of the horse (Ahazeej) being viewed by Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess, which was presented by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said

The poem recited about Ahazeej at the 2001 New Year poetry reading by His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince

Galloping across the grassy plain, her mane streaming - The Arabian horse arrived, crossing the high seas.



From the visit of H.E. Taro Nakayama, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan to Oman in 1990









From the meeting of H.H. Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, with H.E. Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, during his visit to Japan in 1997

Prominent Visits to Oman (1984-)

1984 Apr.	H.E. Mr. Sosuke Uno, Special Envoy		
1005 Na.	(Former Minister for International Trade and Industry)		
1985 Nov.	H.E. Mr. Masayuki Fujio, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan		
1987 Jan.	H.E. Mr. Masayuki Fujio, Member of the National Diet (Chairman of Japan-Oman Society)		
1987 Jun.	H.E. Mr. Koji Omi, Member of the National Diet (Board Member of Japan-Oman Society)		
1988 Jul.	Survey Team on Energy Resources, Liberal Democratic Party of Japan		
1988 Aug.	H.E. Mr. Takashi Sato, Member of the National Diet (former Minister for Agriculture)		
1990 Jul.	H.E. Mr. Fumio Saito, Parliamentary Vice Minister for International Trade and Industries		
1990 Aug.	H.E. Mr. Taro Nakayama, Minister for Foreign Affairs		
1990 Oct.	H.E. Mr. Toshiki Kaifu, Prime Minister of Japan		
1991 Jul.	H.E. Mr. Shin Kanemaru, Deputy Prime Minister		
1991 Jul.	H.E. Mr. Mamoru Nakajima, Member of the National Diet		
1991 Jul.	H.E. Mr. Hosei Norota, Member of the National Diet		
1994 Nov.	Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako		
1997 Nov.	Mr. Hiroshi Hirabayashi, Chief Cabinet Councillors' Office on External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat		
2001 Mar.	H.E. Mr. Seishiro Eto, Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs		
2001 Aug.	H.E. Ms. Kaori Maruya, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs		
2002 Aug.	General Toru Ishikawa, Chief of Staff, JMSDF		
2003 Jan.	H.E. Ms. Yuriko Koike, Member of the House of Representatives		
2003 Jun.	General Kouichi Furusho, Chief of Staff, JMSDF		
2004 Apr.	Mr. Koji Tanami, Deputy Governor of Japan Bank for International Cooperation		
2005 Jan.	H.E. Mr. Katsuyuki Kawai, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs		
2005 Jun.	General Ryoichi Oriki, Vice Chief of Staff, Japan Ground Self Defense Force		
2006 Feb.	Mr. Satoshi Iwamura, Advisor, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (Tourism Mission)		
2006 Feb.	General Takashi Saito, Chief of Staff, JMSDF		
2006 Jul.	H.E. Mr. Yasutoshi Nishimura, Member of the National Diet		
2006 Nov.	H.E. Mr. Yasutoshi Nishimura, Member of the National Diet		
2006 Nov.	Mr. Koji Tanami, Deputy Governor of Japan Bank for International Cooperation		
2007 Jan.	H.E. Mr. Masakazu Sekiguchi, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs		
2007 Jul.	H.E. Mr. Kazunori Tanaka, Senior Vice Minister for Financial Affairs		
2007 Jul.	General Eiji Yoshikawa, Chief of Staff, JMSDF		
2008 May	H.E. Ms. Yoko Kamikawa, Minister of State for Gender Equality and Social Affairs		
2008 May	Vice Admiral Yoji Koda, Commander in Chief, Self Defense Fleet, Japan Maritime Self Defense Force		
2008 Jul.	Mr. Hiroshi Okuda, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister		
2008 Jul.	Delegation from the House of Representative, National Diet of Japan		
2008 Nov.	H.E. Mr. Toshio Yamauchi, Senior Vice Minister for Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Ministerial Meeting of Ministers of G8 and BMENA countries)		
2009 Feb.	Ms. Atsuko Toyama, President of New National Theater, Tokyo (former Minister for Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)		
2009 Feb.	H.E. Mr. Yasutoshi Nishimura, Parliamentary Vice-Minister		
2009 Mar.	H.E. Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister (Former Prime Minister)		
2009 May	Mr. Hiroshi Watanabe, President and CEO, Japan Bank for International Cooperation		
2009 May	Rear Admiral Masao Kawamura, Commander of the Training Squadron, Japan Maritime Self Defense Force		
2009 Jun.	Mr. Toru Izumi, Commander in Chief, Self Defense Fleet, Japan Maritime Self Defense Force		
2009 Dec.	H.E. Mr. Hidehisa Otsuji, former Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare		
2010 Jan.	H.E. Mr. Daizo Kusuda, Parliamentary Vice Minister of Defense		
2010 Apr.	H.E. Mr. Koji Omi, former Minister of Finance		
2011 Jan.	H.E. Mr. Hisashi Tokunaga, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs		
2011 Feb.	H.E. Wakako Hironaka, Former Minister of Environment		
	·		
2011 Mar.	H.E. Tadatsuna Koda, President of JCCME		

Prominent Visits to Japan (1986-)

1986 Jul.	H.E. Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdullah Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs
1986 Sep.	H.E. Said bin Ahmed bin Said Al Shanfari Minister of Petroleum and Minerals
1986 Nov.	H.E. Dr. Omar bin Abdul Muneim Al Zawawi Special Advisor to H.M. for External Liaison
1987 Nov.	H.E. Dr. Omar bin Abdul Muneim Al Zawawi Special Advisor to H.M. for External Liaison
1989 Feb.	H.H. Sayyid Thuwaini bin Shihab bin Faisal Al Said Personal Representative of H.M.
1989 Feb.	H.E. Dr. Omar bin Abdul Muneim Al Zawawi Special Advisor to H.M. for External Liaison
1989 Feb.	H.E. Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdullah Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs
1989 May	H.E. Dr. Omar bin Abdul Muneim Al Zawawi Special Advisor to H.M. for External Liaison
1990 Mar.	H.E. Dr. Omar bin Abdul Muneim Al Zawawi Special Advisor to H.M. for External Liaison
1990 Apr.	H.E. Dr. Omar bin Abdul Muneim Al Zawawi Special Advisor to H.M. for External Liaison
1990 Nov.	H.H. Sayyid Faisal bin Ali bin Faisal Minister of National Heritage and Culture
1991 Sep.	H.E. Dr. Omar bin Abdul Muneim Al Zawawi Special Advisor to H.M. for External Liaison
1992 Mar.	H.E. Maqbool bin Ali bin Sultan Minister of Commerce and Industry
1994 Oct.	H.E. Mohamed bin Marhoon Al Maamari Minister of Sports Affairs
1994 Nov.	H.E. Said bin Ahmed bin Said Al Shanfari Minister of Petroleum and Minerals
1996 Sep.	H.E. Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdullah Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs
1996 Sep.	H.E. Sheikh Salim bin Hilal Al Khalili President of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry
1997 Feb.	H.H. Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers
1997 Feb.	H.E. Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdullah Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs
1997 Feb.	H.E. Ahmed bin Abdulnabi Macki Minister of National Economy
1997 Feb.	H.E. Maqbool bin Ali bin Sultan Minister of Commerce and Industry
1997 Feb.	H.E. Yahya bin Mahfoodh Al Manthri Minister of Higher Education
1997 Aug.	H.E. Dr. Omar bin Abdul Muneim Al Zawawi Special Advisor to H.M. for External Liaison
1998 May	H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad bin Saif Al Rumhy Minister of Oil and Gas
1998 Aug.	H.E. Ahmed bin Khalfan Al Rawahi Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries
1999 Mar.	H.E. Ahmed bin Abdulnabi Macki Minister of National Economy
2000 Apr.	H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad bin Saif Al Rumhy Minister of Oil and Gas
2000 Jun.	H.E. Dr. Mubarak bin Saleh Al Khadouri Special Adviser to H.M. the Sultan
2000 Jul.	H.E. Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdullah Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs
2000 Jui.	
2002 Jun.	His Highness Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq Al Said Minister of Heritage and Culture

2002 Sep.	H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad bin Saif Al Rumhy Minister of Oil and Gas
2002 Nov.	H.E. Dr. Omar bin Abdul Muneim Al Zawawi Special Advisor to H.M. for External Liaison
2003 Dec.	H.E. Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdullah Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs
2004 Mar	H.E. Shikah Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Isa A Harthy Minister of Transport and Telecommunication
2004 Jul.	H.E. Ahmed bin Abdulnabi Macki Minister of National Economy
2004 Oct.	H.E. Sheikha Aisha bint Khalfan Al Siyabiya Chairperson of Public Authority for Craft Industries
2004 Oct.	H.E. Dr. Omar bin Abdul Muneim Al Zawawi Special Advisor to H.M. for External Liaison
2005 Jun.	H.E. Ahmed bin Abdulnabi Macki Minister of National Economy
2005 Dec.	H.E. Ahmed bin Abdulnabi Macki Minister of National Economy
2006 Jun.	H.E. Ahmed bin Abdulnabi Macki Minister of National Economy
2007 FebMar.	H.E. Dr. Omar bin Abdul Muneim Al Zawawi Special Advisor to H.M. for External Liaison
2007 May	H.E. Ahmed bin Abdulnabi Macki Minister of National Economy
2008 MarApr.	His Highness Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq Al Said Minister of Heritage and Culture
2008 Apr.	H.E. Ahmed bin Abdulnabi Macki Minister of National Economy
2008 May	H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad bin Saif Al Rumhy Minister of Oil and Gas
2008 Dec.	H.E. Ahmed bin Abdulnabi Macki Minister of National Economy
2009 Apr.	H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad bin Saif Al Rumhy Minister of Oil and Gas
2009 Jul.	H.E. Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2009 Oct.	H.E. Dr. Rawiyah Saud Al Busaidiyah Minister of Higher Education
2010 Apr.	H.E. Ahmed bin Abdulnabi Macki Minister of National Economy
2010 Apr.	H.E. Sayyid Hamood bin Faisal Al Busaidi Minister of Environment and Climate Affairs
2010 Jul.	H.E. Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdullah Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs
2010 Oct.	H.E. Dr. Rawiyah Saud Al Busaidiyah Minister of Higher Education
2010 Oct.	H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad bin Saif Al Rumhy Minister of Oil and Gas
2010 Oct.	H.E. Sayyid Hamood bin Faisal Al Busaidi Minister of Environment and Climate Affairs
2010 Nov.	H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad bin Saif Al Rumhy Minister of Oil and Gas
2011 Feb.	Rear Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al Raeesi Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman
2011 Dec.	H.E. Shaikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Abdullah Al Bakri Minister of Manpower
2012 May	H.E. Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Salim Al Futaisi Minister of Transport and Communications
2012 Jul	H.E. Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2012 Dec	H.E. Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Prestigious Royal Decorations and Recognitions

While Oman and Japan reside half a world from one another, a unique and essential aspect of our national identities we share in common is the esteem in which we hold our Royal Families. Both the Imperial Family of Japan and the Royal Family of Oman have long histories in their respective nations, as well as with one another. Over the years, many individuals have taken initiatives in promoting ideals of cross-cultural exchange and dialogue. This commitment to cooperation and strengthening relations between Oman and Japan has been recognised by both respective Governments. His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan and His Majesty the Sultan of Oman has conferred the following prestigious decorations to each other's distinguished nationals for their exceptional efforts in serving relations of friendship between the two nations.



H.E. Dr. Omar Abdul Munim Al-Zawawi Nov 3, 1998 The First Order of the Sacred Treasure



H.H. Sayyid Thuwaini Shihab Al-Said Nov 3, 1992 The First Order of the Rising Sun



H.E. Mohammed Al Zubair Al Jumah Nov 3, 1999 The First Order of the Sacred Treasure



Sheikh Saud Salim Bahwan Al-Mukhaini Nov 3, 2001 The Third Order of the Rising Sun



H.E. Ahmed Abdulnabi Macki Nov 3, 2008 Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun



Sheikh Said Nasser Mansoor Al-Khusaibi Nov 3, 2009 The Third Order of the Rising Sun



H.E. Dr. Mohamed Al-Rumhi Nov 3, 2010 Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun



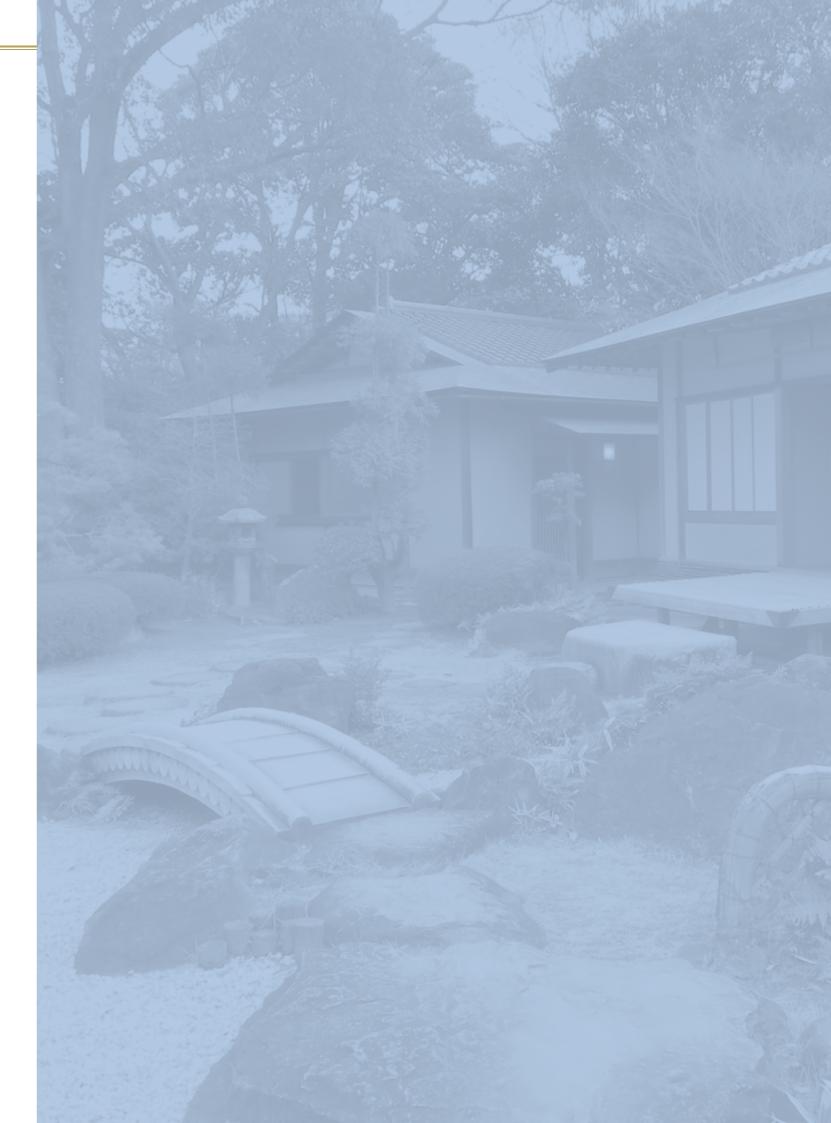
H.E. Ambassador Tadatsuna Koda Jun 1, 1998 The Al Nu'man Order (1 Class)



H.E. Ambassador Seiji Morimoto Sep 11, 2011 The Al Nu'man Order (1 Class)



Professor Haruo Endo Sep 9, 2007 The Order of HM Sultan Qaboos for Culture, Science and Art (1st Class)



Oman and Japan's Maritime Relations

"The maritime cooperation between Japan and Oman remains vital and plays a significant role in further developing friendly relations and goodwill between the two countries"



RNOV "Shabab Oman" Participation in 100th Anniversary of Osaka Port at Okinawa Port Japan, 1994



Japanese sailboat "Akogare"



Over the years, there have been several maritime cross-cultural exchanges between Oman and Japan. To understand this relationship, one must recognize the combination of Oman's geographical location as well as its rich seafaring history.

The expansive 3,165 kilometer coastline reflects one of the principal themes in Oman's history; that of its maritime tradition. Whether they were sailors, navigators, or ship builders, the seafaring expertise of the Omani people has helped shape the national character of the country. For centuries the ports and harbors of Dhofar, Qalhat, Sohar, Sur, and Muscat as well as the inlets and fjords of the Musandam Peninsula were home to some of the most highly regarded trading and ship building centers in the entire Arabian coast. Omani sailors and traders who traveled far and wide throughout the world earned recognition as leaders of the seas.

This tradition of Oman's fascination with the sea and the wealth of its heritage continue to this day in several forms. The Shabab Oman, otherwise known as the "Youth of Oman," is one of the largest vessels of its kind in the world and considered an important ambassador for Oman. It regularly visits ports worldwide to promote friendship and stimulate interest in the Sultanate. In 1997, to commemorate the occasion of Osaka Port's first centenary celebration. the Shabab Oman traveled to Japan to participate in Sail Osaka '97 and the Hong Kong/Osaka Tall Ship's Race. The ship was also visited by Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Takamado on the occasion of its visit to Osaka.

Three years later in the year 2000, another tall sail ship, the Akogare, would take to the seas on what would be the first voyage by a Japanese sailing ship around the world. During the course of the nine month, 260 day trip, the Akogare would stop at twelve destinations across several continents. On 2 November, the Akogare pulled into Muscat harbor where it would be greeted by the Shabab Oman. In fact the Akogare was also a participant at Osaka '97, and the crews of the two ships enjoyed a warm reunion and each other's company over a traditional Omani breakfast.

Beyond missions of cultural exchange, there are further examples of maritime cooperation between Oman and Japan. The ports of Muscat and Sohar are conveniently located near the Strait of Hormuz, one of the most important shipping lanes in the world. Major Japanese corporations including Mitsubishi and Itochu Corporation have utilized the services of Oman Shipping Company S.A.O.C., managed by the Government of the Sultanate. Frequent visits by Japanese and other foreign ships to these ports both strengthen





diplomatic ties as well as continue a tradition of trade and commerce going back hundreds of years.

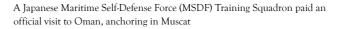
The Royal and Japanese Navies have also come to develop a close relationship in the last several years. On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said's accession to the throne, a Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (MSDF) Training Squadron paid an official visit to Oman, anchoring in Muscat. The MSDF Training Squadron had in the past made several visits to the ports of Muscat and Salalah during refueling and anti-piracy missions.

On this specific occasion, MSDF Commander Shinichi Tokumaru and his staff paid a courtesy call to the Governor of Muscat, Sayyid al Mutassim bin Hamoud al Busaidy, and Commander Abdullah bin Khamis Al-Raisi. After a luncheon hosted by the Royal Navy, Omani and Japanese sailors participated in a boat race which attracted a number of tourists along the Muscat port.

Given that Japan imports most of its oil through the Strait of Hormuz, and with the constant attention needed in navigating the Gulf to avoid trouble, the maritime cooperation between Japan and Oman remains vital and plays a significant role in further developing friendly relations and goodwill between the two countries.











Shabab Oman

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The Middle East Desalination Research Center





H.E. Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi

Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sultanate of Oman Chairman, Middle East Desalination Research Center



While for many years Japan and Oman have enjoyed longstanding bilateral ties across numerous fields and disciplines, their close multilateral cooperation in supporting

the Middle East Desalination Research Center (MEDRC) has been one of the most important and effective collaborations.

In the same year in which we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Oman-Japan diplomatic relations, it is the 15th anniversary of the establishment of MEDRC. Both countries were founding members of this institution along with the United States, Israel and South Korea. Over the years, since the establishment of the Center in 1996, MEDRC's membership has expanded to include the Palestinian National Authority, Jordan, the Netherlands, Qatar and Spain.

MEDRC is a Multilateral Peace Process organisation and represents an important symbol of our shared vision for peace. The philosophy behind MEDRC was and remains, that regional water shortages and disputes can only be solved by regional and international cooperation. That is why Oman and Japan, together with our partners, consider MEDRC an essential instrument for peace and development.

One of the major achievements of MEDRC is the expanding cooperation between the core parties of the peace process, in terms of training senior water experts from Gaza, the West Bank and Jordan in Israel. This example demonstrates that water can be a binding factor between the core parties even when progress on bilateral subjects, show little or no development at all.

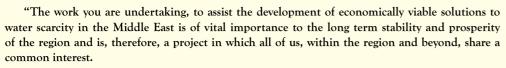
MEDRC is taking a new step forward by using state of the art equipment from Japanese industry to nurture new expertise in the MENA region in desalination and re-use of waste water $\frac{1}{2}$

technology. National operators, supervisors, maintenance technicians and managers will receive certified theoretical and practical training at MEDRC headquarters in Muscat. This is the first time such training has been available in the region.

As members of the Center, both Oman and Japan will undoubtedly continue in their multilateral step by step cooperation in order to make clean and affordable water available throughout the Middle East.

Our shared commitment to peace is steadfast. We shall continue to support all efforts to bring a lasting peace to the region.

I extend my congratulations to those responsible for the publication of this book and I look forward to continuing the longstanding association shared by our two countries.



The government of Japan, together with the international community, has been supporting the peace process in various aspects, and will continue to commit ourselves to this very important issue from now onwards. Among our international cooperation toward the peace process, we attach great importance to cooperative initiatives in the field of desalination technology.

We are proud to be associated as a founding member of the Middle East Desalination Research Center, with the work you are doing, and, in reaffirming our support for your work, wish you every success in the future."

Keizo Obuchi

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan-1998



One characteristic that Japan and Oman have keenly shared over recent years has been a recognition of the highly important scientific research of the Middle East Desalination Research Center. Both nations have made it a top priority to encourage high standards of research in this field and Oman has offered the researchers a home in the region since its inception.

Oman and Japan, whose diplomatic ties span the past 40 years, have worked closely and effectively in many ways, but of particular importance is their close cooperation in supporting the Middle East Desalination Research Center. There has been strong support from both the present US Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton, and her predecessor, Condoleezza Rice.

The work of MEDRC is based on the undoubted fact that in the Middle East Region there is an unprecedented need for water that is growing as population expands. A co-ordinated international approach is vital and there is no doubt that the impact of MEDRC continues to grow with the water authorities of both Palestine and Jordan as well as Qatar. Israel, South Korea, the Netherlands and Spain have also joined in the support of this research. In addition, the European Union can now also be counted as a moral supporter in this highly practical effort to make many desert areas of the Middle East bloom.

All those behind the MEDRC effort are convinced that much greater prosperity can come to the Middle East through a coordinated scientific approach, which is already yielding positive results. MEDRC has identified four specific objectives. First to discover, develop and improve methods of water desalination and treatment of waste water through basic and applied research; and second to initiate certified training programs in the field of desalination and water re-use.

Third, there has been an emphasis on electronic networking communications to improve the spread of technical information. There is also an effort to reduce desalting costs and possible effects on the environment. All this, it is argued, will improve the quality of life of those living and working in the region. Fourth, but by no means least, each year MEDRC evaluates and updates its program and it is developing further fixed goals of achievement which include decreasing the cost of desalination, to develop productive partnerships and co-operation, and to discover new water processing technologies.

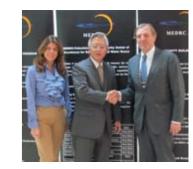
The Government of Japan, in addition to its initial membership contribution, continues to fund MEDRC and also to sponsor various capacity building initiatives. For example a seminar on Water Desalination and Water Resources Management was organized in Japan in March 1998. This training program was designed to contribute to the effective water resources development of the Middle East region as part of a cooperative action by the Government of Japan to support the activities conducted by MEDRC. The primary objective of the program is to provide information on Japan's highly sophisticated water desalination technology and water resources management through lectures, observation and discussion. Participants were water professionals from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Palestinian National Authority, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Yemen, Turkey and Israel.

Another course fully funded by the Government of Japan and which MEDRC organized was on "Aquatic Chemistry - Fouling and Scaling in Reverse Osmosis". It was held in Muscat, Oman on March 19-22, 2005. The idea of co-organizing this short training course comes

from Japan's continuous initiative to support MEDRC. As an establishing member of MEDRC, Japan has been actively engaged in MEDRC activities, as it holds a keen awareness that water is one of the vital factors for prosperity, peace and security in the MENA region. The Japanese Embassy in Muscat, Oman, participated in the opening and closing ceremony of the course.

On the world market in general and in North Africa and the Middle East in particular the innovative Japanese industry holds a very powerful key position on desalination and waste water treatment technology. Further cooperation between Japan and MEDRC in Oman is foreseen on the MEDRC program for practical and theoretical training of operators, maintenance technicians, supervisors and managers of desalination and waste water treatment plants. Discussions are under way for using superior Japanese equipment for these practical on hands trainings.

A very valuable service is the website, www.medrc.org, which provides a database of professionals working in the field of water desalination.



Mrs. Shannon McCarthy, Deputy Center Director, Mr. Shinichi Yamanaka, Charge d'Affairs, Embassy of Japan, Ambassador Ronald Mollinger, Center Director of

"The Center has served as an important vehicle to pursue the goals of the Middle East Peace Process and has brought about many fruitful and concrete results in the area of desalination training and research. Japan commends the significant role which the Center has played during the past ten years and is confident that it will continue to be an important institution in the Middle East."

Taro A

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan-2006

Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman



Located in the stylish, international neighborhood of Hiroo, the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman is a magnificent structure featuring cutting edge design and structural elements. Reflecting present day Oman, the Embassy combines traditional Omani and Islamic style architecture features, as well as the latest in modern and environmentally conscious technologies.

Designed by the world-renowned Sakon Kimura and Yoshihiko Sano of Yasui Architects & Engineers, the 2,404 square meter structure with a 6,589 square meter floor area includes eight floors (with basement), large working and living spaces for the Ambassador and other diplomats, reception halls, meeting and lecture rooms equipped with the latest technology in presentation equipment, and is surrounded from all sides with a variety of trees, shrubs and florae, including cherry blossoms, palm and olive trees. It also boasts three large garden terraces on the upper floors.

Elements found in Omani castles and palaces are also mirrored in the arched windows, high ceilings with Islamic designs, large crystal chandeliers, and the extensive use of Omani marble and granite throughout the Embassy. The structure is also designed with awareness of the environment in mind, utilizing natural sunlight and energy saving light fixtures, double glazed windows and insulated walls, as well as using smart energy

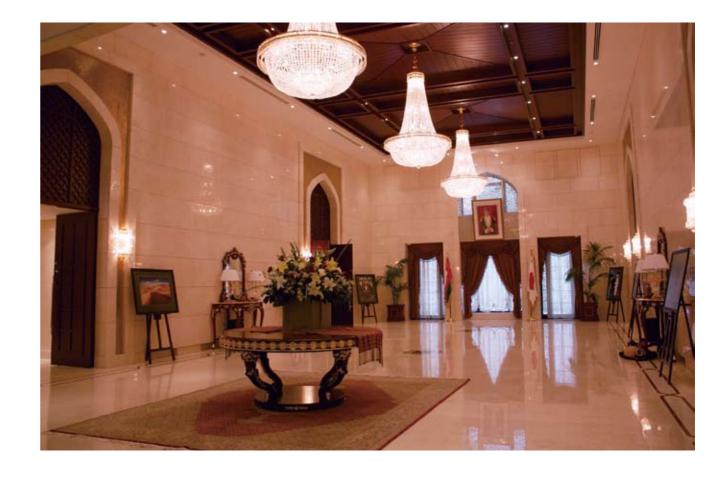






Embassy Opening Ceremony on July 2, 2009









saving, gas operated equipment for heating and cooling.

The building was officially inaugurated on July 2, 2009 by H.E. Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and guest of honor H.E. Shinzo Abe, Former Prime Minister of Japan in the presence of high ranking officials from the Japanese government, ambassadors accredited to Japan, business leaders, and other

The modern elegance and class of the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman symbolizes not only the strong existing foundation between Japan and Oman, but signifies the beginning of a new era of friendship and mutual cooperation between the two nations.



Message from the Ambassador



H.E. Khalid bin Hashil Al-Muslahi

Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan

"It was a great honour for me to be appointed to serve the relations between Oman and Japan, and my tasks were assisted by the support of many people and organisations here in Japan"

My first visit to Japan was in 1994 at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of lapan in a program to introduce lapan to young officials from the Arab world. We visited Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Kobe and had homestay experiences with Japanese families in Utsunomiya. We learnt a great deal on the culture of Japan, its customs and traditions, history, natural beauty and advanced technologies. I was fascinated with what I had seen and experienced, and it confirmed and added to my high admiration of Japan and its friendly

Although I visited Japan afterwards on a work related short-visit, my true experience of Japan started in January 2008, when I came to Tokyo with my family to reside here as the appointed Ambassador of Oman to Japan. Since then, we visited many parts of Japan, made many friends, and established various friendly acquaintances within a wide spectrum of the

It was a great honour for me to be appointed to serve the relations between Oman and Japan, and my tasks were assisted by the support of many people and organisations here in

Japan. All were very keen in advancing the Oman-Japan relations to new heights.

During the past several years since my arrival, I've witnessed an expansion in our trade and cultural relations, as well as the creation of new partnerships and ties of friendship and cooperation. The two government's efforts and aspirations to enhance the Oman-Japan bilateral relations and their international cooperation is indeed a model for other nations, and I am proud to be a part of this process.

On March 11, 2011 Japan witnessed an unprecedented natural disaster caused by the horrifying Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami, and the subsequent nuclear crisis. My thoughts and prayers go out to those who lost their lives, their families, the injured, and to those who are still suffering. Knowing the Japanese people, I have no doubt that they will come out of this crisis much stronger, and I hope that Japan will recover quickly from this tragedy.

Oman was among the first nations to express sincere condolences and sympathy for the deaths, injuries and devastation caused by the earthquake and tsunami. The Government and people of Oman offered their assistance to the Japanese people and stood in solidarity with Japan at that difficult time. The Omani people highly respected and admired the courage and resilience of the Japanese people in moving forward.

As we celebrated the happy 40th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations last year, I would like to congratulate the peoples of Oman and Japan on this auspicious occasion. I extend my gratitude and appreciation to those who have contributed meaningfully over the years to making Omani-Japanese multifaceted relations a success story.

I would also like to express my heartfelt appreciation and sincere thanks and gratitude to the people of Japan for the kindness and hospitality they have extended to me and my family since our arrival in this great and beautiful country, and my Embassy's warm greetings and appreciation to our many friends in Japan for their marvelous support and assistance in promoting the good relations between our two friendly peoples. I am also indebted to our sponsors, whose generosity made this publication possible.

I am confident that we will see further enhancements in our close bonds of friendship in the days to come.

Highlight of Embassy Activities

Sultan Qaboos Rose



Meticulously researched and developed by Dutch experts for its deep red color and gentle fragrance, and more importantly for its ability to thrive in cold and hot climates, the Sultan Qaboos Rose was given its name by the World Federation of Rose Societies in recognition of His Majesty's efforts both domestically and internationally, and for his role in bringing progress and peace to

The Rose made its first official appearance in April 1990 at the International Garden and Greenery Exhibition in Osaka, and since then has been cultivated in a number of rose gardens across

On May 28, 2010, a special ceremony was held at the Sultanate's Embassy in Japan to celebrate the cultivation of this rose on the embassy grounds, which was donated to the Embassy

by the Hiroshima-Oman Friendship Society in celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of Oman's

Ikuta Rose Garden in Kanagawa Prefecture Japan is also home to the Sultan Qaboos Rose. One of the leading national rose gardens in Japan, it attracts thousands of visitors throughout the year with rose displays varying from season to season. The Sultan Qaboos roses are planted in the royal corner of the garden.







The Sultan Oaboos Rose at the Ikuta Rose Garden in Kanagawa

Programs for students

One of the most important roles the Embassy plays is as an educational outlet to inform people about Omani and Arabic culture. The Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman constantly strives to accomplish this – and educating the Japanese public, and young people in general, is a great means to furthering cross-cultural understanding. On a regular monthly basis, the Embassy invites both high school and university level students to attend lectures, seminars and other fun and educational events.







International Orchid Festival, February 18, 2012

At the Japan Grand Prix International Orchid Festival held in February 2012, as part of a section devoted to "Miniature Displays of Orchids by Wives of Ambassadors," the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman contributed a beautiful display of orchids designed and completed by Mrs. Abeer Aisha, wife of H.E. Ambassador Muslahi.





Ahazeej Garden (9th World Gardening Fair at Hotel Okura, May 2-6, 2008)

At the fair held in May of 2008, various Ambassadors and their spouses stationed in Japan created original horticultural compositions for display. Using the trees and flowers representing each participating country, the displays showcased each country's unique culture, tradition and natural environment.







Arab Charity Bazaar-Japan Disaster Relief, June 11, 2011

On June 11, 2011, the "Arab Charity Bazaar Japan Disaster Relief" charity event was hosted by the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman to help assist in raising funds following the March 11 Great East Japan Earthquake. Organized by The Society of Wives of Arab Ambassadors And Head of Mission in Japan, the event included many homemade dishes and sweets, handicrafts, as well as various stalls dedicated to showcasing Arabic culture such as calligraphy and Henna painting.







Charity Concert, October 22, 2011

Following the devastating events of the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011, as one of the initiatives undertaken by the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman, a charity concert to provide funds and resources to those affected was organized. Here are some images from the event held at the Embassy of Oman on October 22.









Embassy of Japan

Message from the Ambassador



H.E. George Hisaeda Ambassador of Japan to the Sultanate of Oman

of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Oman. It is a monumental piece of work outlining the history of the two countries that have seen a steady development in bilateral relations over the past 40 years. I am honored to be a part of this project, as the book will undoubtedly serve as a tool to further strengthen our ties. In 2012, the Embassy of Japan presented various commemorative events to celebrate the

40th anniversary, based on the following principles:

- (1) To introduce fascinating contemporary Japanese culture to Oman in addition to traditional
- (2) To facilitate a two-way exchange, rather than a one-way cultural presentation
- (3) To maximize the use of private sector resources

Thanks to the cooperation of the Government and the people of Oman, all events were a tremendous success with large audiences and wide media coverage. I am highly confident that all these activities, together with those hosted by the Embassy of Oman in Tokyo, have significantly contributed to enhancing the mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries, and nurtured the atmosphere of an even more dynamic and mutually beneficial

I would like to express my heartfelt respect and appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Khalid bin Hashil bin Mohammed Al Muslahi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan, the

> Embassy staff, and all the other people involved in the creation of this wonderful book. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to every individual who has worked to build and develop the strong relations between the two countries. On my part, I will continue to work for the furtherance of relations, with genuine friendship at its core, in the years to come. I am profoundly pleased that Japan has consistently fostered excellent relations with such a significant country, and I am very proud to be a part of it.

It is my distinct pleasure to contribute to the publication of this book that H.E. Ambassador Khalid bin Hashil bin Mohammed Al Muslahi has launched in commemoration

Highlight of Embassy Activities



The Embassy of Japan in Muscat

Events in Muscat Celebrating 2012		
February	Advertising Photography Exhibition	
	Morita Rieko (Japanese painting) Exhibition	
March	Traditional Japanese Drum Concerts by Eitetsu Hayashi and his troupe	
April	Muscat Film Festival Closing Concert (Participation of Billy BanBan)	
May	Beach Football Friendly Match between national teams	
	'Japan Day,' a cultural festival at a college with a special guest, May J., a singer, and coverage by J-Melo, NHK's programme	
June	Visit of H.E. Ryuji Yamane, Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs	
	Launch of Japan Fan Club in Muscat	
August	Visit of Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Training Squadron on Port Salalah and related exchange activities	
October	'Japanese Music Project' Concert	
	'Japanese Anime Day' featuring NARUTO	
	'Hideki Togi Special Gagaku Concert'	
	Japanese Business Delegation led by JETRO	
November	Classical Music Concert by three young and talented graduates from Kobe College's Music Department, one of the oldest and most prestigious schools of music in Japan	
	FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifier (Cake-cutting Ceremony before the match)	
	Oman Century Ride 2012	
December	Japanese Doll Exhibition	
	Special Lecture on Japan at Sultan Qaboos University by Prof. Mariko Mikami, a well-known economic journalist	

"I will continue to work for the furtherance of relations, with genuine friendship at its core, in the years to come"

Visit of H.E. Ryuji Yamane, Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, June 24, 2012

In June of 2012, former Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Ryuji Yamane visited the Sultanate of Oman, where he had meetings with government officials including H.E. Mr. Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs, in order to further promote bilateral economic and security relations between the two countries.



Launch of Japan Fan Club in Muscat, June 26, 2012

The Japan Fan Club was established at the Embassy of Japan in Muscat with the intention of bringing those together who had interest in the country of Japan and its culture, language, food, fashion, music and other aspects. The first meeting of the club was held at the Ambassador's residence on June 26.





Visit of Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Training Squadron, August 2012

In late August through early September of 2012, in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Oman, three Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Training Squad vessels visited Port Salalah. Various exchange events were held including receptions, musical concerts and courtesy calls.





Beach Football Friendly Match, May 2012

The Japanese National Beach Soccer Team visited Oman in May of 2012. There, the Japan national team played a friendly match against the Oman national team.







FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifier Event Ceremony, November 2012

Preceding the 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifier match held between Japan and Oman, a ceremony was arranged by the Oman Football Association (OFA) which included a cake-cutting.





Former Ambassadors & Heads of Mission

......Oman

Former Ambassadors & Heads of Mission

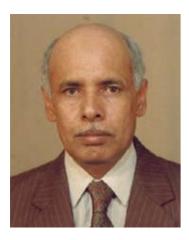
......Japan



April 14, 1979 H.E. Issa Ahmed Ali Moosa, CDA



December 29, 1980 H.E. Mushtaq Abdullah Jaffer, CDA



March 8, 1984 H.E. Marhoon Ahmed Salim Al-Marhoon



October 18, 1988 H.E. Dawood Hamdan Al-Hamdan



April 6, 1992 H.E. Mohamed Ali Al-Khusaiby



December 13, 2000 H.E. Mohammed Yousef Al-Zarafi



March 10, 1983 H.E. Junpei Kato



March 3, 1986 H.E. Kiyoshi Furukawa



April 15, 1989 H.E. Takeshi Ohara



August 21, 1989 H.E. Haruo Hanawa



January 25, 1994 H.E. Akio Ijuin



November 12, 1995 H.E. Tadatsuna Koda



October 20, 1998 H.E. Zenji Kaminaga



November 16, 2001 H.E. Jiro Hagi



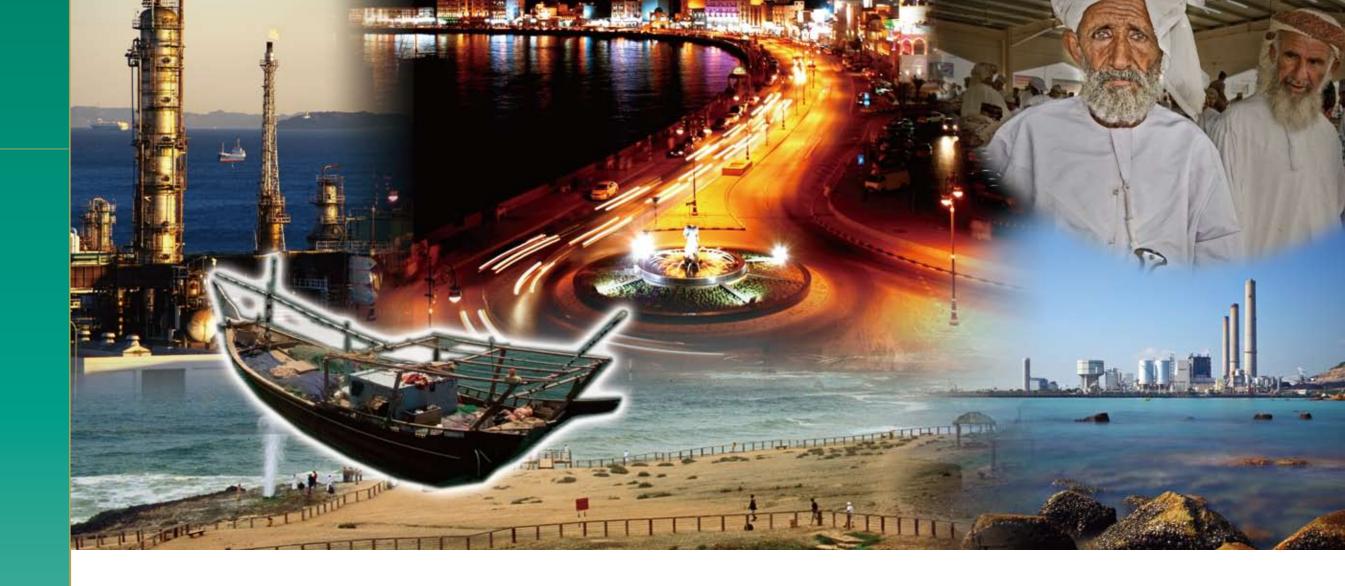
March 6, 2005 H.E. Keiji Omori



May 16, 2008 H.E. Seiji Morimoto



Economic and Technical Cooperation



The economic, trade and technical cooperation between Oman and Japan has been the backbone of a long and fruitful relationship that continues to prosper and grow. Japan was one of the first countries to receive Omani crude oil, and the export of this product and liquefied natural gas (LNG), as well as other hydrocarbon sources has increased over the years, making Japan one of the most important markets for Oman's exports.

Oman was ranked 31 among Japan's top trading partners and is the third-biggest market for Japanese exports in the Middle East and North Africa region in 2012. Japan is also Oman's second top trading partner, and the bilateral trade between the two nations has been expanding over the years with a record US\$10.5 billion reached in 2012.

For Japan, Oman has always been a reliable and stable source of energy supplies. In 2012, Oman was the eighth-largest crude oil supplier to Japan, which imported 39.2 million barrels of the Omani crude, accounting for 2.9% of its crude oil imports. Oman was also the ninth-largest LNG supplier to Japan, accounting for

4.6% of Japan's total imports of the product, which reached 3.98 million metric tons.

Although oil and LNG represent 99% of Japan's total imports from Oman, imports of fisheries and agricultural products from Oman is also significant. Out of Japan's total imports of these products to the Middle East and North Africa, Oman is third for fisheries and fourth in agricultural products.

Oman is also a major importer of Japanese automobiles, machinery and electric appliances among other products. This vast and voluminous trade relationship makes Japan the largest trading partner to Oman in substance.

Looking Toward the Future

While economic relations have been based in these key areas and industries for years, the nature of this relationship is far more complicated, and is set to grow and diversify even further in the upcoming years.

One of the areas this economic diversification will be

exemplified in is wide-ranging developmental projects in Oman, and in technology transfer and human resource development. Cooperation with Japanese industries and technologies are set to become major aspects of this new area of economic relations between the two nations. Japanese enterprises have in recent years become involved in projects related to oil and gas, power generation and desalination, shipping and environmental engineering technologies.

Finance is another area of potential, as Japanese investments and financing in Omani projects continue to expand and provide mutual benefits. To create a more conducive environment for such activities, the Japan-Oman Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation is expected to be signed soon, and negotiations for the protection and promotion of investment started in 2012. Furthermore, discussions are under way for a Free Trade Agreement between Japan and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

This chapter takes a closer look at the various organizations playing an important role in this relationship.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance



H.E. Taro Aso Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

In 2012, the diplomatic relationship between Japan and Oman reached a milestone; its 40th anniversary. To this point in time, our two countries have constructed a comprehensive and multi-faceted relationship that extends beyond just the relations of an energy producer and consumer into a wide array of fields - from politics and security, to the economy, culture, education, and youth exchange.

And so this year, as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations, I am truly pleased to see the publication of a book commemorating our relationship.

The country of Oman is located in the midst of the rapidly changing Middle East region, yet for many years it has maintained friendly relations with neighboring countries based upon a stabilized political foundation. I respect the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said. Looking at the way that the stability of Oman has greatly contributed to peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region, I feel he is extremely trustworthy.

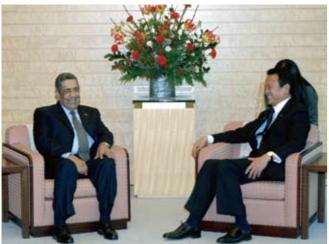
In terms of economic cooperation, Japan has offered support through the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for such infrastructure work as the expansion of Oman's port facilities, the construction of a high-speed railway network, and electricity generation projects. We have contributed to the development of Oman.

Recently there has been progress on the creation of an environment to further

facilitate investment and economic exchange, including an agreement in principle between both governments to sign a Japan-Oman Tax Agreement in 2011.

In such a way, the firm relationship constructed between our two countries over 40 years continues to grow stronger. I pray from the bottom of my heart that the friendly relations between Japan and Oman in a wide range of fields, including politics, the economy, and culture, will develop further moving forward.

"Our two countries have constructed a comprehensive and multi-faceted relationship that extends beyond just the relations of an energy producer and consumer into a wide array of fields"





Receiving HE Ahmed bin Abdul Nabi Macki, Minister of the National Economy on Dec 8, 2008



Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry



H.E. Toshimitsu Motegi Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan

"In the field of economics, we have constructed incredibly close and friendly relations"

It is a great honor to be given the opportunity as Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry to offer my congratulations here upon the 40th anniversary of Oman-Japan

Japan depends greatly on the energy resources of the Middle East. Peace and stability in the region are thus indispensible for the economic development of Japan. In light of this, Oman is a country of tremendous strategic importance for Japan, holding within its borders the Strait of Hormuz through which so much of the oil imported into Japan from the Middle East passes.

Japan and Oman have seen enhanced exchanges in many areas over the past 40 years, including politics, economy, science and technology, and culture. We have steadily deepened our friendly relations.

In particular, in the field of economics, we have constructed incredibly close and friendly relations. As a country that Japan can trust and which supplies us with oil and natural gas, Oman has contributed a great deal to the economic development of Japan.

In addition, Japan-Oman cooperation is underway in a wide array of fields, including for infrastructure development, technology cooperation, and the dispatch of

specialists and acceptance of trainees. This is part of the reason why Japan is the largest trading partner for Oman.

As Oman works to diversify its industries and escape from an economic structure dependent on oil, the securing of industrial-use water sources and creation of a stable supply system have become priority issues. The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry is cooperating with Oman toward the diversification of its industries. and is advancing cooperative projects on seawater desalination

using cutting-edge technology and the development of treatment technology for industrial waste water. We are also cooperating in a variety of other fields, such as for the separation and treatment of the water contained in oil fields when drilling for oil. I am aware that the expectations of Japan in Oman are particularly large.

Thinking upon the extraordinary exploits of those who came before us in our two countries, I feel renewed resolve to make the greatest possible efforts together with Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan H.E. Khalid Al-Muslahi and everyone else concerned with our two countries so that we may further deepen the great bonds that exist among our people.



Minister Responsible for Financial AffairsOman



H.E. Darwish bin Isma'eel bin Ali Al Balushi

Minister Responsible for Financial Affairs and Deputy Chairman of Financial Affairs & Energy Resources Council

"The last 40 years has clearly laid down the foundation for trust and understanding for our two countries to continue to foster our mutual interests in every aspect from bilateral trade to developing a platform for technical and scholarly exchanges and tourism"

I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the people of Oman and Japan for the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two great nations.

It is appropriate to begin by recognizing the genuine respect and understanding that we have together nourished among our people, culture and bilateral trade. It is important that we learn from the past to foster a stronger future.

The vibrancy and the enthusiasm with which events have been planned and executed to celebrate these 40 years in different corners of Japan as well as Oman, is a testimony to the genuine regard that our people feel for each other.

It is heartening to note that in this year of celebration of diplomatic ties between our two countries our bilateral trade in the first eight months has grown at an unprecedented rate of 54% from US\$ 4.8 billion to US\$ 7.4 billion. Oman's total exports to Japan jumped by 62 per cent to US\$ 4.97 billion in the first eight months from US\$ 3.07 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year, while imports from Japan rose 40% to US\$ 2.44 billion from US\$ 1.73 billion in the same period last year.

Japan has and will always have an important role in Oman's infrastructure development in Oman's effort to diversify from its oil dependency and make the most of its strategic location of being a link to Africa, Europe and Asia.

Oman's commitment to our relationship with Japan was evident when Oman increased its LNG supply to Japan following the Fukushima nuclear shut down.

According to latest statistics released by Oman's National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), Japan has become Oman's second biggest source of imports in terms of value after the UAE, accounting for over 25% of the Sultanate's total imports.

According to NCSI figures, Japan emerged as the second largest buyer of Oman's crude oil after China during the first seven months of this year.

Our bilateral trade is not just limited to oil and gas: Japanese companies today are playing an important role in developing Oman electricity generation, international marine education, automotive trade in Oman and around 90% of the fresh French beans imported by Japan are from Oman. In 2010, Japan imported 1,450 tons of fresh French beans, of which 1,265 tons originated from Oman.

While our bilateral trade has grown from strength to strength it is by no means the only aspect of our relationship that has grown in the last 40 years.







Rusayl Industrial Estate

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Chair for Middle Eastern Studies was launched in April 2011 at the University of Tokyo, one of the best universities in Japan. Celebrating the 40th anniversary, the Chair is presenting a series of seminars on various regional issues. In addition to research activities in Japan, the Chair explores academic and cultural exchange with Omani universities and other institutions. The Chair has started planning a symposium inviting Omani scholars to join discussions this year.

Japan and Oman have worked together in Oman's economic development programme. Through Official Development Assistant (ODA) Japan offers technical assistance in various fields such as agriculture, commerce and industry, port development and human development, etc. The Mitsubishi Scholarship, provided by the Mitsubishi Corporation for Omani students wishing to pursue postgraduate studies in Japan, is another good example of our two countries' successful cooperation.

We are about to sign the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement with Japan and are in the process of launching official discussions with Japan on the Bilateral Investment Promotion Agreement. Oman, being a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council is also engaged in the negotiations process for a GCC - Japan Free Trade Agreement.

The recently held FIFA qualifiers football match shall provide an excellent opportunity for both our countries to enhance our cultural ties and explore tourism opportunities and introduce Oman as an attractive tourist destination for Japanese tourists.

The last 40 years has clearly laid down the foundation for trust and understanding for our two countries to continue to foster our mutual interests in every aspect from bilateral trade to developing a platform for technical and scholarly exchanges and tourism. If there is anything we have learnt from the recent global crisis, it is that together we have more chances to make sure that the pace of economic development is not compromised.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has contributed in making this 40th Anniversary celebrations a true success and I wish you all the very best.

Minister of Commerce and Industry _____Oman



H.E. Dr. Ali bin Masoud bin Ali Al Sunaidy

Minister of Commerce and Industry

"We look comfortably at what has been achieved so far between Japan and Oman over the past 40 years in the spheres of economic and trade relations"

I would like to express my most sincere congratulations to the people of Oman and Japan on this great occasion. We look comfortably at what has been achieved so far between Japan and Oman over the past 40 years in the spheres of economic and trade relations. While our trade cooperation with Japan was initially established in the energy sector, that relationship has continued to grow and expand over the decades.

One significant characteristic of Oman since the ascension of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has been the ability to plan ahead. Along with our existing trade relation ties, it is the diversification of the industrial sector which will serve to become a cornerstone for Omani-Japanese economic relations in the future.

With the special emphasis given to diversification of the Sultanate's economy, there are calls for Japan who has been a longtime partner in the field of developmental assistance and technical cooperation to become active participants in wide-ranging developmental projects for our advanced technologies. Reflecting our aspirations to become involved in renewable energy, Oman is also highly interested in Japanese environmental engineering technologies which could be utilized to develop the vast potential of alternative energies here in the Sultanate. In addition, we will be working to further emphasize our strategic location on the Arabian Sea as a vital link between the East and West. Ports, bridges, roads and other infrastructure are being

> developed as well as gas-based industries in aluminum, steel and petrochemicals, and renewable energy and power.

> Today, Oman is one of the fastest-growing economies in the Middle East, with stable government under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, and a long-term vision to diversify the non-oil economy. We are both excited and confident about heading toward a new future, and we look forward to even greater commercial and social engagement between our two countries.



Oman dry docks at Duqm Port



Sohar Port

Minister of Oil and Gas



H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad Al Rumhy

Minister of Oil and Gas

Oman and Japan have long enjoyed close relations that have included the development of trade in oil and natural gas. In celebrating this occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations, we are reminded of the truly international nature of the oil and gas industry. For many decades, we have honored our responsibility to meet oil and gas demand from Japan and the international community.

Oman is a world leader in terms of E&P exploration activities, as we have continued to show in our dedicated approach towards seeking solutions in oil and gas recovery. Japan represents both a highly valuable market, as well as a potential partner in developing these kinds of advanced technologies. Oman has very interesting but challenging hydrocarbon reservoirs, where we wish to encourage foreign companies with specialized capabilities and experience to add value through providing new technology.

In the field of natural gas, Oman and Japan have formed a partnership in the development of Liquefied Natural Gas that has served our two nations very well. We take pride in the trust bestowed to us by our Japanese partners in providing this important source of energy to Japan.

In addition to our strong business ties, I also have a close personal relationship with Japan and its people. I remember with great fondness my visit to Japan several years ago, when I had the privilege and honor of being awarded the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. I also spent time at Waseda University's Faculty of Science and Engineering as a Matsumae Foundation Fellow. These experiences and the acquaintances I developed over the years with the Japanese Government, university, and business sectors have compelled me to return to Japan time and again. They have also reinforced my notion of the

importance and significance of cross cultural exchange.

In an increasingly globalizing world, I feel pride in our role in bringing cultures together. These deep-rooted ties are set to gain yet even more significance in the coming years.

Our relationship has helped to enrich mutual understandings between our two countries, and I hope that the strong bond between the Omani and Japanese people continues to strengthen and grow.

"Oman and Japan have long enjoyed close relations that have included the development of trade in oil and natural gas"





Sohar Industrial Estate



Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)



"As Japan's comprehensive development cooperation institution, JICA has been implementing various cooperation for the economic and social development of Oman since the mid-1970s"



H.E. Akihiko Tanaka President of JICA

www.jica.go.jp

- Technical Cooperation for Developing Countries
- Training Participants
- Dispatch of Experts
- Equipment Supplies
- Installation and Operation of Technical Cooperation Centers
- Basic Studies for Development Plans
- Loan Aid
- Yen Loans
- Private Sector Investment Financing
- Grant Aid
- Promotion of Cooperative Activities
- Assistance for Emigrants and Persons of Japanese Descent
- Human Resources Development and Employment for Technical Cooperation
- · Research and Study
- Provision of Disaster Relief Supplies
- Dispatch of Japan Disaster Relief Team

I wish to offer my heartfelt congratulations on the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Oman and Japan.

The issuance of this 40th anniversary commemorative publication is highly significant, as it will deepen understanding of the friendly relations between our two countries and thus strengthen our bilateral relations.

For Japan, Oman is very important not only as an eminent supplier of crude oil and natural gas, but also as a friendly nation along the Strait of Hormuz, which is of great geopolitical significance to Japan's energy policy.

As Japan's comprehensive development cooperation institution, JICA has been implementing various cooperation for the economic and social development of Oman since the mid-1970s. To be more precise, JICA has carried out technical cooperation activities in a broad range of fields, such as agriculture and fisheries, mining, commerce and industry, water resources, roads, ports, the environment, tourism, and human resources. We would therefore like to explore possibilities of further cooperation in close consultation with the Omani government.

In closing, I sincerely hope that the bilateral relations will be strengthened and the development of Oman will progress according to the enlightened guidance of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said.



A mangrove nursery



Junior high school students being guided during the afforestation program

■ Examples of JICA's technical cooperation activities in Oman

▶ Qurm (Mangrove) Environmental Information Center (QUIC) Development

This is a project approved following a proposal by a JICA survey team under the Master Plan Study on Restoration, Conservation, and Management of Mangrove in the Sultanate of Oman, which prioritized establishing the Qurm (Mangrove) Environmental Information Center (QUIC), which will be a central facility for your country and the Gulf region.

Japan supports setting up the QUIC to implement accepting trainees and the dispatch of Japanese experts to strengthen human resources development and management at the QUIC, as well as to contribute to environmental protection, as the base for planning mangrove afforestation in the Gulf region.

▶ Project for Energy Conservation Master Plan in the Power Sector

This project aims to promote energy conservation in the power sector once the Master Plan of Energy Conservation has been decided, and energy conservation policy will be institutionalized based on the Plan.

▶ Other activities

- Master Plan Study on Restoration, Conservation and Management of Mangrove in the Sultanate of Oman
- Biosaline Research
- Master Plan for Industrial Development
- Study on the Roads Network Development
- National Ports Development Strategy Study
- Expert in Vocational Training and Trade Skill
- Quality Assurance and Management of Fishery Products

▶ Distribution of JICA Operations

	Technical Cooperation (Million US\$)	Grant Aid (Million US\$)	Training Participants	Experts Dispatched from JICA
Cumulative Total by 2010	123.03	8.38	568	158



Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)



JAPAN BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

"JBIC's initiatives in Oman"



H.E. Hiroshi Okuda

Governor

http://www.jbic.go.jp/en/index.html

Japan Bank for International Cooperation is a policy-based financial institution wholly owned by the Japanese government, having the purpose of contributing to the sound development of Japan and international economy and society by conducting financial operation in the following four fields:

- Promoting the overseas development and securement of resources which are important for Japan
- Maintaining and improving the international competitiveness of Japanese industries
- Promoting the overseas business having the purpose of preserving the global environment, such as preventing global
- Preventing disruptions to international financial order or to taking appropriate measures with respect to damages caused by such disruption

I am very happy to be able to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relationship between Japan and Oman with many people concerned.

Oman is one of Japan's most important energy resource suppliers, but also, I am aware that Oman is seeking to diversify its revenue dependence on crude oil and natural gas, focusing on development of the infrastructure necessary to attract investment from foreign countries, including Japan, and to diversify its industrial structure to achieve sustainable economic development.

In response, JBIC has been promoting the development of various kinds of infrastructure in partnership with the Government of Oman, for the purposes of deepening economic ties between the two countries.

One example is the project to develop the Port of Sohar, which symbolizes Oman's ancient history as a maritime nation that flourished as the gateway to the Arabian Peninsula.

I have heard that the Port of Sohar was a small fishing village until it began being developed as an industrial area. It has now become one of Oman's leading industrial port and industrial areas, with a lineup of facilities that includes a petroleum refinery and petrochemical plant, and an iron and aluminum smelter. Sohar is a model case that symbolizes the success of the diversification of Oman's industrial structure. JBIC not only extended its support for the Port of Sohar construction project, but also financially supported refinery and fertilizer projects in Sohar that Japanese companies took part in. In addition, JBIC was blessed with the



Sur IPP Power Project



A panoramic view of Duqm Port

opportunity to cooperate on the Dugm Port Construction Project, the construction of a highway between Quriyat and Sur, the Sur IPP Power Project and other infrastructure projects.

The success of these projects was very much the result of the powerful leadership exercised by the Government of Oman and the support of Oman's citizens, and I would like to once again express my respect. It is my fervent hope that these projects, which were established by the two countries together, will form the foundation for further economic development of Oman, and that the two countries will continue to expand its' economic partnership.

Going forward, JBIC plans to contribute to the creation of a bidirectional and multilayered relationship with Oman, by providing support and cooperation on all kinds of projects.

In closing, I would like to once again express my gratitude for the sense of solidarity and the kind support extended to Japan by Oman and its people in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake. I pray for the prosperity of the Omani people and future partnership between the two countries.

The Public Authority for Investment Promotion & Export Development (PAIPED)



لهيئة العامة لترويج الإستثمار وتنمية الصادرات

"The cooperation between our two countries touches several sectors which are important to the people of the two countries, such as in human resources technology transfer, bilateral trade, culture and history"



H.E. Dr. Salim bin Nasser Al Ismaily

Chairman of PAIPED

The Public Authority for Investment, Promotion and Export Development (PAIPED) is the newly-created economic development organization for Oman. Our mission is to support investors, exporters, developers and businesses to improve economic prosperity right across the

We provide an extensive, free and confidential package of assistance to help identify the full range of hard and soft benefits of choosing Oman as a business location as well as assist Oman-based firms explore international export markets.

Whether you are looking to set-up in Oman or are an existing Oman-based firm seeking advice on export markets, we will work with you to ensure that your individual business requirements are met.

We fully understand that your time is valuable and that you need someone with sound knowledge who can identify the most appropriate location for your business as well as explain export opportunities. In this regard, we provide a fully co-ordinated, bespoke package designed to suit the needs of your business.

Indeed, more and more people are choosing Oman - it is a country that will open your eves to new experiences and exciting possibilities. With opportunities across a number of sectors it could be the ideal opportunity for your business to grow and develop. We are here to help.

Oman and Japan Strengthening Ties

The Sultanate of Oman has had a long relationship with Japan, and we are just a single link in a long chain which brings the two countries closer. The cooperation between our two countries touches several sectors which are important to the people of the two countries, such as in human resources, technology transfer, bilateral trade, culture and history. Such initiatives taken by our two governments have been successful in not only planting seeds for the future in terms of economic diversification of Oman, but also bringing the people of Oman and Japan

Many Omanis who have participated in such programs in Japan are now working in key positions both in the government and the private sector in Oman, and have improved the competency and efficiency of their organisations through enhancing their own technical capabilities.

Japan is one of the most important trading partners of Oman, and it is our sincere hope that the economic scope of our partnership will not only be maintained, but expanded to include other areas such as development of small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurship and other skills that could help cement the relationship between the two countries.



Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI)





H.E. Khalil bin Abdullah Al Khonji

President of OCCI

www.chamberoman.com

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Omani-Japanese official diplomatic relations, it is a great pleasure to take this significant opportunity to congratulate both the peoples of Oman and Japan for the distinguished relationship established between the two countries, and for the strategic importance founded in the economic and trade sectors. We should highlight those unique relationships which paved the way for both countries to achieve fruitful cooperation in various fields, and opened new horizons to include further aspects of economic and trade cooperation.

The anniversary coincides with a precious national event, namely the Sultanate's 42nd National Day, which celebrates the transformations witnessed by the Omani economy and the overall development achievements covering various fields. This proves the existence of a suitable economic environment incubating steadily growing investments, including the establishment of major facilities to the private sector through providing real partnership opportunities with companies from all over the world, and enhancing current advanced economic relations such as with Japan.

Japan occupies a leading position regarding trade relations with the Sultanate, both as one of the largest importers of Omani oil and one of the most important trading partners overall. Japan was ranked second among the most important exporting countries to the Sultanate with a total amount of RO 464 million. This value represents 18.4% of Oman's total imports from all over the world. It has been ranked third in terms of importing partners to the Sultanate, with a total value of RO 639.3 million, the equivalent of 14.2% of total exports of the Sultanate to all countries worldwide. This is in addition to the ongoing cooperation between the two countries in fields like oil exploration, gas liquefaction, engineering and industrial works.

The Sultanate's economy is involved with a range of very important projects ~ some are underway, while others are planned for the next few years.

Japanese companies can enter several industrial joint ventures mainly in fields like multi-

purpose petrochemical derivatives, storage and distribution activities and other service activities likely to boost investments between the two countries. This will also help to upgrade trade exchange and cooperation levels in different sectors such as technology, training, and electronics and energy. Furthermore, by taking advantage of highly developed industries in Japan such as the iron, steel, machinery, automotive, as well as chemical and food industries, obstacles facing the development of trade between both countries can be overcome.

The Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry strives to enhance partnerships between business communities in the two countries and facilitate the exchange of expertise through holding specialized seminars. In this regard, we decided to hold a seminar on water and alternative energy in 2011, considering that Japan is one of the most important energy-exporting countries and possesses advanced technologies in this field. On this basis the private sector in Oman can learn from Japan's rich experience in this field. The seminar will shed light on the experiences of several Japanese companies operating

in the field of water desalination technology and alternative green energy (environment friend energy). The seminar may also include meetings between Japanese and Omani business representatives and organizations to discuss providing financial and banking solutions to such projects, as well as stressing and exploring investment opportunities in other economic sectors.

There is no doubt that the celebration of the 40th anniversary of Omani-Japanese official diplomatic relations represents an important step in strengthening the cooperation process between the Omani private sector and its Japanese counterpart. We wish for further development and prosperity in Omani-Japanese relations including the private sector in order to achieve high levels of advanced partnership in all fields.

"We should highlight those unique relationships which paved the way for both countries to achieve fruitful cooperation in various fields, and opened new horizons to include further aspects of economic and trade cooperation"



Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East



"It is a privilege to once again have the opportunity to contribute to strengthening friendly ties between Japan and Oman through the activities of JCCME"



H.E. Tadatsuna Koda President, Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East

http://www.jccme.or.jp/english/index.html profile:

The Objective of ICCME is to contribute to the promotion of Japan's trade and economic and technical cooperation with the Middle East countries* with a view to furthering their economic development.*Note: 22 countries in Western Asia and North Africa, ranging from Afghanistan in the East to Mauritania in the West, and from Turkey in the North to Sudan in the South.

I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations on the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Oman. I am highly honored to be granted an opportunity such as this.

The Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East (JCCME) was established in 1973 at the height of the first oil crisis. Since then, via investment promotion and economic and technological cooperation, it has performed an important role as a bridge for business between Japan and the Middle East, as well as a public-private focal point.

Where the Center's activities in regard to Oman are concerned, since 1995 it has dispatched 11 missions as part of an investment promotion program, and has accepted research students on 11 occasions as part of a program for enhancing the investment environment. The Center also holds investment promotion fairs as part of its expos and public relations program, and business forums and other events as part of its information provision program.

As one of the activities of the Cooperation Committee on Water Resources in the Middle East, in December 2011 a total of 32 individuals from 12 companies were dispatched from Japan to Muscat as the "Middle East water resources and new energy/energy conservation mission." Through business seminars and information exchanges with government-affiliated institutions, efforts were made to cultivate business opportunities in the fields of water, new energy and energy conservation, and to encourage investment and technology transfers from Japan.

In February this year the Center accepted a sewage systems business mission, and in June it dispatched a mission on Omani's water and sewage systems management

Through activities such as this, from here on we will also work toward expanding Japanese investment and technology transfers in Oman. In order to achieve that, with the cooperation of the Government of Japan, we intend to devote ourselves to fulfilling our important duty as an intermediary for promoting business interaction between Japan and Oman. It is our fervent hope that this will make it possible to further strengthen cooperative relations in the two countries' public and private sectors, and to create a comprehensive and multilayered bilateral relationship.

I was stationed in Oman for a period of about three years from October 1995 as an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. It is a privilege to once again have the opportunity to contribute to strengthening friendly ties between Japan and Oman through the activities of the JCCME.

In closing, along with expressing my gratitude to the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan, I also wish everyone further success and progress.



Investment and Other Various Promotion Activities Exchanges of Investment Promotion Missions (Dispatching and Reception) JCCME endeavors to promote Japan's investment and joint venture projects through missions sent to oil producing countries in the Middle East. The missions are comprised of business people from Japanese enterprises that are interested in foreign investments, hold meetings with leading figures in business entities, governments, and the chambers of commerce and industry in the region. Furthermore, JCCME receives business missions from these oil producing countries in order to improve their understanding of the status quo of Japanese industries.

Organisation Activities

Since its inception, JCCME has long played a bridging role between Japan and the countries in the Middle East and the North Africa region on the private-sector level by providing cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, economy and technology. In forging new relationship with the region, JCCME makes use of Japan's soft power such as high technology and management know-how, and works to contribute to the development of each of the countries according to their actual situation, bearing in mind that human development and economic development should be the two wheels of a cart for the building of a nation.

JCCME will continue to engage in cooperation and support activities in the fields of lifeline infrastructure, education, environment and IT in the Middle East and the North Africa region in cooperation with the relevant ministries and organizations in Japan. We, JCCME, cordially ask you to understand our mission and extend your continued, warm support and assistance to us.



Japan Cooperation Center, Petroleum (JCCP)



"Oman has always been one of JCCP's most important counterparts, and we have consistently placed strong emphasis on exchanges with the country"



H.E. Keizo Morikawa President Japan Cooperation Center, Petro-

http://www.jccp.or.jp/English/ profile:

Address Sunshine 60 Building 58th Floor 3-1-1, Higashi-Ikebukuro, Toshimaku, Tokyo 170-6058, Japan

> Tel:+81-3-5396-6000 Fax:+81-3-5396-6006

Foundation November 26, 1981 51 (as of July 1, 2012) Overseas Offices Abu Dhabi, Riyadh Mail address planning@jccp.or.jp

On this occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Oman and Japan, I wish to express my heartfelt congratulations on behalf of Japan Cooperation Center, Petroleum (JCCP).

JCCP was founded in 1981 under the auspices of the Japanese government, to promote friendly relationships with oil-producing countries more strongly than ever. Oman has always been one of JCCP's most important counterparts, and we have consistently placed strong emphasis on exchanges with the country. Among the large number of oil-producing countries in the world, Oman, strategically located in the Arabian Peninsula, is both geographically and politically an extremely important producer of oil. Based on this understanding, for the past 31 years ICCP has engaged in technical exchanges with the oil downstream industry in Oman and with researchers at Sultan Qaboos University through training programs and technical cooperation projects. During this time, 415 Omani participants have attended our training programs, and 14 joint technical cooperation projects have been implemented in Oman. I wish to take the opportunity of this commemorative occasion to extend my gratitude to everyone in Oman who has supported these ICCP activities.

The oil downstream industry in Oman has achieved remarkable growth since commencement of operations at the Mina Al-Fahal Refinery in 1982. Most notably, the Sohar Refinery was built in 2006, equipped with the world's largest heavy oil cracking unit, and Oman Oil Refineries and Petroleum Industries Company (Orpic) was established in April 2011 by the integration of Aromatics Oman LLC and Oman Polypropylene, as a comprehensive, new value-added industry that produces a broad range of products, from crude oil to aromatics and polypropylene. JCCP holds the leaders of the Omani oil downstream industry in the highest respect for their efforts in developing and adopting new technologies and management practices toward creating an advanced value chain based on oil.

ICCP also reached a significant milestone last year with its 30th anniversary, and has taken a new step toward the next 10 years. At the same time, we reaffirmed our commitment to continue our ongoing challenge to satisfy new technical needs, also in step with the development of Oman's oil downstream industry. Valuing the friendship we have cultivated with Oman, we therefore hope to contribute to renewing the oil downstream industry hand-in-hand with our Omani partners.



Signing Ceremony of Technical Cooperation Program with Sultan Qaboos University (September, 2011)



JCCP Technical Seminar at Oman Refineries and Petroleum Industries Company (Orpic) (October, 2011)

Organisation Activities

JCCP was established in 1981 to promote friendly relationships between oil-producing countries and Japan, on the initiative of a number of companies related to the oil industry in Japan, including oil refineries and engineering companies, under the guidance of the then Ministry of International Trade and Industry (now the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry). It takes a three-pronged approach in strengthening relationships with oil-producing countries in the oil downstream sector: (1) personnel exchange programs, (2) technical cooperation projects and (3) international cooperation.

(1) Personnel Exchange Programs

JCCP's training programs promote mutual technology exchanges through regular courses implemented in Japan and seminars conducted in oil-producing countries by Japanese experts. Every year, an average of 25 courses are offered in Japan. Over its 31-year history in providing training programs, ICCP has received 20,000 participants from oil-producing countries around the world. Of this number, 415 were from Oman. At the same time, JCCP has sent more than 5,000 experts from Japan, including 231 experts to Oman.

(2) Technical Cooperation Projects

Technical cooperation projects both aim to address and solve technical issues in the oil downstream industry in oil-producing countries through a project implemented jointly between an oil-producing country and Japan. As many as 14 such projects have been implemented in Oman to date, mainly in the areas of environmental management and refinery efficiency improvement.

(3) International Cooperation

International cooperation activities include symposiums, invitation of VIPs and visits to Japan by key dignitaries from oil-related organizations in oil-producing countries, and are implemented with the aim of strengthening cooperation between oil-producing countries and Japan. The GCC Japan Environment Symposium also falls under this category, and is held in a different GCC country every year. Last year marked the 20th holding of the symposium. As one of the host countries, Oman has cooperated in hosting the symposium in Muscat three times—in 2000, 2005 and 2010.



PAIPED Representative in Japan

Japan

"At the introduction of Minister of Commerce and Industry Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidy, I visited PAIPED and assumed the role of the organization's first Japan representative"



Oman Investment Promotion
Association – President

I was engaged in the introduction and derivation of pharmaceutical patents with Europe and the U.S. for many years, and in 2003 I successfully exported a patent to Saudi Arabia. On that occasion I visited Oman for the first time on the recommendation of Haruo Endo. At the introduction of current Minister of Commerce and Industry Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidy (who was Deputy Minister at that time), I visited PAIPED (prior to being reorganized to create the Public Authority for Investment Promotion & Export Development in 2011, the organization was known as OCIPED, or the Omani Centre for Investment Promotion and Export Development), and assumed the role of the organization's first Japan representative. This was OCIPED's fifth offshore office.

The work involves promoting trade and investment between the two countries. In 2003, the year I was appointed, the value of Japan-Oman trade from Japan's perspective stood at JPY112.1 billion of exports and JPY293.5 billion of imports. By last year, 2011, exports had doubled to JPY222.6 billion and imports were up 40%, to JPY409.7 billion. The makeup of that trade has not changed, with automotive-related goods accounting for around 80% of exports and mineral fuels accounting for 99% or more of imports, although there are signs that the ratio of automobiles is growing and that imports are becoming more diverse and beginning to include foods such as fish and kidney beans, as well as steel products, methanol and aluminum etc. Where investment from Japan is concerned much of the investment initially centered on petroleum development and the energy sector, such as LNG production. However, in due course this spread to the maritime transportation sector, and was followed by participation in IPPs (Independent Power Producers) by Japanese trading companies and power companies in 2010 and 2011.

Over this period Oman's tourism industry, a key policy area for the country, carried out construction and development that included luxury hotels, lush golf courses, ancient castles and an opera house, and tourist numbers almost doubled, climbing to 1,620,000 people in 2010 from some 900,000 people in 2003. Japanese tourist numbers also increased, to reach almost 6,000 people. Recently, single-country sightseeing trips of Oman have gone on sale in Japan and Japanese tourist numbers are anticipated to increase, but numbers are still small compared to the 110,000 Americans, 90,000 Germans and 70,000 British that visit Oman annually, for example. I hope to get more Japanese people to visit Oman, a country that treats people kindly. In Duqm in central Oman the harbor, free-zone, industrial, tourism and urban environment is being developed and this occupies an important position in the economic development of Oman. There are a large number of investment opportunities there and I hope to encourage Japanese companies to move into the region. Another area I want to focus on is the fish farming industry. Oman currently catches around 160,000 tons of fish, of which it exports around 80,000 tons. Fish farming is virtually non-existent at present, but Oman has plans to lift the volume to 220,000 tons by 2030-2040. I am hopeful that companies from Japan will consider actively participating in this industry also.





Chiyoda Corporation



Energy and environment in harmony



Shogo Shibuya President & CEO

www.chiyoda-corp.com/en/index.html

For Inquiries, please use a form provided in the following URL.

https://www.chiyoda-corp.com/contact/ en/index.php

Established: January 20, 1948

Activities: Integrated Contractor

Services: Project & Program Management, Feasibility Studies, Front End Engineering Design (FEED), Engineering, Procurement, Construction, Commissioning, O & M and Asset Management

Head Office: Yokohama, Japan

Home Offices: 4 (Chiyoda Global Headquarters (Yokohama), Koyasu Office & Research Park, Tokyo Office, Osaka Office)

Overseas Offices: 8

Major Overseas Subsidiaries & Affiliated Companies: 16

(As of 1 April 2013)

Founded in 1948 in the post-war period to reconstruct Japan, Chiyoda started its engineering business for domestic projects mainly in the petroleum refining, gas processing and petrochemical fields, and expanded into overseas projects in the 1960's. Since then, Chiyoda has been and is growing steadily under the corporate philosophy of enhancing its business by aiming for harmony between energy and the environment and contributing to the sustainable development of society.

Global situations are dramatically changing, especially those related to energy, including increasing demand in developing countries caused by economic growth, "Shale Gas Revolution" and "Gas Shift", as well as there being a call to develop renewable energies. We have to recognize that it is time for us to meet these challenges.

Under these challenges, we set up a new mid-term management plan, "Seize the moment, open up new frontiers," to build on the former plan, and will enhance our core business, diversify our business domain and globalize our group. We will use our technology in such demanding projects as floating LNG, ocean energy, concentrating solar power (CSP) generation and the hydrogen supply chain.

We will develop engineering functions to meet the needs of the social infrastructure required by rapid urbanization, such as airports, railways, power generation, smart grids and a disaster-resistant environmental community. The function, which may involve capital investment, will provide all services required from master planning to successful completion and, thereafter, involvement in operation and maintenance.

Our engineering company will be a company that can shoulder the full task of building any infrastructure that demands cutting-edge technologies. We will seize the moment and open up new frontiers to create value through our "Asset Management."

Company Activities

Chiyoda Corporation has executed the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) for all three trains of the LNG plants in Oman; two trains for Oman LNG L.L.C. (completed in 2000) and one train for Qalhat LNG S.A.O.C. (completed in 2005). Chiyoda opened up many job opportunities for Omani citizens through the execution of those projects and contributed to strengthening the relationship between Oman and Japan.

Chiyoda's target was to employ more than 35% Omani workers in the Qalhat LNG project workforce and to achieve a high degree of Omanisation where the first priority was that local residents, and therefore shops and companies could reap the benefits of Chiyoda's presence in Oman. Chiyoda administered the Omanisation programme in cooperation with the central and local government agencies, the client and subcontractors. As a result, Chiyoda was honoured by the Omani Government as the "Best



Aerial View of Oman LNG Project (foreground: two trains) / Qalhat LNG Project (back: one train)

Omanisation Company" for two consecutive years for its contribution to employment growth of Oman in the construction sector.

In addition to its successful Omanisation programme, Chiyoda achieved completion of the LNG plant in 33.4 months, 17 days earlier than the contractual requirement. LNG production began nine days and three hours after Ready for Start-up (RFSU), a world record, and the product was first shipped just 30 days after RFSU, which was greatly appreciated by the client. Furthermore, as Chiyoda places great store in running a safe site, it was a source of great satisfaction to achieve 20 million man-hours without lost time during plant construction.

Oman currently produces about 9.9 million tons of LNG a year, most of which is exported to Japan and Europe. The execution of Oman LNG and Qalhat LNG projects provided Chiyoda with the opportunity to develop its expertise, and the company would like to contribute further to the sustainable development of Omani economy, industry and society.



Oman LNG Project at Night

Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd.

Idemitsu Kosan Co.,Ltd.

Establishing a close relationship which expands to contribution for Oman's human resources development, not limited to crude oil deal

I extend my warmest congratulations on the publication of this book to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between



Kazuhisa Nakano President, Representative Director

www.idemitsu.com

Company name: Idemitsu Kosan Co.,Ltd.

1-1 Marunouchi 3-chome,

Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8321 Japan

Date established: March 30, 1940

Capital Stock: 108.6 billion ven

4,310.3 billion yen (FY 2011) Net Sales:

Number of Employees (consolidated):

8,243 employees (as of March 31, 2012)

What We Do:

- Petroleum refining, manufacturing and sale of oil products
- Manufacturing and sale of petrochemical
- Exploration, development, and extraction of petroleum, coal, geothermal resources, and other mineral resources
- Manufacturing of agricultural chemicals, agricultural materials, and other chemicals
- Development, manufacturing, and sale of functional electronic materials
- Design, installation, fabrication, and sale of various machinery, equipment, and devices for chemical-industrial and environmentalprotection uses
- Real-estate sales, leasing, and management
- Computer-software development, sales, and consulting

the Sultanate of Oman and Japan. The relationship between Oman and Idemitsu began with importing Omani crude oil shortly after establishment of diplomatic relations, and subsequently developed into a direct deal of crude oil with the Government of Oman. Since then, Oman has supplied crude oil stably to us. Now, given the complicated circumstances in the Middle East, Oman is of increasing importance in terms of energy security not just for Idemitsu but for the entire nation of Japan, located on the outer side of the Strait of Hormuz. Idemitsu will continue to maintain its close relationship with Oman.

Idemitsu's relationship with Oman is not simply limited to crude oil deals. By cooperating on personnel training, the company has contributed in its own way to Omanisation (the policy aimed at exchanging expatriates with trained Omani personnel). In the mid-1980s Idemitsu began a technical training program* with the goal of improving operation skills of refinery operators. Thus far a total of more than 200 trainees have accomplished training programs provided by Idemitsu. Additionally, for a five-year period from the latter half of the 1990s Idemitsu sent General Managers, Maintenance Chiefs and other senior staff to Oman Refinery Company to offer its cooperation in operating the refinery safely, stably and efficiently.

Furthermore, from the mid-2000s Idemitsu implemented new training programs* involving personnel exchanges with executive staff at Oman's Ministry of Oil and Gas, with the goal of further strengthening its relationship with Oman. Those executive staff broadened their knowledge of all the downstream divisions in Japan's oil



Shift supervisor training for Oman Oil Refineries and Petroleum Industries Company (ORPIC)



The Tokuyama Refinery and Plant have accepted many Omani trainees

industry, from crude oil procurement to sales of petroleum products. Moreover, the training program simultaneously served as an excellent opportunity for promoting understanding of the two countries' cultures as well.

(*The above-mentioned training programs were undertaken with the support of Japan Cooperation Center, Petroleum (JCCP).)

I visited Oman shortly after being appointed as President. Despite my knowledge in advance of the Middle East that was associated with the desert, I had a strong impression of Oman as a lush, green and beautiful Middle Eastern oasis.

I understand that the ties between Oman and Japan can be traced back to the 17th century. Via crude oil deals and technical cooperation, Idemitsu hopes to make a further contribution for promoting the amicable relationship with Oman, a beautiful country with a long history, toward the upcoming 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

ITOCHU Corporation



In 1976 ITOCHU commenced crude oil trading with the Omani government - a world first - and since then has built deeply cooperative relationships with Oman



Masahiro Okafuji President and Chief Executive Officer

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The history of ITOCHU Corporation dates back to 1858 when the Company's founder Chubei Itoh commenced linen trading operations. Since then, ITOCHU has evolved and grown over 150 years.

With approximately 130 bases in 67 countries, ITOCHU, one of the leading sogo shosha, is engaging in domestic trading, import/export, and overseas trading of various products such as textile, machinery, metals, minerals, energy, chemicals, food, information and communications technology, realty, general products, insurance, logistics services, construction, and finance, as well as business investment in Japan and overseas.

To begin with, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations on this commemorative publication marking the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Oman and Japan, and express my deepest thanks for being given the genuinely prestigious opportunity to contribute to the publication.

In 1976 ITOCHU commenced crude oil trading with the Omani government a world first - and since then has built deeply cooperative relationships with Oman and Omani companies via merchandise trading and business investment, including participating as a shareholder in Oman LNG, the first LNG operation in Oman, and its expansion project, Qalhat LNG. I would like to express deep gratitude for the efforts and kindness Oman and Omani companies have extended us in building those relationships thus far. ITOCHU intends to strive to further strengthen those relationships in the future, and it is my fervent wish that Oman and Omani companies will continue to support us.

Over the 40-year period since Japan and Oman established diplomatic relations, as a result of a variety of exchanges a firm relationship that transcends historical and cultural differences has been cultivated. In March 2011 Japan suffered extensive damage as a result of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude for the tremendous support Japan received from Oman at that time. I firmly believe the relationship between the two countries will continue to grow further from here on, and I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the friendly nation of Oman and its citizens on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In closing, I pray for Oman's continued development and future prosperity.

■ Company Activities

In the 150 years since it was founded, ITOCHU has developed a broad array of businesses, including domestic trading, import/export, and third-country trading of various products such as textiles, machinery, metals, energy, chemical goods, foodstuffs, realty, information and communications technology, insurance, logistics services, construction and finance, as well as business investment in Japan and overseas. The basis for this is the company's philosophy of being "Committed to the Global Good" in order to fulfill its responsibility to carry wealth into the future, and to respect the individual and society.

Where trading with Oman is concerned, ITOCHU commenced crude oil trading with the Omani government in 1976, a world first, and up to now it has undertaken a range of trading in sectors that include foodstuffs and automobile production. In particular, in the natural gas project development sector, through its participation as a shareholder in Oman LNG and Qalhat LNG, ITOCHU continues to steadily produce and sell LNG, a clean energy which is expected to attract increasing demand in the future. Additionally, in the area of LNG trading which draws on our trading company functions, ITOCHU purchases LNG from Oman LNG based on a long-term agreement, and is actively developing the sector in order to contribute to meeting energy demand in Japan. In the area of petroleum trading, we actively undertake trading in countries worldwide including Oman. Centering on ITOCHU Petroleum Company (IPC), our core crude oil and petroleum products company, together with global petroleum trading, we are developing a petroleum products sales operation offshore. Furthermore, in Japan we operate businesses related to petroleum products and LPG, which are centered on ITOCHU ENEX Co., Ltd., one of the largest trading company-affiliated oil wholesalers. We are proud of our worldwide services in energy trading, which are in the first rank among general trading companies.



NIZWA LNG, an LNG tanker chartered by ITOCHU.

JGC Corporation





Yoshihiro Shigehisa Chairman Emeritus of IGC Group

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101

Since its founding in 1928, JGC Corporation has grown to become one of the world's top engineering contractors, with a track record in carrying out as many as 20,000 projects in around 70 countries worldwide. In addition to energy and chemical fields such as petroleum, gas, LNG and petrochemicals, JGC also displays its proprietary engineering technologies and unsurpassed project management capabilities in general industrial fields as well. Additionally, JGC is also involved in planning and management services in the business investment and urban development

As a "Program Management Contractor and Investment Partner," IGC will contribute to Oman's ongoing development

I would like to take this occasion to express my gratitude for the effort that Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan H.E. Khalid Hashil Al-Muslahi has put into publishing this work in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Oman, along with offering my heartfelt congratulations. I view the opportunity to contribute to this memorable publication as a distinct honor.

IGC and Oman have a long-standing relationship that began with the delivery of a seawater desalination unit 30 years ago. More recently, in 2000 IGC received the front-end engineering and design order for the Sohar Refinery Project, Oman's second oil refinery, and it subsequently carried out the construction of the plant, which it completed in 2006. The most valuable asset that JGC retained through this large-scale project was the superb relationships it fostered with many Omani people. Furthermore, the project also enabled a shared understanding of each other's cultures thanks to exchanges between Oman and Japan.

Like other oil and gas producing nations, up until now Oman's exports of crude oil, petroleum products and natural gas have made a major contribution to its economic development. In the future, the effective utilization of limited natural resources such as crude oil and natural gas will be extremely important, and at the same time it will also be desirable to introduce renewable energy and optimal energy systems. I believe that Japan can perform a role as Oman's partner in these sectors. Furthermore, water is emerging as an issue for concern worldwide. In Oman, seawater desalination projects operated by the private sector are already underway, but in addition to improving clean water system networks, it will also be essential to improve system networks for sewage. Such infrastructure improvements will be needed not just in urban areas but in sparsely-populated regions as well, and conceivably a key challenge will be building reliable systems that are matched to respective needs.

JGC has been operating businesses in a broad range of sectors in the Middle East up until now, and as a "Program Management Contractor and Investment Partner," it hopes to be of some help in resolving challenges such as this, while capitalizing on Oman's important geopolitical features. It is my earnest wish that such cooperation will result in not only economic, but deeper cultural and personnel exchanges, and will contribute to nurturing a long and amicable relationship between Oman and Japan.



Sohar Refinery Plant for Oman Oil Refineries and Petroleum Industrie Company (ORPIC) (Oman)



Group photograph of JGC staff working in Oman

Engineering for the Quality of Human Life

■ Company Activities

JGC has been involved in over 20,000 projects in 70 countries worldwide so far. Along with being a leading Japanese engineering company, it is highly renowned for its extensive track record worldwide as a top leading engineering contractor, and for the technology and expertise it has cultivated as a result.

JGC started out constructing petroleum refinery plants in Japan, and was quick to advance into foreign markets in the 1960s. It has built up a track record in various sectors at a worldwide level; from the construction of petroleum refineries, petrochemical plants and natural gas treatment plants, to state-of-the-art environmentally friendly gas-to-liquid plants. In particular, in the field of LNG plant construction JGC boasts a track record of carrying out construction projects that account for 30% of the world's LNG production volume. Furthermore, by drawing on the expertise and experience it accumulated constructing these plants, JGC also boasts top class accomplishments in Japan for constructing pharmaceutical factories, hospitals and other facilities. In recent years it has also been placing an emphasis on business investment operations in areas such as the acquisition of interests of oil and gas concessions and investment into renewable energies, with the aim of becoming a "Program Management Contractor and Investment Partner." This does not simply involve new business - it signifies a total business model that encompasses IGC's core EPC business, and its new investment and services businesses.

As a result of the mounting demand for energy in crude oil- and gas-producing nations centering on the Middle East region where Oman is located, ongoing capital investment continues to be carried out in upstream segments, beginning with crude oil and natural gas development. IGC has been involved in a large number of projects in the region thus far, and it is also currently undertaking various projects. Going forward, the company intends to place greater emphasis on Oman and the Middle East region.

JX Holdings, Inc.



The economic relations between our group and Oman dates back to 1968, when we started importing Omani crude oil



Fumiaki Watari Senior Executive Adviser, JX Holdings, Inc.

http://www.hd.jx-group.co.jp/

JX Holdings, Inc. came into being on April 1, 2010, accompanying the management integration of Nippon Oil Corporation and Nippon Mining Holdings, Inc., both enterprises with more than 100 years of history. These two companies supported Japan's development and established a strong presence in the business fields of energy, resources, and materials. The JX Group comprises three core companies operating in the fields of Petroleum Refining and Marketing, Oil and Natural Gas Exploration and Production, and the Metals business. The JX Group conducts operations integrated from upstream resource development to petroleum refining and marketing, chemicals, copper smelting and refining, recycling and environmental services, and electronic materials.

On behalf of the JX Group, I am pleased to celebrate the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Sultanate of Oman.

The economic relation between our group and Oman dates back to 1968 (four years before establishment of the diplomatic relations), when we started importing Omani crude oil. We have taken social responsibility as a reliable oil supplier in Japan since our foundation in 1888. Thus starting oil import from Oman allowed us to build up our capability of supplying oil products, which was enough for Japan's booming oil demand at that time.

Over the course of the past more than 40 years, we had the opportunity to cooperate with Oman also in the oil exploration sector. In 1981, we were invited to attend the open tender from the government of Oman and acquired the interest of the license block in Oman jointly with Teikoku Oil Co., Ltd. (now INPEX Corporation). Then the two companies established Japan Petroleum Development Co. (Oman), Ltd. with other two Japanese companies, Mitsui Oil Exploration Co., Ltd. and Nissho Iwai Corporation (now Sojitz Corporation), to engage in oil exploration. Although we could not get satisfactory results on a commercial basis, we got valuable experience through cooperation with Omani government and people.

Today, Oman experiences a high economic growth due to its oil and natural gas exports. Japan's oil imports from Oman have increased by approximately 10 times since the establishment of the diplomatic relations in 1972. Especially, since Oman has exporting ports outside the Strait of Hormuz, we hence find that oil and gas from Oman will become more significant for securing energy supply in Japan.

On the other hand, for continuous economic growth in a sustainable manner, Oman has to tackle some challenges such as promoting industrial diversification and meeting the increasing domestic energy demand. The JX Group will help Oman's further development based on the close relation with Oman fostered through crude oil trade. We will seek an opportunity to cooperate in the new energy sector, such as fuel cells and photovoltaic power generation. Additionally, as one of the leading companies of the Japanese economy, we will make all efforts to strengthen the economic relationship between our two countries, which includes promoting industrial diversification and encouraging the negotiation of Japan-GCC Free Trade Agreement.

■ Overview of the JX Group



■ Company Activities

Under JX Holdings, Inc., the JX Group comprises about 150 consolidated subsidiaries including three core operating companies: JX Nippon Oil & Energy Corporation (NOE), JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration Corporation (NOEX), and JX Nippon Mining & Metals Corporation (NMM). Among these core operating companies, NOE and NOEX are in charge of petroleum and gas businesses which are related to Oman.

NOE is the core operating company in the petroleum refining and marketing business. The NOE Group has petroleum refining capacity of approximately 1.39 million barrels per day (BD), the largest in Japan. The NOE Group also has a domestic network of approximately 11,000 service stations operating under the ENEOS brand, accounting for approximately 37% of domestic petroleum products sales. By all these measures, the NOE Group has a clearly dominant presence in Japan.

The NOE Group has developed the relationship with Oman through crude oil trade and has been the largest importer of Omani crude oil in Japan. In the lubricants business, the NOE Group is aggressively expanding its overseas presence, including in the Middle Eastern region. As the awareness of environmental issues grows worldwide, the NOE group is also working aggressively to develop new sources of energy, such as fuel cells, which the NOE will expand overseas, in the long term.

NOEX is in charge of the Oil and Natural Gas E&P business. In fiscal 2012, the NOEX Group produced oil and natural gas amounting to 120 thousand barrels of oil equivalent per day (BOED). The NOEX Group acts as operator and takes a leadership role in the implementation of projects in Vietnam, Malaysia, and the U.K. North Sea. In the long term, the NOEX Group has set an objective of producing 200,000 BOED and is taking aggressive initiatives to develop its exploration, development and production activities.

Marubeni Corporation

Marubeni

Hoping that the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations will see Oman and Japan's friendly ties and economic relations develop

further



Teruo Asada President and CEO, Member of the Board

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As a representative Japanese general trading company, Marubeni Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries possess a network spanning ten locations domestically, and 120 locations in 67 countries and territories worldwide. Via these bases, Marubeni undertakes diversified business activities that include import and export (including trading between foreign countries) and domestic trading in a broad array of sectors such as foodstuffs, textiles, materials, pulp and paper, chemical goods, metals machinery (transport machinery, power, infrastructure, plant and production machinery), finance, logistics, information-related fields and development and construction, as well as a range of services, domestic and foreign business investment, and resources development.

I would like to express my great pleasure that Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan H.E. Khalid Hashil Al-Muslahi is personally overseeing the release of a commemorative publication in both Oman and Japan to celebrate the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Oman is located at the southeast end of the Arabian Peninsula, and since ancient times it has pursued development as a place of commerce from the north, south, east and west. It is a longstanding friend of Japan, and since Japan relies on imports of large quantities of energy from Arabian Gulf countries, Oman's presence at a strategic point on the outer side of the Strait of Hormuz is a constant source of peace of mind to Japanese citizens. It is encouraging that under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Oaboos bin Said, Oman has focused on building far-sighted infrastructure, industry diversification, education, and other initiatives. At the same time, as one of Oman's good friends, Marubeni also wants to utilize this 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations as an opportunity to further enhance its relationship with Oman.

Marubeni opened a branch in Muscat in 1982, and since then it has primarily undertaken trade such as exporting Oman-produced crude oil and copper ore produced at Oman's copper refineries to the Asia region, beginning with Japan. We also import Japan-made copper slag used in abrasives for marine vessels, and the fabric used to make uniforms for the Royal Oman Police. The crude oil and copper ore produced in Oman are highly renowned for their superior quality, and as a result of exporting these goods Marubeni has contributed in making Oman's presence as a long-standing friendly nation more widely known not just in Japan, but in Asia overall.

Additionally, in July, 2011 Marubeni obtained operating rights to the Sur Independent Power Project (IPP), the largest IPP in Oman, in conjunction with Chubu Electric Power Co., Inc. (Japan), Qatar Electricity and Water Company Q.S.C and Multitech LLC (Oman), and is currently moving steadily ahead with the construction



A scene showing melon cultivation in the Salalah region



A conceptual drawing of Sur IPP upon completion

work toward bringing the project online in 2014. This deal involves building a 2,000-megawatt natural gas-fueled power plant in the Sur Industrial Estate, southeast of Oman's capital city of Muscat, and maintaining and operating the plant and selling its power based on a 15year long-term electricity sales agreement with Oman Power and Water Procurement Company. Marubeni is proud to be able to support the future of Oman from the infrastructure front as the country seeks to improve its national capability and the livelihood of its citizens through industrial diversification.

Aside from this, the climate in the Salalah region of Oman is suited to rare melons that were once known as 'midorishima' in Japan. Oman exports these Salalahcultivated melons to Japan as cut fruit to be sold at major supermarkets, convenience stores and restaurants. These melons were developed around 30 years ago as offerings to be used in the Obon Festival, because the fruit can be kept at normal temperature for many



The Sur Independent Power Project construction site (water treatment building)

months. Subsequently, however, their production in Japan all but disappeared due to pressure from foreign-grown melons, but thanks to cooperation between Japanese producers that had carefully preserved the seeds and producers in Oman, the melons have once again returned to the Japanese dining table as an item suitable for use as cut fruit. Middle Eastern countries tend to conjure up images of far-ranging deserts, but a look at these melons is a reminder that Oman is a lush, green land.

In closing, I would like to offer a heartfelt prayer that this memorable publication is read by as many people as possible in Japan and Oman, and that it becomes a new foundation for further development of friendly ties and economic relations between the two countries.

Mitsubishi Corporation

Mitsubishi Corporation

On the 40th Anniversary of Japan-Oman Relations



Ken Kobayashi President & Chief Executive Officer

www.mitsubishicorp.com

Mitsubishi Corporation is a global integrated business enterprise that develops and operates businesses across virtually every industry, including industrial finance, energy, metals, machinery, chemicals, foods, and environmental business. With its involvement in a diversity of fields ranging from natural resources development to investment in retail businesses, infrastructure, financial products, and the manufacturing of industrial goods. its current activities are expanding far beyond its traditional trading operations.

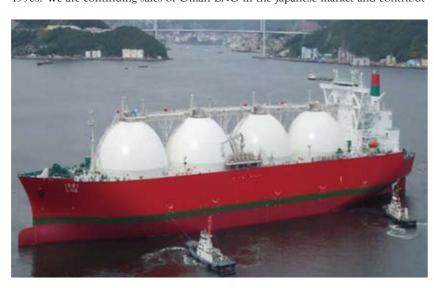
With over 200 offices & subsidiaries in approximately 90 countries worldwide and a network of over 600 group companies, we employ a multinational workforce of nearly 65,000 people.

I wish to offer my heartfelt congratulations on the 40th anniversary of Oman-Japan relations. I would also like to take this opportunity to comment about the history of those relations and how my own company has worked with Oman.

Japan established diplomatic relations with Oman two years after the current Sultan undertook a bloodless coup d'état in 1970. Because of this, in a sense, we can say that the history of Oman-Japan relations and the history of modern Oman have developed side-by-side. I have heard that Oman has seen remarkable economic growth in recent years. I am surprised that Oman has been able to achieve such tremendous development in the short period of the past 40 years, and I want to express my great respect for the wise rule of the Sultan over this period. I also wish to express my profound gratitude as a member of the Japanese public for the enormous donation offered by the Government of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011, as well as the provision of additional LNG gas

I have heard that the Sohar Industrial Port in Northwest Oman is modeled after the Keihin Region in Japan. The tale of its development through funding from Japanese governmental-affiliated financial institutions is symbolic of the close relationship between our two countries. There seem to be many similarities between the geographic environments of Japan and Oman. Both countries have a history of developing as maritime states, and I suspect that the national character of both our nations was born out of a mindset placing importance on relations with foreign lands.

In the latter part of the 1970s, my company signed an export agreement for crude oil with this country of Oman. We established an office and started business with the country in 1981. Crude oil from Oman has good properties which please our clients. Because it is so popular, it is important to maintain good relations with the Omani Government and secure the contracted quantity each year. Our efforts and natural gas projects that have been taking place over many years have been a successful experience, and led us to participate in the forming of the country's first LNG business (Oman LNG) together with the government, Shell, and others, at the start of the 1990s. We are continuing sales of Oman LNG in the Japanese market and contribut-





LNG Project in Sur

ing to the fostering of Omani human resources. We are also invested in Oalhat LNG, the second LNG project of Oman. which has further deepened our relations with the country. In light of all of this, we are undertaking a number of CSR projects in Oman as a show of gratitude to the Government of Oman for the many great business chances it has provided us and to show our intent of continuing to maintain strong relations in the future as well. One of those is a greening and revitalization project that makes use of the unique climate in the Dhofar region of southern Oman. Every year between June and August a westerly wind blows in with a thick mist. Although the temperature at this time rises to 50 degrees in Muscat, in the low rising mountains of Dhofar temperatures hover around 20 degrees and the mist covers the land in a layer of greenery. For the past four years, Mitsubishi has worked with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs to capture this mist and store it in cisterns. We use it to water plants during the dry seasons and to encourage greenery in this region which is experiencing desertification due to overgrazing. We have now created a small forest, having grown 700 fig trees to the height of a person within a site stretching over 400,000 square meters. We also began offering financing for an exchange program with the Ministry of Higher Education in 2009, and are supporting Omani students to study abroad in the universities and graduate schools of Japan. Students can stay in Japan for as long as five and a half years through this program. Currently, eight students are studying in Japan with our support. Nothing would make us happier than if even one of these Omani students becomes a fan of Japan through this experience. Moving forward, Mitsubishi will continue to work hand in hand with the people of Oman for their country's development.





CSR Activities in Dhofar region

108

Mitsui & Co., LTD.



In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan



Masami Iiiima President and Chief Executive Officer

www.mitsui.com/jp/en/

Mitsui & Co., Ltd. is engaged in a wide spectrum of business operations worldwide with the people of each region. These extend from resources development, logistics and financial sector related operations, to familiar areas such as information provision, food, and fashion as well as infrastructures essential for daily life including electric power, gas and railways. Mitsui is responding to the needs of its customers worldwide by integrating the five functions of marketing, financing, logistics, risk management and IT & process system building in all areas of its business.

Mitsui has been devoted to various business areas including LNG and oil and gas exploration and production projects in Oman. Mitsui is delighted that the diplomatic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan have reached an important milestone, and at the same time reaffirmed the significance of contributing to further strengthening the relationship of the two countries through the business activities in Oman. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude and respect for the courtesy provided to Japan with splendid support such as the monetary donation and the additional LNG supply and so on, when Japan experienced an unprecedented natural disaster on March 11th, 2011.

It is expected that Oman will see further progression in terms of economic growth and we believe that the country will become more important within the entire Middle East. At the same time, we hope that in both Oman and Japan the established relationship of mutual trust underpins further cooperative ties toward the future. Mitsui will, based on the good relationship cultivated over the years with the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and business partners, engage in broad business areas for the longstanding development of Oman with a long term perspective, and at the same time assist human resource development through various businesses and personnel exchanges to contribute to the further strengthening of the mutual relationship.

Lastly, I would like to express my utmost respect to the people who have committed and spent tremendous efforts until today from both countries for the establishment of the strong relationship. Furthermore, I would like to express our hope to see further enhancement of the diplomatic relations between Oman and Japan.



At the training program hosted by Mitsui & Co., Middle East Ltd.

Mitsui's business activities and continuous commitment toward further business enhancement in Oman

■ Company Activities

After the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan in the year 1972, Mitsui started business activities in Oman from the late 1970s. In the early stages, the main business area was the trading activities such as exports of automobiles and machinery from Japan and import of crude oil from Oman. Since the 1990s, along with the countries' desire to depart from dependence on the oil sector and diversify the economy, Mitsui has been focusing on participating in emerging industrial sectors, to enhance our comprehensive functions and capabilities.

In 1992, Mitsui participated in the country's first LNG project together with the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and other private companies. Oman LNG L.L.C., the company that implemented the project, started to export LNG in 2000. The Oman LNG project has become a very important project that contributes largely to the stable energy supply to Japan and other countries in the Asia Pacific region, as well as contributing to the economic development as a basis for Oman's LNG industries. Furthermore, through our subsidiary company Mitsui E&P Middle East B.V., we have been engaged in oil and gas exploration, development and production business since 2002 and have been playing an important role in increasing the country's oil production and the stable supply of natural gas, for which demand is increasing year by year in Oman.

Mitsui with the utmost efforts intends to continuously contribute to the sustainable development of Oman's economy and people through a multilateral and cooperative relationship. In addition to the stable operation and business enhancement of ongoing projects, we would like to keep focusing on various business areas including infrastructure projects such as power, water and sewage treatment, as well as the provision of active support for human resources development, for which demand is likely to increase as a result of the recent rapid growth of economy and population.



Drilling rig in Oman onshore block

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd.



Koichi Muto President

www.mol.co.jp/

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. ("MOL") is the world's largest ocean shipping company that meets the transportation needs of the times in a diverse range of fields. From specialized bulk carriers carrying iron ore, coal, and wood chips, tankers that transport crude oil and LNG, and car carriers and containerships that deliver a variety of finished products, MOL plays a key role in driving today's global economy. MOL promotes and protects our environment by maintaining strict, safe operation and navigation standards. With the world's largest fleet, the use of cutting edge technologies, and a wealth of experience gained from over 125 years in the shipping business, our activities - and opportunities extend to all regions of the world and know no bounds. The company plays a significant role in spurring global economic growth, and we are continually seeking ways to evolve as a resilient, flexible, and powerful corporate group.

Our shipping business ties continue to grow closer and stronger with every passing year, and we remain deeply appreciative of the cooperative nature of our relationship with our Omani colleagues

■ Message from President

First and foremost, we would like to offer our warmest congratulations on the 40th anniversary of the start of official diplomatic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan. This milestone reflects the positive and proactive national policy followed by the Government of the Sultanate of Oman ("GOSO") in securing strong bonds between our two nations on many levels - economically, politically, and cultur-

Under the generous encouragement of GOSO, MOL has worked closely with the Oman Shipping Company S.A.O.C. ("OSC") and Oman Ship Management Company S.A.O.C. ("OSMC") since their establishment, to help lay a solid base for a prosperous and bright future for the maritime industry in the Sultanate of Oman.

Our joint ventures now range from LNG carriers to oil product tankers, totaling 10 ships. Our shipping business ties continue to grow closer and stronger with every passing year, and we remain deeply appreciative of the cooperative nature of our relationship with our Omani colleagues. I would like to reaffirm that MOL remains unremitting in its efforts to work with and for OSC and OSMC, both with existing businesses and in the exploration of new business avenues as they arise. I would also add that we remain keen to cooperate and work with GOSO in the further development of the maritime industry in the Sultanate of Oman.



LNG Carrier "IBRA LNG"



Ship Handling Simulator donated to IMCO by Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd.

Company Activities

The relationship between GOSO and MOL started with the joint ownership of the "SOHAR LNG", which was the first LNG shipping project that GOSO participated in. Since this memorable event, MOL has built a close and strategic relationship with GOSO. Major milestones include;

- > January 2002: GOSO and MOL decided to become joint owners of "SOHAR LNG" and entered into a 20 year time charter party with Oman LNG L.L.C. to transport LNG to European and Far Eastern buyers.
- April 2002: MOL opened its new office in Muscat and dispatched four staff members there who were experts in a range of fields (technical, marine, engineer, commercial) to provide ship management and operation services for LNG carriers, as well as to contribute to the development of the shipping industry in the Sultanate of Oman.
- Iuly 2002: MOL concluded a joint venture for a second LNG carrier, the "Muscat LNG", which was launched in April, 2004 and was jointly owned by GOSO, Mitsui & Co., Ltd and MOL.
- May 2003: GOSO and MOL concluded a comprehensive service support contract, the Services Agreement, with the aim of providing professional support in the development of the ocean shipping industry in Oman. Under the Services Agreement, MOL has assisted GOSO in all aspects of the shipping business, including new shipbuilding procurement, construction supervision, ship management, voyage services, marine operation, manning and recruiting, and commercial services.
- Iuly 2004: MOL concluded a joint venture with OSC for four additional new LNG carriers, "NIZWA LNG", "SALALAH LNG", "IBRI LNG" and "IBRA LNG" for the transportation of liquefied natural gas produced by Oman's third LNG liquefaction plant.
- > January 2005: OSMC, a subsidiary of OSC, was incorporated to take over ship management activities from MOL Muscat office. MOL sent three senior staff members from the MOL Muscat office who were experts in the technical, marine, and engineering fields to assist OSMC in ship-management and also to supervise the construction of OSMC's new building.
- ▶ June 2005: MOL and OSC signed J/V agreements to co-own a VLCC, "DUQM".
- Inne 2006: MOL and OSC signed J/V agreements to co-own an LR2 product tanker, "HAIMA", and a very large gas carrier (VLGC), "MUSANAH", to be delivered in 2009.
- May 2007: MOL and OSC signed J/V agreements to co-own an LR2 product tanker, "RAYSUT", to be delivered in 2009.
- > April 2008: MOL donated advanced marine simulators to GOSO for use in the International Maritime College in Oman. The marine simulators consist of four systems - ship handling, engine control, liquefied cargo handling, and container handling crane. MOL hopes this donation will promote the education and training of seafarers in Oman and neighboring Arabic nations, and, by extension, contribute to the development of sustainable worldwide ocean shipping.
- December 2008: MOL and OSC's IV, "LIWA MARITIME" time-chartered a newly built LR1 product tanker named "LIWA" from a Japanese head owner via MOL.

GOSO has embarked on a national policy of not just exporting energy resources, but also developing related industries. In order to assist GOSO's aspiration, MOL has been using its extensive knowledge of the LNG transport business, together with its considerable experience in the shipping industry, to help and support GOSO in a wide range of services, including vessel ownership, ship management and voyage operation, supervision of building new LNG carriers, and crew training, as well as consultation and advice in contract negotiation, and the establishment of a national shipping company.

Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.

Design Your Energy / 夢ある明日を **SOSAKA GAS**

I am pleased that Osaka Gas has played a part in forging the bilateral ties through LNG trade



Hiroshi Ozaki President

www.osakagas.co.jp/index.html

Osaka Gas is a leading energy supplier with its core natural gas supply business serving 7 million customers in the Kansai Region. With its portfolio of diversified energy businesses, Osaka Gas is developing into a multi-energy services provider of natural gas, electricity, LPG, district heating/cooling, and other services. With its affiliated enterprises, the Osaka Gas Group is also active in various non-energy business fields.

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan, it is my honor and privilege to extend my wholehearted congratulations to the people and the Government of Oman. Despite the everchanging political and economic environment in the world, our two countries have maintained strong ties based on our mutual respect and friendship. I am pleased that Osaka Gas has played a part in forging the bilateral ties through LNG trade.

Since Osaka Gas started importing LNG from Oman in the year 2000, 28 years after the opening of diplomatic relations, our relationship with your country has become a highly integral asset for our business. With our need of diversifying our LNG procurement in the background, my company and Oman signed our first long-term LNG contract, which made Oman the sixth LNG supplier for Osaka Gas. Since then, your country has contributed to securing a stable LNG supply, currently accounting for some 20% of the total LNG supply for the company.

Our relationship with your country extends beyond the conventional one between a seller and a buyer of LNG, and we have established close ties through investments in each other's energy assets; Osaka Gas in the LNG terminal of Qalhat LNG, and Qalhat LNG in a power generation affiliate of Osaka Gas. I am delighted with the strong performances shown by the two companies that have brought about the mutual benefits for the two partners. Further cooperation between Oman and Osaka Gas in exploring opportunities in energy-related businesses would drive forward growth of the Omani economy and expansion of energy business of Osaka Gas.

It is my sincere hope that our friendship and cooperation will be strengthened long into the future and will bear fruits to be enjoyed by the people of Oman and Ja-



LNG Vessel "LNG JAMAL" shipping LNG mainly between Oman and Osaka Gas

■ Company Activities

The Osaka Gas Group has been arduously working to implement Field of Dreams 2020, the group's long-term business vision up to the year 2020, to achieve its continued growth so that we will remain the corporate group of choice by all our stakeholders.

In the vision formulated in March 2009, Osaka Gas seeks to achieve strong growth in the following three business domains; (1) domestic energy business, (2) international energy business along the natural gas value chain, and (3) environment and non-energy business.

In the domestic energy business, we will strive to ensure stable supply of natural gas, electricity, LPG and other types of energy to its' growing customer base.

The Group's international energy business extends to a wide range of fields from upstream to downstream: equity participation in developing projects of unconventional gas such as shale gas, and investment in natural gas liquefaction terminals such as Qalhat LNG as well as in various IPP businesses in the downstream sector.

In the environment and non-energy business, the company and its affiliates are engaged in property business, information technology and advanced materials by leveraging the group's technologies and know-how in chemicals gained through gas manufacturing.

As the importance of natural gas grows due to heightened concerns over environmental protection and improving security of supply, Osaka Gas is committed to securing stable supply of gas. This will be accomplished by diversifying the procurement sources including Oman and various LNG producing countries, participating in upstream projects such as gas field development, and maintaining shipping capability by having its own fleet of carriers.

Sumitomo Corporation

Sumitomo Corporation

Contributing to mutual understanding and development through localization



Kuniharu Nakamura President and CEO

www.sumitomocorp.co.jp/english/

Establishment Date: December 24, 1919 Number of Offices: Domestic: 24

Overseas (65 countries):

116 (As of April 1, 2013)

Head Office: Harumi Island Triton Square Office Tower Y

> 8-11 Harumi 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-

March 31, 2013)

Number of Employees: 5,213 (Consolidated Base: 73,953) (As of

8610 Japan

Business Description:

With its global network and based on trust from companies in various industries and from consumers, Sumitomo Corporation engages in multifaceted business activities by making the most of its Integrated Corporate Strength These business activities include sales of a variety of products and services within Japan, import and export, trilateral trade, and domestic and international business investment.

I extend my sincere congratulations on the fortieth anniversary of diplomatic relations between Oman and Japan. I pray for the further development of Oman and its dear people under the sagacious and great leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said, along with the further deepening of the ties between our two countries. I also wish to express gratitude and respect to His Excellency Ambassador of Oman to Japan Khalid Hashil Al-Muslahi for proposing a commemorative publication on this landmark occasion and giving Sumitomo Corporation the opportunity to express our greetings.

■ The Relationship between Sumitomo Corporation and Oman

Oman has a long history, dating back to the early days of Mesopotamian civilization, and a background as a trading country that flourished to the point of splitting domination of the Indian Ocean with Britain. It is also my understanding that the Omani people have a wonderful national character, with the flexibility to accept diverse cultures.

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said ascended to the throne in 1970 and diplomatic relations with Japan were established in 1972. Sumitomo Corporation then started developing its business operations in Oman in step with the progress of the Sultanate's economic development. In 1976 we stationed an employee in Muscat for the first time, and over the 36 years since then we have built and strengthened our ties in various forms with the people of Oman's government and private-sector corpo-

I would note in particular that at many key junctures we have been able to transcend the framework of business relations as a private-sector corporation and build ties of mutual consideration, respect and of two-way contributions through mutual understanding between our people and the people of Oman on an individual level and also on understanding of cultural aspects. Sumitomo Corporation has been able to conduct sound business activities with Oman on an ongoing basis without interruption for the past 36 years thanks to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said, the officials of Oman's government, and the people of private-sector corporations who have displayed magnanimity, enlightened thinking, and flexibility. I wish to express our deep gratitude for this.





■ Outline of Our Company's Activities in Oman

Sumitomo Corporation's activities in Oman are varied. Working through a subsidiary, we started drilling activities in 1975, and from 1980 through 1999 we extracted crude oil from the Abu Butabul field and supplied it steadily to Japan. In the 1990s we started entering into long-term purchase contracts for crude. In the early 1980s we began exporting Japanese cars, trucks, and buses to Oman, and working with the Zubair Group to supply vehicles for safe and pleasant driving by people in Oman. In the 1980s and 1990s we were active in the telecommunications field, exporting communication system for a satellite base station and taking part in the installation project for the facility. In the second half of the 2000s, we also started exports of carbon products to Sohar Aluminium. We have been supplying pipes, which are used to produce oil and gas ("OCTG") and its transportation ("linepipe") to Petroleum Development of Oman (PDO) for more than 20 years. In addition to the supply, the inventory management programme (Supply Chain Management) of OCTG started in Dubai in 2003, before its location was changed to Sohar, Oman in 2011 so as to enhance "Omanisation." We would like to contribute to the Omani economy through continuous localization.

■ Prospects and Hopes for Oman's Future and Ties with Our Company

These days the business environment is constantly changing and becoming more challenging all around the world. At a time like this it is especially crucial, regardless of industry or field, to develop even stronger ties with superior partners.

Once again I thank the Omani people for the support you have extended to our company up to now. Over the coming 10 years, as we head for the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between our nations, we at Sumitomo Corporation will continue to devote our utmost efforts toward the creation of additional operations and businesses so as to contribute to the national development and progress of Oman.

In closing, I pray for the good health of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said, His Excellency Ambassador Al-Muslahi, and all the people of Oman.



Toyota Motor Corporation

TOYOTA

A Partnership for Now and Beyond

www.toyota-global.com

Built on the philosophy of its founding fathers, Toyota has always aimed to understand the needs of the customer, meet those needs as quickly as possible, and then go even fur-

Emphasizing teamwork, respect for people and continuous improvement, the Toyota principles are the bedrock of our current Global Vision that will guide the company as it grows and transforms in the future.

Through our commitment to quality, constant innovation and respect for the planet, we will lead the way to the future of mobility, enriching lives around the world with the safest and most responsible ways of moving

On this truly significant day we offer our wholehearted congratulations as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Oman and Japan. We are also extremely grateful for the continued patronage of our customers in Oman.

It has been almost 40 years since we started business in Oman, and we are thankful that our products have been one of the best-selling brands in the region for many years. Our success is due to the extraordinary efforts of Saud Bahwan Automotive (SBA), under the leadership of Sheikh Mohammed Saud Bahwan. With huge investment in human resource development and the sales and service networks, SBA has been instrumental in helping us achieve our aim of moving our customers in Oman by exceeding their expectations through amazing sales and service efforts.

What we have always been particularly impressed by is the Customer-First Spirit of SBA. To ensure customer satisfaction, SBA offers quality after-sales support regularly to customers. Customer support is provided through 24-hour back-up and enhanced warranty services, as well as making all maintenance service announcements available on mobile and social media networks.

To further enhance the experience of our customers in Oman, we provide technical support to SBA employees, especially in the areas of service and manpower training. At the same time, we also welcome Omani employees from SBA to our training facilities that impart state-of-the-art skills in many areas.

Our engineers regularly visit the country, not only to test the latest products but also to undertake consumer research. In this way, we gain extremely valuable insights in our developmental efforts for the Gulf region.

It is no exaggeration to say that of all the Toyota sales bases we have seen throughout the world, SBA's customer service sets the highest standard, and we sincerely thank you for this from the bottom of our hearts.



The TOYOTA facility in Oman - setting new standards



Salesperson discussing with customer in the facility

In 2007, Oman suffered an unforgettable hardship when a cyclone struck the east coast of the country, leaving the capital of Muscat extensively damaged. SBA also suffered significant damage to its vehicles. Responding to this, a Toyota vehicle repair support team was dispatched to the site on a three-week mission with dedicated equipment to repair flood-damaged vehicles. Through the combined efforts of the team and the SBA employees, normal customer service was quickly restored.

Meanwhile, the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake that hit two years ago caused unprecedented damage to the Tohoku region, with our employees and their families also suffering greatly. During this time of adversity, SBA supported us with many kind words of sympathy and their full commitment to minimizing inconvenience to our customers. In Japanese, we call this bond "kizuna". It is created by showing concern for others and helping them in times of difficulty. To further deepen the bond between Oman and Japan, and become even more loved in the country, Toyota will continue to provide the people of Oman with world class vehicles and services.

Recently, we were deeply impressed by an article about a fisherman from a small fishing village who uses his Land Cruiser every day for work. Hoisting a net over refrigerated tanks full of fish on the back of his vehicle, he then transports the fish to a refrigeration facility over 150km away. This may only highlight one of the many ways people use their Land Cruisers, but it demonstrates Toyota's relentless commitment to making reliable and long-lasting vehicles. Beyond being a delightful example, it also underlines the fact that our Land Cruisers play a practical and fundamental role in the lives of people in Oman. For Toyota, there is no greater joy.

Standing side by side with SBA, we will continue to work tirelessly for the people of Oman to create a more mutually beneficial and trustworthy partnership, and look forward to an even brighter future together.



Land Cruiser at a small fishing village in Oman

Japan Petroleum Exploration Co., Ltd.

JAPEX



Osamu Watanabe Chief Executive Officer

www.japex.co.jp

Japan Petroleum Exploration Co., Ltd. (JAPEX) was founded in 1955 through a government initiative, and later re-established as a private sector company. JAPEX is expanding its oil and gas activities all over the world to realize even greater growth and prosperity, whilst at the same time continuing to explore and produce oil and natural The relationship between the two countries dates as far back as the 17th century, and has since developed with reciprocal trust and friendship and now spans a wide range of fields

The year 2012 marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of official diplomatic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan, and I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations for the publishing of the commemorative book in recognition of this very special anniversary. The relationship between the two countries dates as far back as the 17th century, and has since developed with reciprocal trust and friendship and now spans a wide range of fields. When the unprecedented and devastating natural disaster occurred in Japan in March 2011, the Sultanate of Oman kindly provided enormous support to our country very quickly. The Japanese population will never forget this sincere cordiality, and I strongly believe that this wholehearted kindness is the fruit of the friendship both countries have nurtured.

JAPEX has been involved in the development and production of petroleum and natural gas in countries around the world, and in the 1980s and 1990s, we had exploration and production in the Sultanate of Oman through a subsidiary which many of our people still have a good memory of. I do hope our company will have another opportunity in the country, and that our activities will contribute to further development of mutually beneficial relations between the two countries in the future.

■ Company Activities

JAPEX is engaged in oil and natural gas exploration and production (E&P) activities both in Japan and overseas. Its main operating areas in Japan are Hokkaido, Akita, and Niigata. Overseas, it is currently quite active in 12 countries, especially in Canada, Indo-

In Oman, we started explorations in Block V (Wadi Aswad) in 1981 and discovered the Daleel oil field in 1986. As an operator, JAPEX developed the field and produced 35MMbbl oil in total from 1990 to 2002. A total of 120 JAPEX employees worked in Oman during 1981-2002 for various operations. We appreciate that the experiences and knowhow they learned and acquired in the Sultanate have become precious treasures for us.

On the other hand, in addition to E&P business, we have placed particular emphasis on new energy and environment-related business as a part of efforts to acquire innovative technologies and knowledge through research and development on GTL, methane hydrate, CCS, and others. JAPEX will further grow and play an active role in the leading-edge field looking towards the future by fully making use of our original E&P technologies and knowledge we have accumulated and developed through our business in Japan and overseas.



The oil production facility in Oman



The ceremony celebrating the completion of 14Km trunk pipeline connected with PDO pipeline to export oil overseas.

Mitsubishi Materials Techno Corporation

★MITSUBISHI MATERIALS TECHNO

We have technology to support customers' technology



Yoshiaki Inaba President

www.mmtec.co.jp

Mitsubishi Materials Techno Corporation is wholly owned by Mitsubishi Materials Corporation. Our company was established as a construction company primarily for the maintenance of refineries at Mitsubishi Materials Corporation. Since then, we have grown as a comprehensive engineering company that shares the strong performance of the group companies, and we have established the Civil Engineering, Architecture, Machinery, Electrical, Heating and Cooling, and Process divisions. We then took over the Environmental and Energy Division from Mitsubishi Materials Corporation, merged with Tamagawa Machinery Co., Ltd., and now operate four divisions: the Engineering Division, the Natural Resources, Environmental and Energy Engineering Division, the Advanced Equipment Division and the Tamagawa Machinery Division.

Our company traces its history back to 1958, when it was founded as OTE Kosan Co., Ltd. Over the years, we have evolved into a comprehensive engineering company that not only operates an engineering business as part of the Mitsubishi Materials Group, but is also involved in equipment manufacturing, resources, environmental, and energy businesses.

At present, we are executing our medium-term management plan for fiscal 2010-2013. The plan has two basic management policies:

- To seek company wide synergy and strong profitability through greater focus
- To consistently bolster our foundations, to serve as a springboard to higher levels of

As part of this second policy, we will refine our business scope with the aspiration to become a comprehensive and high value-added engineering company with a highly profitable structure under the slogan of "Creating a new Mitsubishi Materials Techno through total synergy." Meanwhile, the company is united in its commitment to increasing customer satisfaction.

Today, businesses are expected to fulfill their corporate social responsibility (CSR). I believe that a company's reason for being is to make sound profits so that it can serve stakeholders and society. Aiming to increase our corporate value through greater awareness of this, all of our officers and staff will combine our strengths in carrying out CSR activities, which include not only the creation of safe and positive workplaces but also the observance of laws and regulations, fair trading, the reduction of latent risks, a focus on compliance, and other aspects, which all lay at the heart of our corporate activities.

We look forward to the opportunity to be of service.

■ Company Activities

In today's globalized, digitalized world, the mission of Mitsubishi Materials Techno is to provide advanced engineering and consulting services, industrial machinery, and equipment and maintenance that enables our customers to create and deliver environmentally

The evolution of our total technology is unceasing for the continued realization of

manufacturing that is friendly to people, society and the globe. Primarily a provider of comprehensive services from designing to construction to maintenance of hardware protecting the environment, the company is also active, for example, in the realm of nuclear engineering where its advanced technology supports safety. Our manufacturing sector delivers various industrial products including cutting-edge semiconductor related equipment and products in the field of geological and environmental engineering - strengthening the entire company.

For a prosperous future for people, society and the world, we grow and evolve side by side with our customers.



Drilling survey for copper exploration in Ghuzayn, Al-Khaburah

Nomura Holdings, Inc.

NOMURA

Nomura has been very fortunate serving both Oman's public and private sector organizations



Koji Nagai Group CEO Nomura Holdings, Inc.

http://www.nomura.com

Nomura is a leading financial services group and the preeminent Asia-based Investment Bank with a worldwide reach. Our Retail, Asset Management, and Wholesale divisions provide a broad range of innovative, value-added solutions tailored to the specific requirements of individual, institutional, corporate and government clients through an international network in over 30 countries around the

I would like to take this opportunity to thank His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, Sultan of Oman, Ambassador Khalid Hashil Al-Muslahi, and the people of Oman for providing us with the honour and privilege to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Establishment of diplomatic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan.

Oman and Japan have long been excellent partners working closely together. Following the Great East Japan Earthquake, Oman offered overwhelming support, providing daily necessities and generous donations to those affected. This not only strengthened our ties but also inspired confidence among the people of Japan.

As we come to understand each other more, I believe it is important to promote more mutual exchanges to further strengthen our common bond and enjoy the wealth of beauty our countries share, surrounded by the sea, mountains and forests.

Nomura first established a joint venture in Lebanon in 1974. This was followed by our Bahrain operation in 1980.

We have continued our commitment to the Middle East for almost 40 years. In 2008, UAE (Dubai) and Qatar were brought on board following our acquisition of the Middle Eastern franchise of Lehman Brothers. This coincided with the establishment of Nomura Saudi Arabia.

The Middle East has always been an important element of Nomura's global strategy and a location where we appoint our top talent. It will remain a high priority for us as we aim to provide the best business solutions to our clients in the region.

Nomura has been very fortunate serving both Oman's public and private sector organizations. Under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, the Sultanate has developed into a thriving, modern state with a future vision that deserves

As Asia's global investment bank Nomura will continue to contribute by linking Oman and Asia, including Japan, by utilising the global capital markets to support this vi-

I hope this book provides a good opportunity for the people of Oman and Japan to understand and acknowledge our important relations, while also reaffirming and further strengthening the bonds between our two great countries.

Sojitz Corporation



New way, New value



Yoii Sato President and CEO

www.sojitz.com

Sojitz Corporation was formed out of the union of Nichimen Corporation and Nissho Iwai Corporation, both companies that boast incredibly long histories. For more than 120 years, our business has helped support the development of countless countries and regions. Today, the Sojitz Group consists of approximately 450 subsidiaries and affiliates located in Japan and throughout the world, and it is developing its wide-ranging general trading company operations in roughly 50 countries and regions across the globe.





Sojitz Corporation conducts independent power producer businesses and other infrastructure development projects in Oman with the aim of furthering the country's development while simultaneously strengthening the relationship between Oman and Japan

This book was published in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relationships between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan, which was celebrated in 2012. As such, this book's publication marks an event truly worth celebrat-

Sojitz Corporation has continued to maintain a favorable relationship with Oman through its business for many years now. I believe we have Sultan Qaboos bin Said and the people of Oman to thank for this, as this accomplishment would not have been possible without their ongoing support and understanding. Thanks are also due to Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary Khalid Hashil Al-Muslahi, who has been a constant and substantial source of support over the years.

■ Company Activities

The Company's operations in Oman date back to 1980, when we established a liaison office in Muscat, the country's capital city. Over the more than 32 years that followed, we have undertaken a number of ventures in this country with our primary focus being infrastructure development. I feel great pride in the fact that we have continued to contribute to Oman's development through these business activities.

Over the period from 1981 to 1994, we worked to fill an order for five desalination plants in the Ghubrah district of Muscat. After being brought online, this plant has continued to operate, and it is supplying Muscat with safe drinking water even today. In 1983 and 1990, we acquired orders to construct natural gas processing plants in Ybal Gas Field located in a desert region in central Oman. These plants are now producing gas used by Omani industrial and residential users alike. The development of Sohar which is located 240km to the west of Muscat commenced in 1991, and this area has since grown into one of the country's central export bases. In this area, Sojitz took part in constructing dredging facilities at ports and also participated in constructing wharfs, oil refineries, and fertilizer plants. Furthermore, in April 2013, the Sohar 2 and the Barka 3 projects were completed, and we subsequently commenced commercial operations at these projects. This marked the start of the first independent power producer business to be conducted by a Japanese company in Oman. These projects have a combined generation capacity of 1,488MW, and they thus account for roughly 25% of Oman's total generating capabilities. The two projects are slated to supply power to the Oman Power and Water Procurement Company (OPWP) over the next 15 years.

> Oman is currently working to branch out its economy, and it is my understanding that the country is advancing various infrastructure projects and other industrial development plans. Going forward, Sojitz will continue participating in projects to construct plants and otherwise develop infrastructure. Through our involvement in these projects, as well as through the accompanying interpersonal exchanges, we aim to help advance the development of Oman and contribute to further strengthening the bonds between Oman and Japan.

Barka 3 IPP Project in Oman

Oman LNG



الشركة العُمَانيّة لِلغَازالطَبْيعيُ المُسَالُ ش٠٠٠

Oman LNG L.L.C.



Harib Al Kitani Chief Executive Officer of Oman LNG

www.omanlng.com

info@omanlng.co.om

Established by Royal Decree in 1994, Oman LNG produces and sells liquefied natural gas (LNG) and its by-product, natural gas liquids (NGLs).

The company operates a three-train liquefaction plant with a nameplate capacity of 10.4 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) at Qalhat, near the town of Sur in the Sharqiya (Eastern) region of Oman.

Oman LNG is a joint venture company between the Government of Oman (51%), Royal Dutch/Shell Group (30%), Total (5.54%), KOLNG (5%), Partex (2%), Mitsubishi (2.77%), Mitsui (2.77%) and Itochu (0.92%).

The company's activities play an important role in the government's efforts at diversifying the economy.

Common ties built on mutual respect and understanding

As the Sultanate of Oman and Japan mark 40 years of diplomatic ties, we are reminded that the most enduring and meaningful relationships are those based on mutual respect and understanding for the laudable aspirations to grow, prosper and contribute towards greater global harmony and cooperation.

Both countries are renowned for their conviction that peace is a fundamental basis for global harmony and growth. The relationship that has developed between our two countries over the last 40 years has been built on this reputation and has seen us engage in open dialogue and the exchange of ideas and opportunities that have strengthened our cultural, economic and diplomatic successes.

Oman LNG is one such 'success story'. Three of our company's shareholders are renowned Japanese 'giants': Mitsubishi Corporation (2.77%); Mitsui & Co. Ltd (2.77%); and Itochu Corporation (0.92%).

During Oman LNG's formative years and over thirteen years of operations, our Japanese shareholders, in cooperation with the Government of Oman (51%), Shell Gas BV (30%), Total S.A. (5.54%), Korea LNG (5%) and Patex (Oman) Corporation (2%) have been the wind in our sails and the rudder of our ship, guiding the company through the many challenges that face our business. Together, they have provided a strong governance structure that has ensured the safety, reliability, and profitability of our mission to deliver LNG to world markets.

Japan is and will remain a key market for Oman LNG in the future. The increased dependency of that country on LNG was tragically increased in March 2011 when the devastating earthquake and tsunami took so many lives and seriously disrupted its nuclear power generation capability. It was an honor at that time for Oman and Oman LNG to be able to offer support in the shape of additional LNG.

Today's world is challenged by the ever increasing demand for energy and concerns for the environmental impact of greenhouse gases. The abundance of the world's natural resources offers a way forward in the coming decades that will meet much of those new energy demands with an efficient and clean fuel.

Within the Gulf, Oman remains a key trading partner and import destination for Japan. Oman and Japan also enjoy mutual commitments to cultural and historical values through, for example, the preservation of heritage sites now included in the United Nations World Heritage List. In the Sultanate of Oman, the list includes Falaj (irrigation), archaeological sites and historic forts.

With such common ties and interests I am confident in the strength of our close relationships, and look forward with optimism to even closer ties and many more opportunities in the future.



■ Company Activities

Oman LNG undertakes directly or indirectly, project operations and related activities essential to liquefy, store, transport, and market Oman's natural gas and to deliver LNG to customers.

The Company operates 3 liquefaction trains - 2 owned by Oman LNG LLC and 1 by Qalhat LNG SAOC - at its site in Qalhat near Sur with a nameplate capacity of 10.4 million tons per annum (mtpa).

The Company's activities contribute to the Government of Oman's objective of diversifying the economy away from its current level of dependency on oil.

Oman LNG's liquefaction plant is located on the coast at Qalhat near Sur, in the South Sharqiyah Governorate. The head office is in Muscat.

Established by Royal Decree in 1994, Oman LNG produces and sells liquefied natural gas (LNG) and its by-product, natural gas liquids (NGLs) to key markets in Asia and the Pacific Rim, including Japan.





Oman Oil Company S.A.O.C



شركة النفط العمانية ش.م.ع.م. Oman Oil Company s.A.o.c.



His Excellency Nasser bin Khamis Al Jashmi Chairman

www.oman-oil.com

info@oman-oil.com

Oman Oil Company is a commercial investment company wholly owned by the Government of the Sultanate of Oman. The company was incorporated in 1996 as a vehicle to bolster the Sultanate's efforts to diversify the Omani economy and to promote Omani and foreign private sector investment.

OOC has managed in a relatively short period of time to contribute to the development of many important projects in energy and energy related areas. The company's local and international investments covers exploration and production, metals, refining and petrochemical, oil products marketing, electricity generation and marine shipping.

Investing for the Future of Oman

Since its establishment, Oman Oil Company has built a robust portfolio of investments and partnerships with leading companies around the world. We have always been guided by our core principles of long-term value creation across our portfolio, and the transfer of knowledge to ensure continued economic development and growth in Oman

A vital part of OOC's strategy is our focus on sustainable growth when choosing our partners. Today, our portfolio is made up of investments across Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. In addition to our overseas investments, OOC is one of the leading partners in the local development of the Dugm economic zone through initiatives like the planned refinery and petrochemical complex which is expected to be completed in 2017.

Our ability to deliver successful results is also a reflection of the vision and dedication of our management, and the talent of our workforce. While portfolio growth is a key focus, equally important is our dedication to developing Omani talent and future business leaders through various initiatives within our group of companies and the greater community.





Oman Oil Company's investments cover the entire energy value chain from exploration and production to shipping of crude oil products and retail and marketing.

Developing sustainable growth through maximizing resources

■ Company Activities

Oman Oil Company has as its vision to be the leading energy investment company in the region and has at its core the following objectives:

- Develop and invest in profitable businesses within Oman and internationally
- Create meaningful employment within Oman
- Grow talent business leaders and professionals
- Maximize value from Oman's resources

OOC has developed extensive insights into the hydrocarbon industry, as well as the fundamentals of investing and portfolio management. This experience has given the company a leading edge in its investment across the energy value chain and has improved its portfolio, which currently covers 32 investments across 10

Adding value to the oil and gas sourced from Oman has been the fundamental theme in all the investments pursued by OOC in Oman. Over the last 15 years, OOC has been successful in establishing several projects in Oman that diversify the economy and provide additional employment opportunities for Omanis. The projects developed by OOC helped to attract significant direct foreign investment.

The company has also set the pace for further industrialization of the country's economy through its excellent training and career opportunities for present and future generations of Omanis. The direct employment created so far in the OOC group of businesses is above 7,000 within Oman.

International Investment

Besides its investment in projects in Oman, the company has also pursued a prudent policy of diversifying investment in the international arena to generate growth with stable income and attract global majors to develop projects in Oman. The company has taken significant and strategic shareholdings in international assets within the energy and related sectors.



Oman Oil Refineries and **Petroleum Industries Company**





Musab Al Mahruqi Chief Executive Officer

www.orpic.om

info@orpic.om

Celebrating 30 years of operation, Orpic is Oman's integrated refining and petrochemicals business with a revenue of \$9.2bn (2011) and a workforce of 1600 staff, of which 70% are

Orpic's main facilities are refineries at Muscat and Sohar, as well as Aromatics and Polypropylene production plants within the Sohar facility.

Orpic refines around 17% of domestic crude extracted in Oman, providing fuels and petrochemicals to the local market, as well as to the global marketplace.

Orpic is the sole domestic supplier of major fuels and has a significant role in Oman's growth and economic development by adding value through the refining process.

Supplying 100% fuel to Oman

Competitive and accessible raw materials to the manufacturing sector

Welcome to Orpic, Oman Oil Refineries and Petroleum Industries Company. I am delighted to convey my sincere congratulations to Japan and Oman on reaching 40 years of close, warm and cordial relations between our countries.

There are many elements and guiding principles that define good relationships between countries that are geographically distant and culturally diverse. The most important elements in the relationship between Oman and Japan are our people's ability to create a common understanding of each other's needs.

At Orpic, we have nurtured our business for over 30 years, and more recently have integrated three companies - Oman Refineries and Petrochemicals Company LLC (ORPC), Aromatics Oman LLC (AOL) and Oman Polypropylene (OPP), into launching the Orpic brand. Orpic is underpinned by our own guiding principles and this has been pivotal in reaching our vision: to build an integrated Omani refining and petrochemicals business that we are proud of.

Orpic's integration is also supporting our growth plans as we move forward with an expansion that will take our production capability and operational performance to levels that will significantly increase our support of Oman's economic growth through delivering added value.

Our four guiding principles are the foundation in developing our business growth. We call this the Orpic way. This ensures our operations are conducted safely and efficiently whilst adopting good environmental practices. Our people running and operating Orpic are also key to our success and we bring the potential of our people alive though a number of personal and career development initiatives. This is a catalyst to deliver leading performance, both in production and in personal terms. The impact of this was felt through record breaking profits last financial year. With over 70% of Orpic's workforce Omani, we are all very proud to serve Oman with pride.

Our community also contributes to our success by providing local infrastructure and services we need to operate. We acknowledge and share our success as a founding partner of the Jusoor Foundation, a Corporate Social Responsibility initiative that manages and operates key community projects within the Sohar and Liwa communities. Our recently commissioned Visitor Centre launched our "Open Doors" initiative which has become a key area enabling Orpic to engage with the community in an open and transparent manner and share what we do as a business.

I believe our deep sense of pride, our drive towards success, and sharing in a transparent manner is also reflected in the relationship of our two countries. Through our strong relationship and deep understanding, we can truly celebrate 40 years of success and to what awaits in the future.

Company Activities

Omani crude oil is refined by ORPIC into a number of products. These are sold both domestically and internationally for both public consumption and as raw materials for the manufacture of other products.

Fuels:

Gasoline

Orpic refines two grades of gasoline under the brand names Mogas90 (regular) and Mogas95 (super). These products are refined at Mina Al Fahal and Sohar Refineries and are sold to Oman Oil, Shell and Al Maha. These are marketed to the public through roadside petrol stations throughout Oman.

Kerosene, also known as jet fuel, is refined at Orpic's refineries at Muscat and Sohar. It is then distributed to its two main customers, Oman Air and the Ministry of Defence.

LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas) is also commonly known as propane and is made at our Sohar Refinery.

Low sulphur gas oil

Low sulphur gas oil is a newer form of diesel oil and is produced at the Mina Al Fahal Refinery. It is the newest and cleanest of all Orpic products, and is principally used for light commercial vehicles such as offroad equipment, tractors, railway and marine engines.

Orpic produces a medium weight diesel oil at the Sohar and Muscat Refineries.

Its main use is in heavy vehicles such as industrial aggregate crushers, power stations and smaller ship-

Fuel Oil

This is Orpic's heaviest grade of fuel produced at the Sohar Refinery. It is used to fuel large ocean going ships, both commercial and military.

Petrochemicals:

Paraxylene

Paraxylene is produced at the Aromatics Plant and is sold to manufacturers of consumer products that include soft drink bottles, polyester apparel, solvents for leather and printing industries.

Benzene

Benzene is produced at Orpic's Aromatics Plant and is sold to manufacturers of nylon, disposable food containers and cleaning agents.

Polypropylene

Our Polypropylene Plant manufactures 12 grades of polypropylene that is sold under the brand name Luban. Our customers use this to manufacture everyday products such as bags, ropes, fishing nets, electrical insulation, dishwashers, kitchen utensils and chairs

Oman Shipping Company S.A.O.C.





H.E. Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Salim Al Futaisi Minister of Transport and Communications and Deputy Chairman of Oman Shipping Company

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Oman Shipping Company S.A.O.C. (OSC) is a closely held joint stock company, incorporated in 2003 and owned by the Government of the Sultanate of Oman through the Ministry of Finance (80%) and Oman Oil Company S.A.O.C. (20%). The Company is involved in Ship Owning, Ship Chartering, and Ship Management activities through its Subsidiary Companies:

- Oman Charter Company S.A.O.C. (OCC);
- Oman Ship Management Company S.A.O.C. (OSMC): and
- Oman Container Line (OCL) S.A.O.C.

The Company was launched with the acquisition of six LNG Vessels, employing them to transport Omani LNG cargo to the world markets, together with Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd. (MOL) as its Joint Venture Partner. Existing LNG vessels are managed by OSMC, an ISM accredited Company. MOL provides service support to OSMC in matters of technical management of the LNG vessels. The Company has since diversified into Crude Oil, Chemical, LPG, Dry Bulk, Container, and General Cargo market segments. The Company expects to have 43 vessels under ownership and management, totaling a cargo carrying capacity of about 8 million DWT by 2014.

The Company's customers have included Mitsubishi Corporation, Itochu Corporation, Osaka Gas, Oman LNG, Qalhat LNG, Petronet, Qatar Gas and Oman Refinery & Petrochemical Company, Sohar Aluminum, Salalah Methanol, Vale, Reliance Industries etc., to name a few.

We sincerely wish and pray that this cooperation further grows and reaches greater heights in the years to come for the mutual benefit of our two great nations

We are very happy and proud to witness a blossoming of Oman-Japan relations over the past four decades to the mutual advantage of our two friendly countries. This covers a multitude of areas such as business, economy, academics, human resource development, culture and social relations.

In the field of Maritime Transport we gratefully acknowledge the assistance provided by Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL), in particular in establishing Oman Shipping Company (OSC) in 2003, which in itself has now grown in stature as a respectable international shipping line owning and operating a very young and well diversified fleet of 41 ships. The fleet is comprised of LNG/LPG tankers, Very Large Crude Carriers, Very Large Ore Carriers, Product / Chemical Tankers, Supramax Bulk Carriers, Multi-Purpose General Cargo Vessels, Container Vessels etc., totaling to a cargo carrying capacity of about 7 million DWT as of today.

MOL also extended their service support to OSC in operating LNG carriers and provided their technical personnel to train Omani employees in LNG shipping by transferring their knowledge and skills. Japanese masters and engineers are also conducting "on board" training on the LNG carriers of OSC.

MOL also generously donated advanced marine simulators comprising of four systems, namely, ship handling, engine control, liquefied cargo handling and container handling crane to the International Maritime College (IMCO) at Sohar.

OSC has joint venture partnerships with many leading Japanese companies in addition to MOL, such as Mitsui & Co., Mitsubishi Corporation, Itochu Corporation, Osaka Gas of Japan etc. in LNG shipping and transport to various Japanese units. Many of the vessels of OSC are financed by leading Japanese Banks such as JBIC, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation Ltd., Mizuho Corporate Bank etc. Leading Japanese shipyards like Kawasaki, Mitsubishi, Universal, Imabari, Mitsui, and Sasebo have built some of the ships presently owned and operated by OSC. Furthermore, the Japanese Classification Society NK has classed some of the OSC vessels, and the Japanese insurance company MSI has provided H&M insurance cover to some of the OSC vessels.

We sincerely wish and pray that this cooperation further grows and reaches greater heights in the years to come for the mutual benefit of our two great naSafe and Efficient Shipping Transportation of Cargo to International Destinations: Corner Stones of Our Growth Strategy



Name: Samail

Type: Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) Built: Universal Shipbuilding Co., Japan, 2011

Currently, Oman Shipping Company, owns and operates a young, diversified and fuel efficient fleet of 41 vessels, totaling to 7 million DWT including chartered ships

■ Company Activities

Oman Shipping Company presently owns and operates a diversified fleet of 41 vessels comprising of LNG/LPG vessels, Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs), Very Large Ore Carriers (VLOCs), Product / Chemical Tankers, Supermax Bulk Carriers, Multipurpose Heavy Lift Carriers, LR 1 / LR2 Tankers etc. This directly and indirectly supports the economy of Oman and creates Omani employment opportunities.

Oman Ship Management Company (OSMC), a fully owned subsidiary of Oman Shipping Company presently undertakes technical management of OSC's fleet including that of third party ships. Currently with "In-House" ship management operations based in Muscat, OSMC - following a rapid period of expansion recently - is now managing a fleet of 20 vessels including: five LNG vessels, three LPG vessels, four VLCCs, three chemical tanker and methanol carrier, one MR product tanker, two multi-purpose vessel and two VLOC. The Company was awarded ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 accreditation in 2011, recognizing its adoption of international standards and best practices in ship management activities.

Oman Charter Company (OCC), a fully owned subsidiary of Oman Shipping Company, performs the chartering activities for both in-charters and out-charters to fulfill the customers' requirements to their best satisfaction.

Oman Container Lines (OCL), a fully owned subsidiary of OSC, operates container vessels as common feeders in the Middle East.



Naming and delivery of VLCC 'Saham' by H.E. Ambassador Khalid Al Muslahi, October 2010



Oman Trading International Ltd.



We are proud today as OTI to play a major role in such trade, exporting and importing various energy products between both countries



Talal Al Awfi CEO of Oman Trading International Ltd.

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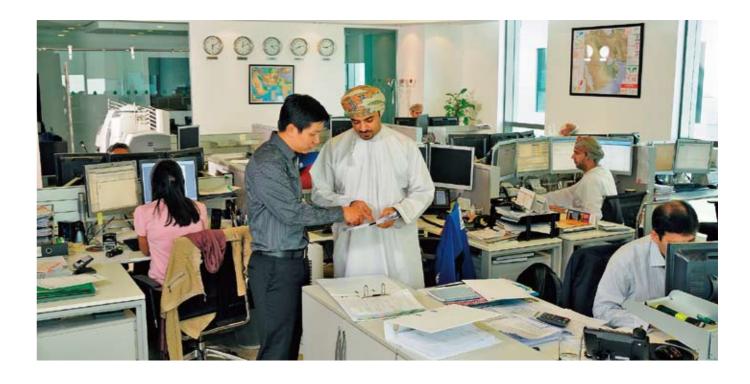
Oman Trading International Company Ltd. (OTI) is located in The Dubai International Financial Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. OTI was jointly founded by the Oman Oil Company and the Vitol Group; two formidable forces that have carved a niche for themselves in the global energy market. OTI's key role is to trade oil, petroleum products, petrochemicals and carbon emissions in the global market place through its extensive trading & marketing network. With five offices in the Middle East, Singapore, China and Europe, OTI is fast becoming a fully fledged trading entity with access to all necessary trading tools, adding value to all stakeholders. In addition to products sourced from Oman, the Company is building sufficient expertise and trading opportunities that would allow it to utilize products regionally and internationally.

The Oman-Japan Energy "Silk Road"

We are delighted in Oman Trading International Ltd. ("OTI") to be part of this publication commemorating the 40th anniversary of Oman-Japan Relations. While the diplomatic relations between the two countries was established in 1972, the energy "Silk Road" had begun a few years before that, solidifying a long lasting history of economic relations between Oman and Japan. With the first few cargos of crude sailing from Oman to Japan in the late 60s, and the import of various consumer and industrial goods from Japan to Oman shortly after, trade has grown heavily since then, extending to various energy products and petrochemicals. We are proud today as OTI to play a major role in such trade, exporting and importing various energy products between both countries.

OTI was established in 2006 to play a trading role in the regional and international energy and petrochemical markets. Growing from 13,000 barrels of crude per day in 2006 to over 100,000 barrels today, the company growth can be regarded as exceptional. Today we trade over 12 million tons of energy and petrochemical products, from crude oil to petroleum products, petrochemicals to carbon emissions. By the end of our 5th anniversary. OTI had been assigned a very important task of marketing, trading and the supply of most of the energy related products produced or consumed within Oman, translating the trust we have gained from our stakeholders since our inception. We have recently finalized securing around US\$500 million of credit lines from a respected consortium of financial institutions, giving us the ability to expand our volume of transactions as well as strengthen our risk management tools. OTI's biggest asset lies in our professional team who represent the main pillar of OTI's success. Our multinational team comes from 12 different countries, and we continue to invest in world-class trading and management expertise, attracting the best the industry has to offer both locally and internationally.

Japan remains one of our strategic markets as we trade various products between Oman and Japan, including crude oil, paraxylene and methanol. While sometimes our products might not flow physically to Japan, our strong and friendly relationship with Japanese companies enable all parties to benefit from various world markets, creating a pool of sustainable economic advantage. We value such relationships with our Japanese business friends and look forward to a continuous prosperous future.



■ Company Activities

There are four key areas within OTI: crude oil, petroleum products, petrochemicals and carbon emissions.

Crude Oil

OTI started trading 14,000 barrels a day in 2006, which has since grown to more than 100,000 barrels per day in 2011. OTI has also witnessed significant growth in its paper trading volumes through its participation in the Dubai Mercantile Exchange, being one of the largest participants in the exchange. OTI continues to increase the size of its trading portfolio and take further advantage of the rapidly expanding crude oil market.

Petroleum Products

As a strategic partner to Oman Oil Refineries and Petroleum Industries Company (Orpic), OTI acts as the commercial arm of the complex and sole face in the market. OTI manages 4 million tons of products imports and exports annually; this includes procuring all feed stocks, blend components and trading all finished product exports for the complex.

As a result of OTI's active participation in the marketplace and optimization around the complex's assets, OTI is well positioned to create additional value along the supply chain. OTI is proud to have the opportunity and the responsibility of using its well-established trading platforms and growing experience to enhance the value of Omani energy products.

Petrochemicals

Oman's strategic location gives it the competitive advantage of having access to both Eastern and Western markets, and hence playing a major role in the petrochemical market.

OTI has access to nearly 800,000 tons per annum of paraxylene and 200,000 tons per annum of benzene from the aromatics plant located in Sohar, Sultanate of Oman.

Additionally, the company has access to more than 1.2 million tons of per annum of methanol from the methanol plant located in Salalah, Sultanate of Oman.

Carbon Emissions

As part of the company's portfolio diversification, and value addition to the government of the Sultanate of Oman, OTI is assisting the Ministry of Oil and Gas and other private entities to develop Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects in the country. The company is now involved in developing a few projects within the oil and gas sector and hence leading this industry in the country.

Omar Zawawi Establishment LLC (OMZEST)





H.E. Dr. Omar bin Abdul Muniem Al Zawawi, Special Advisor to H.M. for External Liaison, Chairman, OMZEST Group

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The OMZEST Group, now in its fifth decade of business excellence, has been helping in the creation of an empowered and successful nation by making significant contributions to the economic development of Oman.

With business volumes exceeding a billion dollars, OMZEST provides employment to several thousand people. The Group is a conglomerate with multiple locations and diverse interests across a wide range of products and services. With manufacturing and export operations that cater to nearly a hundred countries across the globe, OMZEST's ambitions are on a global

With over 75 wholly owned and associate companies, OMZEST forms one of the Sultanate's premier and diversified business groups.

The OMZEST Group of the Sultanate of Oman has been keenly involved in exploring new frontiers in business

To those of us who have been blessed by the Almighty to be part of Oman during the illustrious reign of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, and who have had the honor and pleasure of contributing under his leadership to a land of peace and plenty, the saying that 'Dreams Can Come True' is a fact. For we have witnessed very many of our dreams become a reality.

The celebration of 40 years of Oman and Japan's diplomatic relationship is momentous. On this occasion, it indeed gives me immense pleasure to acknowledge the fruitful relationship shared by both countries. The last four decades have witnessed a steady cementing of ties between the two great nations and I have had the privilege to witness and personally be involved in this wonderful journey.

Oman, under the wise leadership and illustrious reign of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, has always enjoyed a distinct and special position in Japan. Japan too has been a valuable partner in the progress of Oman, and our long history of diplomatic and cultural exchange bears testimony to this.

The OMZEST Group of the Sultanate of Oman has been keenly involved in exploring new frontiers in business that have resulted in concrete opportunities of mutual benefit to both nations.

On this happy milestone of the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Oman and Japan, I take the opportunity to salute the flourishing relationship between our two great nations.



■ Company Activities

Manufacturing is a focus area in the Sultanate. Nearly 63% of OMZEST's revenue is derived from this sector. Currently, OMZEST produces a variety of products from yoghurt to automotive batteries. Many of these products are market leaders in the Sultanate and are exported to nearly 100 countries spanning all continents. Exports now account for nearly 75% of the total turnover of our manufacturing companies.

With zeal and passion for providing quality services and products to the Sultanate, the Group also represents some of the world's most highly reputed organizations - many of them listed in the Fortune 500.

Ensuring we contribute to the overall growth of the nation, OMZEST covers a wide spectrum of activities including agriculture, banking, contracting, finance and investments, fisheries, foodstuff, insurance, manufacturing, services, trading and agency representation, travel and tourism, and training and education.

State-of-the-art modern banking facilities should be available to all. Therefore, Oman International Bank was established by OMZEST in 1984. With its variety of services and wide network of branches, OIB grew to be a leading commercial bank under the guidance and vision of H.E. Dr. Omar Zawawi. In June 2012, OIB merged with HSBC to form HSBC Bank Oman SAOG.

Today, OMZEST is looking to increase exports of its manufactured goods and products. Seeking new markets by adapting and manufacturing products to suit these markets is how the Group will chart its course for continuous growth into the future.







Qalhat LNG S.A.O.C.





H.E. Nasser Khamis Al Jashmi Undersecretary, Ministry of Oil & Gas Chairman, Qalhat LNG

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Oalhat LNG train has a nameplate capacity of 3.3 mtpa of LNG production. The plant was officially inaugurated on 25th March 2006, and is located near the picturesque town of Sur. The financing strategies, marketing and shipping innovations, a promising social investment program, and the highest Omanisation rates within the Omani energy sector are all remarkable achievements that make Oalhat LNG a true source of pride for the Omani economy. Qalhat LNG has won several national and international awards and recognitions. As a "Partner in Excellence", Oalhat LNG believes in creating additional value for its partners and shareholders.

Oalhat LNG has a very excellent relationship with its customers and shareholders in Japan

The relationship between Qalhat LNG and its partners in Japan can be described as very ideal, given the rapid development reflected on the performance of all parties, and the growing volume of trade exchange between them. Thanks to the special long historical relationship that has developed between Oman and Japan, which extended to include political, economic, financial, social, sport, cultural, educational aspects and

In the area of energy investment, thanks to the interest of those concerned in the two countries, a set of joint ventures were agreed between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan, which include investment of three Japanese companies: Itochu Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation and Osaka Gas in Qalhat LNG, and each have 3% of the company shares. They also have long term SPAs of 2.4 million tons of the company's production of LNG per year in addition to the diverted cargos.

Qalhat LNG has a very excellent relationship with its customers and shareholders in Japan, which resulted in facilitating investment of Qalhat LNG in Senboku Natural Gas Power Generation Company to acquire 10% equity of the project. This relationship was demonstrated in the true stand of Qalhat LNG at all levels to support the Japanese people in different ways to overcome the impact of the earthquake and tsunami disaster that struck the northeastern coast of Japan in March 2011 and resulted in thousands of

Since its establishment in 2005, Qalhat LNG has received numerous awards and international recognition for its remarkable achievements in all fronts of its activities. In 2007, Qalhat LNG was awarded "The Energy Company of the Year 2006" by Petroleum Economist. This followed by many prestigious awards like "Best in Project Finance" by Excellence in Energy Awards and "Employer of the Year" by the Institute for International Research in 2008, "Best Company in Gas" in 2009, "Excellence in HR" in 2010, and "HM Sultan Qaboos Award for Voluntary Work" in 2011.

The successes of Qalhat LNG in the field of marketing and shipping has contributed to enhance the company's reputation in perseverance where a total of 29 cargos were diverted, the majority of which were destined to Japan to assist our Japanese partners during the earthquake and tsunami disaster.

Since inception, Qalhat LNG takes pride in its keenness to support and develop the communities in Oman. Through its ambitious social investment programs, the company has been contributing to the sustainable development of communities and Omani individuals. The company's mission is based on supporting and improving issues related to health, safety, environment and education.



Qalhat LNG plant which is located at the Qalhat Complex in Sur.

■ Qalhat LNG Relationship with Japan

The well-established relationship between Qalhat LNG and Japanese companies is based on the close historical relations that combine the Sultanate of Oman and the Empire of Japan, which has been growing day by day until it became a model that facilitated the establishment of several excellent projects and economic deals. At the same time, trade ties between the two parties have witnessed rapid acceleration.

The oil and gas sector is considered one of the most important sectors of the joint investment between the two countries where Japan is the largest importer of gas from Oman, which has commercial contracts with a number of Japanese power companies to supply them with gas by long-term contracts.

Three Japanese companies: Itochu Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation, and Osaka Gas acquired a total of 9% of Qalhat LNG shares. Each of the three companies owns 3% of the equity shareholding of Qalhat LNG. These companies are the most important buyers by long-term SPA contracts under which Qalhat



Mausoleum of Bibi Maryam which is located at Qalhat City in Sur. Qalhat LNG is proud to have this historic landmark as a symbol of its traditional values.

LNG supplies 0.8 million tons of LNG per year to each of these three companies in addition to the diverted cargos.

In furtherance of the strong relationship between Qalhat LNG and Japan, the company has adopted many initiatives to support the people of Japan during the tsunami that struck Japanese territory in March 2011. In addition to providing a direct financial donation jointly with Oman LNG amounting to one million dollars that was handed over to the Ambassador of Japan to the Sultanate, it also contributed to the "Charity Bazaar" to support the earthquake victims in Japan at the "Charity Walking" organized by the Japanese Embassy. The Company has also rescheduled a number of LNG cargos to be directed to Japan.

The remarkable relationship between Qalhat LNG and its partners in Japan opens wider horizons of success that enhance the prestigious international status achieved by the company since its inception in 2005. The company has won several international, regional and local awards that translate the great excellence the company is keen to achieve in all its activities from marketing and shipping to innovation in finance and Corporate Social Responsibility.

Thus, Qalhat LNG stands as a milestone in the history of the national economy for being one of the best economic projects adopted by the Government of Oman.

SABCO Group





H.E. Sayyid Khalid bin Hamad Al Busaidi Chairman, SABCO Group

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Established during the early Renaissance years of the 70's, SABCO Group has grown into an integrated investment, commercial, industrial and services organization.

Today, SABCO Group is a leading family owned business house comprising of multifaceted direct and associate businesses, which are leaders in their respective fields.

The Group's structure of management and de-centralized approach to business is evidence of its commitment to maintaining cutting edge performance and an optimum quality of service delivery.



We strive to achieve excellence in all the services and products offered within the Group, while at the same time add value to the social-economic development of the nation

"We strive to achieve excellence in all the services and products offered within the Group, while at the same time add value to the social-economic development of the nation."

At SABCO Group, we are committed to maximizing business opportunities at the local, regional and international levels. Our emphasis on operational transparency, responsible corporate governance and professional world-class management has made our Group one of the most highly respected in the region.

We are always open as a port of call to strategic partnerships and new relationships that will pave the way for future growth and development.

■ Company Activities

Oman Perfumery LLC Manufacturer, international distributor and retailer of luxury 'Amouage' perfumes, home fragrances, skincare and accessories.

Al Hail Investments LLC A Property Development and Asset Management Company. National Mineral Company SAOG (NMWC) The largest water bottling company in Oman, with its own distribution network, renowned for its brands – Tanuf, Salsabeel, el Jabal el Akhdar and Assaha.

Oman Abrasives LLC, A leading company producing sand blasting abrasives under the brand name OMGRIT, for surface preparation prior to painting in fabrication, ship yards and projects.

Omanexpo is the pioneer event management company in Oman and the Sultanate's leading organizer of major trade shows, exhibitions and conferences.

Oman Marketing and Services Company (OMASCO), A leading services business with key pivotals in trading (automotive, marine, consumer electronics, projects and engineering, oil, gas and water), financial services and property.

Sabco LLC, the oldest operating company in Sabco Group, was established in 1977. A holding company, it is involved in private and public sector project development and representation of world-renowned companies.

SABCO Commercial Centre, the first mall in the Sultanate of Oman, is a boutique mall for luxury shopping.

SABCO Media SAOC is a unique cross-platform of media channels in Radio, Out-

door and Publishing, and other media related activities.

SABCO ART LLC (The Agency.) A full service communications and entertainment solutions provider.

Voltamp Power SAOG, established in 1987, A leading manufacturer involved in design, engineering, assembly and marketing of Low Voltage Distribution Systems and Industrial Automation.





■ Amouage: The Gift of Kings

Founded over a quarter of a century ago, Amouage is a niche luxury fragrance house that draws inspiration from its birthplace of the Sultanate of Oman, infusing reference points from a rich and colorful heritage that fires the imagination of all who come into contact with its wonderful products.

Renowned for creating some of the most finely crafted and exotic fragrances in the world, the House restores artistry to perfumery to create extraordinarily beautiful scents with a distinct point of view, and sources the globe for the most unique and high quality ingredients.

At the heart of all Amouage creations is a signature accord that cultivates the ultimate luxury of being unique and distinctive.

Adopting an artistic approach to create an original and evocatively fragrant experience, Amouage perfumes are created by internationally recognized perfumers in Grasse in the South of France under the guidance of Amouage Creative Director, Christopher Chong.

Amouage is a lifestyle sought after by only the most sophisticated and discerning international consumer. Today, it has a stellar following around the world including Royals, global leaders and some of the most celebrated names in film, television, fashion, sport and music.

The House of Amouage celebrated its 30th anniversary on December 12, 2012 with the inauguration of its new state of the art factory and visitors centre in Muscat, in a ceremony attended by His Highness Sayyid Kamil bin Fahad bin Mahmood Al-Said, Assistant Secretary-General for the Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers.

With four regional sales offices across Europe, the Far East and the Gulf, Amouage continues to expand internationally, and today sells in 52 countries, has 12 international independent boutique stores, and countless shop-in-shops around the world.

Built at the site of Amouage's existing premises in Muscat, the two-story perfumery opens its doors to visitors to view the various stages of perfume manufacturing from ingredient maceration to bottling and packaging, as well as explaining the perfume extraction process.











Amouage's new factory

Saud Bahwan Group



Staying Ahead with Japanese Quality

SAUD BAHWAN Group



Sheikh Mohammed bin Saud Bahwan Chairman

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Saud Bahwan Group is one of the largest and most respected business conglomerates in Oman. The Group plays a humble role in touching people's lives with quality products supported by world-class service.

The Group has consistently built brands through strategic investments in infrastructure. marketing efforts, and innovative customer care initiatives

Saud Bahwan Group's nationwide presence in even the most remote locations of Oman ensures that the Group's activities continue to make a positive difference in automotive and allied businesses, heavy vehicles, construction equipment, turnkey projects, oil and gas, special equipment, municipal and civic services, property and real estate and travel and tourism.

I have great pleasure in conveying my warmest greetings on this historic occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Oman and Japan.

Going down memory lane, it seems that much like the sakura blossoms in spring, the saga of Oman-Japan friendship has bloomed over the years, with our Group playing a humble role.

The seeds of this association were planted more than five decades ago. In the early 1960s, the Group made several strategic investments with the import of Seiko watches, Toshiba TVs and other electronic appliances from Japan. This small beginning introduced the quality and durability of Japanese products to Oman. An enthusiastic response from the people of Oman resulted in the Group's product range growing rapidly to include a vast array of diversified products in the areas of transportation, construction, projects, oil and gas, and industrial equipment and agriculture such as: Toyota vehicles, Lexus luxury sedans, Yokohama tires, G.S. batteries, Komatsu construction equipment, Kato cranes, and Komatsu tractors.

Today, I'm happy to say that Japanese products in Oman have become synonymous with quality and enduring value. The combination of world-class products supported with customer service of an equal caliber has elevated many Japanese brands

The bonds between Oman and Japan have consistently grown over the years. Stronger economic partnerships have been established between the two great nations with regular visits of important trade delegations. Lending its support, Saud Bahwan Group had welcomed delegates from JETRO (Japan Economic Trade Organisation) for an interactive session at its corporate centre.

Another great import are Japanese best practices such as Kaizen, the strategy for continuous improvement. They have become a way of life in the various functional areas of the Group, helping to maintain the highest customer satisfaction levels. Many of our key employees and customers continue to gain valuable insights from visits to Japan. Imbibing the technology and the spirit of the country, they return to spread their experiences like a fragrance in Oman.

It's my personal view that going beyond mere economic cooperation, Oman and Japan share timeless cultural traditions. We continue to play our humble role in strengthening the bonds between the two great nations, and are happy to contribute even in a small way. One such example is the Japanese garden which we helped create. Nestling amidst the green, clean environs of Muscat, this garden is a popular attraction. It adds to the beauty of Oman's capital and is a small piece of Japan that we cherish in our midst. We also invite leading Japanese artists and performers from time to time to enhance awareness of the culture of their great land. These exchanges are invaluable in increasing understanding and strengthening the bonds of friendship.

It was a historic moment, when my late father (may God bless his departed soul), the founding Chairman of the Group Sheikh Saud Bahwan, became the first Omani citizen to be honoured with the highest civilian award of Japan. Presented by Emperor Akihito, my father received the Order of the Rising Sun for his contribution to building and strengthening special bonds between Oman and Japan. I remember that my father was the first Omani businessman to travel with H.H. Sayyid Thuwaini bin Shihab Al Said, Personal Representative of His Majesty to help promote relations between Oman and Japan.

In the years to come, our Group will continue to play a modest yet sustained role in spreading awareness of Japan's timeless traditions, its vibrant culture, and outstanding product quality.



The Corporate Centre - a landmark in Muscat



T. Hagiwara, former Chairman of Komatsu, and Mohammed Saud Bahwan commemorating 25 years of leadership



Founder Chairman Sheikh Saud Bahwan being honoured with the highest civilian award of Japan



Delegates from Japan Economic Trade Organisation (JETRO)



The popular Japanese garden in Muscat



Suhail Bahwan Automobiles LLC



Suhail Bahwan Group was one of the first business conglomerates to establish business ties with Japan



Sheikh Ahmed bin Suhail Bahwan Chairman Suhail Bahwan Automobiles LLC

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Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA) is the exclusive importer in Oman for Nissan, Renault, and Infiniti. SBA takes pride in providing a complete range of vehicles and SUVs of these premium brands from one of the largest showroom facilities in the world. SBA's network of state-ofthe-art infrastructure includes 16 showrooms, 27 service centers, and 42 parts distribution outlets in over 25 cities across Oman.

Frequent launches of new models, attractive showroom displays, and aggressive marketing campaigns have helped position Nissan, Infiniti, and Renault to their rightful place. Our worldclass service facilities equipped with state-ofthe art diagnostic tools and trained manpower enables us to fulfill the promise of an ultimate ownership experience to our customers.

Dependability and assurance - values synonymous to the Suhail Bahwan Group have helped us gain the trust of our customers since our inception in 2004.

Though contacts between Japan and Oman go a long way back in history, our group has been associated with Japan since 1975. Suhail Bahwan Group was one of the first business conglomerates to establish business ties with Japan, and we are delighted to represent world-class Japanese brands like Toshiba, Casio, Seiko and most notably Nissan and Infiniti vehicles represented by Suhail Bahwan Automobiles.

More than 80% of the total imported items from Japan are automobile and auto parts and we are proud to play our part in the cordial trade relations enjoyed by Oman and Ja-

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate both the Omani Ambassador to Japan, and the Japanese Ambassador to Oman for their active role and cooperation extended to us for improvement of trade relations between the two countries. We also extend our wholehearted support to the Free Trade Agreement currently being negotiated between Oman and Japan. We hope for mutually rewarding relations in the future.





Tawoos Agricultural Systems LLC



Ever growing Oman-Japan relations over four decades for mutual benefit



His Highness Sayyid Tarik bin Shabib Al Said Vice Chairman, Tawoos Agricultural System LLC

www.tawoos-agriculture.com

info@tawoos-agriculture.com

Tawoos Agricultural Systems LLC is a Global G.A.P certified corporate farming company based in Oman. In existence for over two decades, Tawoos Agricultural Systems LLC has become a frontrunner in its sector through opportune investments in new technology, research and innovative farming methods, while remaining eco-friendly and socially responsible every step of the way.

Over 700 hectares of our farmlands in the Bathinah and Dhofar regions of The Sultanate of Oman produce in excess of 40000 tons of fresh vegetables and fruits annually. These are harvested, sorted and packed under our brand 'Desert Magic'. Tawoos' range of high quality produce is distributed across GCC, Middle East, Europe, Far East and Japan by refrigerated trucks and containers. With a state-of-the-art regional distribution hub located in Dubai, UAE, we feature among the top rated produce suppliers in the region.

It is indeed an honour to congratulate the people of Japan and the Sultanate of Oman on the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. It is thanks to the wise leadership of Japan and Oman and the mutual trust and honour between its peoples that such a long lasting and meaningful relationship exists.

I would like this event to be celebrated not only as a great occasion, but also as an opportunity to discover new areas of cooperation and deepen existing ones.

Over the past forty years, we have laid down a strong foundation for bilateral cooperation. We have signed important agreements on economic relations, and our business communities maintain a continued dialogue. My desire now is to see this foundation strengthened by concrete trade and investment projects, as well as by a more dynamic cultural intercourse, scientific exchanges and public initiatives. I firmly believe that Japan and the Sultanate of Oman, under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, will continue their successful cooperation on the interna-

May this 40th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations embolden the spirit of solidarity, strengthen friendships and expand cooperation between our nations and people.









Zubair Automotive Group



مجموعة الزبير للسيارات **Zubair Automotive Group**

A 40-year journey of friendship and cooperation



Hani bin Mohammad Al Zubair Chairman

www.zubairautomotive.com

info@zubairautomotive.com

Zubair Automotive Group, the flagship enterprise of The Zubair Holding - one of Oman's biggest and most diversified business houses - commenced operations in 1973. Its humble beginnings as a small importer of cars paved the way for its eventual growth into one of Oman's most prestigious multi-franchise automotive distributors.

Today, Zubair Automotive Group represents some of the most recognisable global automotive brands, including Mitsubishi Motors and Mitsubishi FUSO, who offer vehicles ranging from saloon cars and 4-wheel-drives to pickups and commercial trucks, all famous for their durability and capability. The success of both of these brands recognise how valued they are by the people of Oman.

According to common folklore, Sindbad, the famous sailor from the Arabian Nights tales, used to operate out of the port town of Sohar in Oman. There are also historical details of Omani sailors and navigators utilizing the monsoon winds to reach far-flung destinations through the sea route; while on land, camel driven caravans transported goods to distant markets. Trade routes and networks were created on land and sea over thousands of years for transporting a multitude of products around the world. Oman is a country that knew the significance of transportation even in the 3rd millennium BC and

During the earlier years of Oman's modern Renaissance, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said encouraged the people of Oman to build their nation as a developed state, which is comprehensive in its systems.

Zubair Automotive was started in 1973 with the thought that an effective transportation system plays a pivotal role in the economic and social development of any nation.

"A well-functioning and integrated transport system stimulates national development and enhances the quality of life for everyone," says Hani Al Zubair, Chairman of Zubair Automotive - a hallmark company that addresses a wide variety of transportation needs in

As the road network in Oman grew, people developed a fascination for all kinds of vehicles. From basic to luxury, cars are very much a part of Omani DNA. "Omanis love cars and have a fascination with engines," adds Hani Al Zubair. Zubair Automotive has not only provided a wide range of cars to the car lovers in Oman, but their relationship with Mitsubishi Motors Corporation of Japan has played a vital role in its rise during the past 40 years. The tie up has assisted in shaping Oman into the country it is today by shortening travel times and making voyages more comfortable in a way that was never ex-

From rugged Pajeros to efficient Lancers, Mitsubishi cars frequenting the Omani roads are a common sight. In one of his interviews, His Excellency George Hisaeda, Ambassador of the State of Japan to the Sultanate, said, "I am pleased to see so many Mitsubishi off-road vehicles in Oman; it truly makes me feel proud."

For nearly 40 years, General Automotive Company (GAC), a part of the Zubair Automotive Group, has been closely working with the Japanese automobile giant - Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, to ensure that customers in the Sultanate have access to a seamless experience with the brand. In 2003, Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corporation (MFT-BC) was founded and Zubair Automotive created a separate division for MFTBC with a focused team to address its sales, marketing and service operations. Over the years, Zubair Automotive, a small business importing and selling a few cars in the 70s, has now grown into a leading multi-franchise distribution and service entity with several independent companies and operations within its fold.

From modest beginnings, the Sultanate has, in the last four decades, evolved to develop a world class network of highways and roads that enable efficient travel for every kind of vehicle. Zubair Automotive has contributed constructively to the development of Oman's transportation system by catering to people's passion for cars and nurturing the culture and reputation of Japanese automobiles in the nation. It has continually endeavored to facilitate economic ties and strengthen cooperation between Oman and Japan. Caring for Oman's development is indeed integral to Zubair Automotives' ultimate goal of excellence.



His Excellency Mohammad Al Zubair: A Business Leader With Omani Values

His Excellency Mohammad Al Zubair has always had a strong sense of entrepreneurship, and his ideas and vision have shaped one of Oman's biggest business conglomerates. His ancestors played an important role in the growth and development of Oman and, following in their footsteps, he too has been an integral part in building the nation as a leader, an accomplished photographer, a businessman and a teacher who has contributed enormously to Oman's economy through his entrepreneurial and philanthropic initiatives.

His entrepreneurial spirit was evident while still a school student, when he first developed a passion for photography. Realising that there were no professional photography studios in Muscat, he established Muscat's very first, where friends and family would come to have their photos developed. After completing his secondary education in Kuwait - where he delved further into artistic pursuits such as photography, calligraphy and cartography he returned to Muscat and was soon recognized as someone just as proficient in the art of business.

The Muscat Trading Company opened its doors in 1967, focusing on a range of business activities from cameras to watches, paints, furnishing, and electrical appliances to construction goods. Six years later, his venture was ready to realize its destiny. In 1973, he changed his company's name to Zubair Enterprises. This period saw many new projects established under the umbrella of Zubair Enterprises. Demonstrating his ability for long-term planning, H.E. Mohammad Al Zubair sought ways to leverage sectors other than just oil and gas. Consequently, he invested in diverse sectors such as automobiles, energy, education, health, tourism, communications, construction and real estate. Today, his empire comprises of more than sixty wholly owned companies. His business success has stemmed from a passionate commitment to supporting the development of a country he cares deeply about.

H.E. Mohammad Al Zubair has served as the Chairman of the Founding Committee of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In 1974, he became the first Minister of Commerce and Industry and a member of the Supreme Councils of Development, Finance and Energy. In 1984, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said appointed him as his Adviser for Economic Planning. As a businessman as well as a member of different executive bodies, he has been able to carry out different roles with a sense of purpose.

His decisive approach, his systematic and effective strategies and personal initiatives have helped in strengthening Oman's relationship with Japan over the last forty years. He was also on the Board of the Oman-Japan Friendship Association. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to Omani-Japanese relations, H.E. Mohammad Al Zubair was conferred the First Order of the Sacred Treasure, by His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan - the only Omani to receive such a high honour.

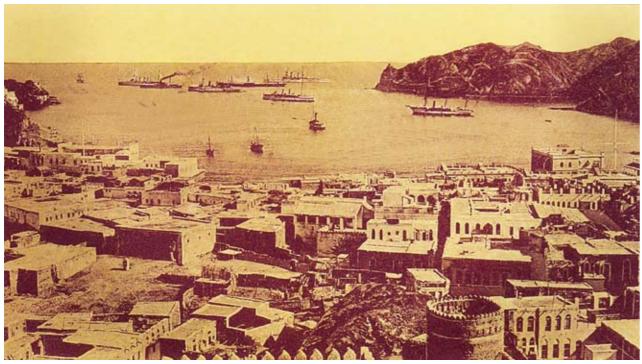
Today, he has handed over the reins of his business to the younger generation, but his business ideas, strategies and ethics still set the pattern for the business behaviour of the group. He will continue to occupy a unique and exalted position in the annals of Oman's business and diplomatic arenas.

Zubair Automotive Group

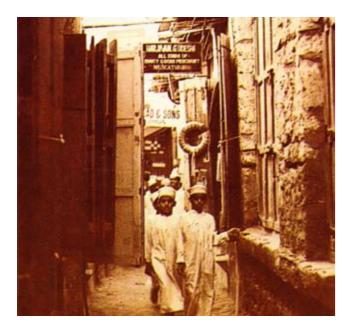
A name that is part of Oman's growth

Oman has a rich history of trade links with foreign lands

For centuries, Oman's merchants have travelled all over the world, consistently proving their business proficiency. Today, diplomatic relations and mutual cooperation is still a large part of the Sultanate's modern day success and progress. The Zubair Holding is one of the largest trading companies in Oman, comprising of nearly sixty individual companies - and Zubair Automotive has been at the forefront of trade-ties with Japan.



Muscat, 1892



Muscat Trading Company's first office in Muscat Souq c.1970

Many generations of Zubair family

The foundation of what would grow to become The Zubair Holding was laid in 1967, by His Excellency Mohammad Al Zubair - who had entrepreneurial skills and values instilled in him by his family - when he established the Muscat Trading Company. His father Sheikh Al Zubair bin Ali, served under three Sultans (1871-1956), and was involved in the establishment of the first ice factory in Oman and the development of an early power company. Now the next generation of the Zubair family is taking the legacy forward.

Zubair – a surname synonymous with business in Oman

With interests in everything - from automobiles to electric equipment, from oil and gas projects to education and tourism - The Zubair name is widely recognized as one of Oman's best brand ambassadors.



Zubair family

More than a business Sustaining Arab traditions and identity

The Al Zubair family is committed to preserving, protecting and presenting Oman's rich cul-

"In order to safeguard our heritage through changing times, it is our duty to preserve all aspects of culture and tradition. Our aim is not only to promote our valuable Omani heritage but to maintain, preserve and study it so that it may benefit succeeding generations and inspire them to sustain the Islamic and Arab identity and traditions." -Mohammad Al Zubair



Bait Al Zubair Museum in Muscat

Building Blocks of the Oman-Japan Friendship

Shared Convictions with Japan

Japan and Oman may be geographically distant, but there are many similarities between their traditional societies and core values. The relationship between the two countries is based on mutual understanding, respect and interacting with each other in a cordial and reciprocal manner.

Zubair Automotive has contributed immensely towards His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said's initiative to build and strengthen Oman-Japan ties through trade activities. The Zubair showroom in Azaiba is a constant reminder of Japan to the people of Oman.



Zubair Automotive Showroom

Four decades of growth

Zubair Automotive and Mitsubishi have shared a long-lasting relationship ever since Mitsubishi was launched in Oman in 1973.

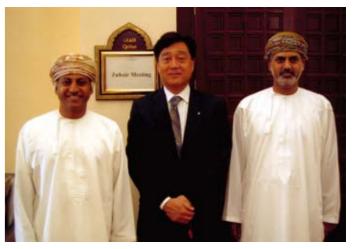


Some of the first Mitsubishi cars and trucks imported by Zubair Automotive in 1973

A strong relationship

Japan and Oman have been cooperating for mutual growth and respect in the last four decades, and the relationship of the two countries have been tightened further.

Since the relationship started Mitsubishi Motors Corporation and Zubair Automotive Group have been playing the role of excellent ambassadors for their respective country, and both parties will continue to work together for a long time to come.



L-R : Hani M AL Zubair, Osamu Masuko, President of Mitsubishi Motors Corporation and Hasum M. Al Zubair



 $Motivated\ workforce\ of\ General\ Automotive\ Company\ with\ Excellent\ Sales\ Growth\ Award,\ 2011$

Mutual Admiration and Appreciation

Time and again, Zubair Automotive was appreciated by the business community of Japan.

One of the highest Japanese Decorations: The Order of the Sacred Treasure

His Excellency Mohammad Al Zubair was honored by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, in 1999, with one of the highest Japanese decorations to foreign dignitaries, The Order of the Sacred Treasure, for his role in the development of the Oman-Japan relations.



H.E. Mohammad Al Zubair receiving Grand Cordon Order





Cultural Relations





Cultural Relations

One of the most important aspects of strengthening bilateral ties in today's world is the encouragement of cultural understanding. Japan and Oman, whose ties stretch as far back as the 17th century and have shared close relations since 1972, have recognized this need and given special emphasis to the promotion of culture through various events and activities. This has included exhibitions, special symposiums and lectures, film screenings, exchanges of Omani and Japanese students, sporting encounters, music and dance performances, cooperation in various academic and research fields and other initiatives and special occasions.

Some of these special events held over recent years include the "Omani Cultural Days," an exhibition of Oman's culture and heritage at the Tokyo International Forum in 2010, which drew as many as 50,000 visitors throughout its opening. Also in 2008, the Government of Japan presented almost 300 books, which were exhibited in Oman for the International Book Fair held in Muscat.

Another major development in Japan-Omani relations is the establishment of the Sultan Qaboos Chair for Middle Eastern studies at the University of Tokyo in 2010. The Chair was established by a generous endowment from His Majesty the Sultan, for the purpose of promoting Middle Eastern Studies and the further exchange of Japanese and Omani students across borders. In 2012, there were 23 Omani students in Japan studying a wide variety of subjects and pursuing degrees from the undergraduate to PhD level, as well as participating in internships and long term studies. This growing trend in the number of Omani students studying in Japan reflects the power and influence of cultural relations between nations.

Furthermore, with 2012 marking a special milestone in this mutually respective relationship, the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Tokyo and the Embassy of Japan in Muscat held numerous events and activities to celebrate the establishment of diplomatic relations between Oman and Japan. Some of these events and activities are highlighted in the next chapter of this book.

These wide ranging events were attended by a variety of luminous members from the political, diplomatic, business, academic and educational spheres within Oman and Japan, while also giving the publics of both countries a glimpse into the unique relations established between the nations. As readers further explore these activities and initiatives in the following pages, we hope they develop a keen sense of curiosity and understanding about this important aspect of Omani-Japanese bilateral relations.

Minister of Higher Education



Minister of Higher Education

H.E. Dr. Rawya bint Saud Al

With a long history of excellence, Japanese Institutions of Higher Education (HEIs) are recognized as among the best in the world and Oman's alliances with Japan in the field of higher education are highly valued as Oman's system of higher education is still relatively young, dating from the mid-1980s when Oman's first HEI, Sultan Qaboos University, was established.

At that time, the government's first priority was to provide access to students who until then had no option but to study abroad. To meet the growing demand for seats in higher education, the Government expanded its offerings and also encouraged the private sector to establish a diverse array of colleges and universities. A remarkable degree of progress resulted, as, today, the total number of students in higher education in Oman is approaching 87,000, enrolled in some fifty-four HEIs, both public and private in 2010-2011. Additionally, there are several thousand Omani students studying abroad on scholarships provided by the Government of Oman, as well as on scholarships generously given by some receiving countries, includ-

In response to the government's aim of increasing economic diversity, over the past decade and a half, Oman's HEIs have become more specialized and job-market oriented, resulting in a greater range of programs as well as in offerings that are more relevant to the nation's plans for

economic growth and development.

"As one of the premier destinations for studies in medicine, science & technology and engineering, Japan is a popular destination for many Omani students"

In a global world, internationalisation of Higher Education is imperative. Accordingly, the government has entered into a number of academic agreements with international partners. As one of the premier destinations for studies in medicine, science & technology and engineering, Japan is a popular destination for many Omani students. Oman's relations with Japan in higher education go beyond study and exchange programs. In 2010, I was honored to sign, on behalf of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman, an agreement establishing the Sultan Qaboos bin Said Chair

in Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Tokyo. The Tokyo Chair is now one of sixteen Sultan Qaboos Chairs around the world supporting research in the field of Middle Eastern Studies and other important disciplines, including International Relations and Water Management, that help to engender deeper cross-cultural understanding in order to promote world peace and cooperation.

During my stay in Japan, I visited the historic city of Kyoto to present a paper titled, "Educating Scientists and Engineers," at the 7th Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology in Society (STS) Forum. As Japan is in the top echelon of technologically advanced nations, the forum was very productive and all present benefitted from that important gathering which included scientists and policymakers from Japan and around the world. Our Japanese colleagues expressed great interest in Oman's progress in science and technology, and they made contributions that were stimulating and helpful.

Before closing, I would like, in particular, to acknowledge the Mitsubishi Corporation as a major benefactor in contributing financial assistance to Omani students by providing scholarships for up to four new students each year to complete degrees in their chosen fields of study.

The Ministry of Higher Education has been privileged to play a role in the development of many fruitful initiatives between our nations over the years. I wish to thank all those involved in the successful development of these important initiatives which are covered in this new publication, a book that supports the ideals of educational cross-cultural exchange and will contribute to the further advancement of friendship and cooperative relations between Japan and Oman.

Minister of Tourism



H.E. Ahmed bin Nasser bin Hamed Al Mahrizi

Minister of Tourism

I am very pleased at the publication of this book commemorating 40 years of friendship between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan. The last several years have seen a significant increase in travel between our nations, and my hope is that this continues to grow.

With Muscat's declaration as Arab Tourism Capital 2012, this has been a year of optimism for our tourism sector. Our calendar of hallmark events has showcased Oman's natural beauty and unique cultural heritage. Events have run in our regional cities to highlight the diversity and beauty of Oman's environment - from coral beaches, mountains reaching over 3,000m above sea level, and summer Khareef (monsoon) season that transforms our southern coastal mountain ranges into a lush green landscape with cascading waterfalls.

For those seeking natural beauty, Oman's open spaces, untouched landscapes, rolling deserts and golden beaches are sure to impress. The internationally recognized Al-Dimaniyat Islands Nature Reserve features pristing beaches and extensive coral reefs, while the east coast and Masirah Island host some of the world's largest turtle nesting sites.

Visitors interested in recreational activities, such as scuba diving, boating, trekking, golf and shopping will not be disappointed. Oman is a destination of choice for diving and has an exceptionally diverse marine life. As well, our modern shopping centers have all the popular brands, plus Omani textiles and handicrafts made of silver and gold.

Another feature for visitors is Oman's rich and diverse cultural heritage. In addition to the many museums, forts and castles, villages, cities, and other sites of significance, there are UNESCO World Heritage Listed sites including the Bahla Fort, the Bat and Al Ayn Tombs that date to the 3rd century BC, and five Aflaj (Oman's original irrigation system).

Our modern day cultural activities celebrate the past through major cultural festivals like

"The last several years have seen a significant increase in travel between our nations, and my hope is that this continues to grow"

the Muscat Festival (January-February) and Salalah Tourist Festival (July-August). The most recent addition to Oman's internationally significant cultural assets is the Royal Opera House Muscat with its concert theatre, auditorium, luxury restaurants, and a centre for musical, theatrical and oper-

We welcome visitors from Japan. Just a short time with us will make them realize that beauty has an address.



Rustaq Fort



Wkan Village - Wadi Mistal

Minister of Sports Affairs



H.E. Shaikh Saad bin Mohammed bin Said Al Mardhouf Al

Minister of Sports Affairs President of Oman Olympic Com-

I am pleased on behalf of the Ministry of Sports Affairs and Oman Olympic Committee to congratulate Japan and Oman on this occasion commemorating 40 years of diplomatic ties. Sport has played a significant role in the lives of millions all over the world, and is one of the most universal features of popular culture. As a significant force in fostering cultural exchange, we hope to continue to see sport as a contributor in the exchange of ideas and communication in strengthening the diplomatic, economic and cultural ties between our two nations.

Since its inception on October 2004, under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, the Ministry of Sports Affairs has played a vital role in not only raising the public image of the Sultanate through its successes at the international level in sporting competitions, but promoting health conscious communities and advancing youth development. Looking to the future, it is our hope that by providing an educational platform for young people, we can assure that physical activities flourish and are sustainable in the long term.

In the past several years Oman has had the honor of hosting several major international competitions. Japan has been a prominent presence at several, including both the 2010 2nd Asian Beach Games and the 2011 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Qualifiers where Japan was crowned the eventual champion. In world football, our respective national teams regularly compete against one another.

It is with such common ties and interests that we look forward with optimism to another 40 years of relations between Oman and Japan.



The Asian Beach Games 2010



The Japanese team performed admirably and placed tenth overall

"As a significant force in fostering cultural exchange, we hope to continue to see sport as a contributor in the exchange of ideas and communication"



The national teams of Japan and Oman go head to head

Japan-Oman Society



H.E. Yasutoshi Nishimura Senior Vice-Minister of the Cabinet Office of Japan, Chairman of the Japan-Oman Society

www.japan-omansociety.com

I extend my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the publishing of this superb book by Khalid Hashil Al-Muslahi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan.

This year is a memorable one in that it marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Oman and Japan. Over that period, the relationship between the two countries has been amicable, and there has been a striking expansion in economic exchanges between the two countries, as well as exchanges on multiple fronts such as science, culture and sports. In all cases these are gifts arising from the cooperation and understanding of a large number of Omani citizens, beginning with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, and along with expressing my deep respect I wish to offer my gratitude.

Since visiting Oman during my time as Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, I have visited various places in Oman, beginning with Muscat, on three occasions. As a longstanding maritime nation Oman is a country that prospered as a strategic location for seaborne trade, which has engaged in developing its infrastructure and advancing its economy while preserving its astonishing natural environment. Oman has also engaged proactively in educating the young people responsible for the country's future. As a result of coming into contact with this, I sensed the need to preserve an everlasting, friendly relationship between Oman and Japan at all costs and deepen mutual understanding further. Last year, with the support and cooperation of a large number of people, I set up the Japan-Oman Society, and I currently serve as the Society's Chairman.

"I sensed the need to preserve an everlasting, friendly relationship between Oman and Japan at all costs and deepen mutual understanding further"

It is my wish that this book, which is being published to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, will by all means be read by as many Japanese people as possible, and will further enhance their understanding of Oman. Additionally, it is my hope that they visit Oman to experience it first-hand, and interact with large numbers of Omani people.



General meeting of Japan - Oman Society, chaired by H.E. Shinzo Abe on April 18, 2012.

Oman-Japan Friendship Association: **Promoting Timeless Bonds**



Sheikh Mohammed bin Saud Bahwan

Chairman of the Board Oman Japan Friendship Association

I take immense pleasure in conveying my humble greetings and warmest wishes on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Oman and Japan.

This year also marks the 42nd Anniversary of the Blessed Renaissance, under the wise and visionary leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said. Truly a glorious and remarkable moment in the history of Oman.

It's not often one witnesses friendships that have grown from strength to strength over the decades. Friendships whose bonds have been created through timeless shared values.

One such beautiful example is the friendship between Oman and Japan. Two great nations divided by boundaries but united through cultures.

I take this opportunity to highlight the steady growth of economic relations between the two countries in key sectors including automobiles. Imports from Japan have witnessed a very healthy and steady growth pattern. Likewise, Japanese corporations have made large investments in many high technology ventures in Oman, in sectors like oil and gas, water treatment, fertilizers, among several others.

While our two countries are constantly using every opportunity to enhance the relations between us, also humbly playing a passionate role in enhancing and promoting the ties between the two great nations is the Oman Japan Friendship Association.

The Association has conducted several cultural exchange programs and paved the way for improving people-to-people contacts working in close association with the Japanese Embassy. It is encouraging to see the growing interest in Japanese language, culture and heritage among the people of Oman. Similarly the interest in Oman's unique culture has enthused a lot of Japanese youth, prompting them to periodically visit Oman. Simple initiatives like these go a long way in creating an everlasting relationship between the two countries.

In January 2012, the OJFA organised a grand painting exhibition by the renowned Japanese artist - Morita Rieko. The people of Oman including a large number of dignitaries were treated to a visual extravaganza as they went around viewing the exquisite works of art dis-





Mohammed Saud Bahwan and H.E. Seiji Morimoto, erstwhile Ambassador of Japan, at a Fund Raising event for Japan



H.E. Sultan Hamdoon Al Harthy, Chairman, Muscat Municipality and other guests at the Japanese Photography Exhibition

played. What they took back were the finest memories of Japan's ancient culture.

In February the same year, the Japanese Embassy in close cooperation with the Oman Japan Friendship Association organised the first-of-its-kind Japanese photography event in the Gulf. The unique exhibition displayed stunning photographs through which the people of Oman were encouraged to experience contemporary Japanese culture.

In 2011, the Embassy of Japan and Oman Japan Friendship Association, in cooperation with Sultan Qaboos University started a Japanese language course aimed at deepening and enhancing the understanding of the Japanese society and culture among young

Another exciting event that still remains fresh in the minds of many is the fashion show by renowned Japanese fashion designer –

H.H. Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, Minister of Heritage & Culture, Mohammed Saud Bahwan, Chairman of OIFA, Morita Rieko and H.E. George Hisaeda Ambassador of Japan, at the Art Exhibition

Hanae Mori in 2011. The glittering event showcased designs that reflected a fusion of Oriental and Western fashion traditions. It turned out to be a rare experience for the audience, as models sashayed down the ramp, wearing costumes that reflected the unmistakable Hanae Mori signature - evoking a standing ovation.

The year 2011 also marked the unfortunate earthquake and tsunami in Japan which caused devastation on an unprecedented scale. The Oman Japan Friendship Association along with the Japanese Embassy played an active role in raising funds for the relief of the affected people of Japan. In the backdrop of this natural calamity, it was inspiring to see the indomitable spirit of the people of Japan.

On behalf of all the Board members of Oman-Japan Friendship Association, I reaffirm our commitment to further strengthen the bond of friendship that binds Oman and Japan. May this wonderful friendship between the two countries grow stronger and reach new levels in the years to come.

The University of Tokyo





Professor Junichi Hamada
Ph.D., President, the University
of Tokyo
www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/

It is with utmost pleasure that I write to congratulate you on the publication of this beautiful volume commemorating the 40th anniversary of the establishment of official diplomatic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan.

The University of Tokyo was established in 1877 as the first national university in Japan, and has since been leading the nation in education and research in a full spectrum of disciplines ranging from the humanities to natural sciences. One of our greatest concerns in recent years has been the internationalization of the university and the education of students who are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to the peaceful and sustainable development of the global society, and to the strengthening of relationships between Japan and the countries in different regions of the world. This includes in particular those nations in the Middle East, a region which is not only of vital importance for the future development of the world, but also has a wonderfully rich cultural heritage that is unfortunately not as well known and researched in our country as it should be.

That is why the inauguration of the Sultan Qaboos Chair in Middle Eastern Studies as a permanent chair in our Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in April, 2011 has been one of the most memorable events during my presidency of the university so far. The establishment of this chair was made possible by a generous permanent endowment from H.M. Sultan Qaboos bin Said, the first ever endowment of this kind received by our university. Together with the University of Tokyo Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, which was founded simultaneously as a centre within our Institute of Advanced Global Studies, the chair is expected to contribute to the deepening and broadening of education and research on various aspects of the Middle East both within the university and in the nation as a whole. The chair is also expected to contribute

to the strengthening of the relationship between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan through the establishment of links with institutions of higher education in the Sultanate, and with other chairs founded throughout the world by H.M. Sultan Qaboos bin Said

The staff of the Sultan Qaboos Chair in Middle Eastern Studies and the University of Tokyo Centre for Middle Eastern Studies (UTCMES) consists of faculty members of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, as well as project staff appointed specifically for the purpose of running the day-to-day affairs of these two bodies. This includes at present, a

project associate professor and two project assistant professors. The activities of the Sultan Qaboos Chair and UTCMES are supported in addition by the Sultan Qaboos Chair Executive Committee, which is headed by the Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and manages the personnel affairs relating to the Chair, as well as an all-campus UTCMES Executive Committee, which includes members elected from the staff of the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia and the Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology/Faculty of Letters.

Since the inauguration of the Sultan Qaboos Chair, the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences as well as the staff have on a number of occasions had the opportunity to visit the Sultanate of Oman. There, they were most kindly received by H.E. Dr. Rawiya bint Saud Al-Busaidiyah, the Minister of Higher Education, and other officials of the ministry, and they held fruitful discussions on the possibility of future cooperation with their counterparts in the Sultan Qaboos University. In October 2012, I was honoured to receive together with the staff of the Sultan Qaboos Chair, a visit from H.E. Dr. Ali Al-Bemani, the Vice Chancellor of the Sultan Qaboos University.

The activities of the Sultan Qaboos Chair since its inauguration has included hosting lectures by renowned visitors from outside Japan, including in November 2012, a lecture by Shaikh Dr. Khalan bin Nabhan Al-Kharusi, the Assistant Grand Mufti of Oman. In the summer semester of 2012, the Chair organised a successful series of lectures in which the foremost Japanese scholars and experts on the Middle East discussed the situation in the different countries of the Middle East in the wake of the "Arab Spring." Another important activity of the Chair has been the "Monthly Seminars," in which young Japanese scholars working in Middle Eastern Studies are offered the chance of presenting their latest research findings to a wider public. The staff of the chair has also been offering courses on Middle Eastern Studies to undergraduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences. It is expected that in collaboration with other constituent bodies of the Institute of Advanced Global Studies, as well as other leading academic organizations both within and without the University of Tokyo, the Chair will continue to organize such projects in a way that reflects the interdisciplinary approach that is typical of the tradition of the Komaba Campus at the University of Tokyo.

The Sultan Qaboos Chair in Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Tokyo stands as a testimony to the strength of the friendly relationship that has been cultivated by the Sultanate of Oman and Japan over the past decades. As we commemorate forty years of official diplomatic relations between the two nations, all of us at the University of Tokyo pray for further strengthening and broadening of the relationship in the decades and centuries to come, and undertake at the same time, to continue to give our full support to the educational and research activities of the chair, thus contributing in our small way to the furtherance of that relationship.

2011 has been one of the most memorable events during my presidency of the university so far"

"The inauguration of the Sultan Qa-

boos Chair in Middle Eastern Studies

as a permanent chair in our Graduate

School of Arts and Sciences in April,

Sultan Qaboos University





H.E. Dr. Ali bin Saud Al-Bemani

Vice-Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) www.squ.edu.om

Forty years ago bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan were established, despite thousands of miles separating the two countries. Since then, firm connections have been established in the areas of diplomacy, economy, culture, and education amongst others. We, in the Sultanate of Oman, are proud of our relationship with Japan, and we endeavor to strengthen it in all its aspects.

One of the strongest commitments both of our nations have is to education. In an increasingly globalizing world, a highly skilled workforce conscious of the complexities and demands required for success on a global level is essential. One of the fundamental steps to laying the foundations for this future is developing and enhancing external cooperation.

Japan is one of our strongest partners in this initiative, exemplified by the establishment of the Sultan Qaboos Chair of Middle Eastern Studies, established in 2010 at Tokyo University for the study of the Middle East and its various civilizations, religions, languages and cultures. Also in 2002, The Sultan Qaboos University organized the Japanese Week, which included a number of cultural activities.

The cooperation with Japanese academic institutions and research centers has been given a high priority. Several official visits have also been exchanged over the years of our relations, and in these visits a number of memoranda of understanding, agreements and student exchange programs have been signed and implemented. These agreements and memoranda of understanding include cooperation with Japan Center for Cooperation Petroleum (JCCP), Japan New Energy and Industrial Development Organization, Japan Industrial Technology Development Organization, Waseda University, Nagoya Institute of Technology, Rikkyo University, and Tohoku University.

While there is already a long history of educational cooperation between our two nations, more agreements can be achieved between SQU and Japanese institutions to promote student, faculty and research exchange programs and support joint research projects. We aspire to further broaden the level of cooperation with the Japanese academic, research and public and private institutions to enhance development in both countries.

In conclusion, I hope that this publication will have far-reaching and positive mutually beneficial results for both the Sultanate of Oman and Japan, and I look forward to continuing the long and fruitful educational association shared by our two countries.

"The cooperation with Japanese academic institutions and research centers has been given a high priority"



Waseda University



"Via exchanges such as this, students who will form the bridge between the two countries and be responsible for coming generations are able to interact enthusiastically and mutually deepen their cross-cultural understanding"



Professor Kaoru Kamata President of Waseda University

The endurance of history as revealed by archaeology suggests that an ancient civilization existed in the region that is now Oman around 5,000 years ago, before the beginning of recorded history. That ancient civilization and the establishment of Islam as a universal ideology along with Arabic language and culture are elements that are deeply entrenched as cornerstones of the development of the modern Sultanate of Oman. Amid a recent tide of severe changes in social conditions, I feel Oman has pursued a steady path of social and economic growth in the modern era since the 1970s. In particular, I am convinced that the enhancement of education and research which is directly linked to nurturing the human resources that form the framework for that growth, is a natural step toward the future and requires the formation of a new axis between the two countries.

The relationship between Oman and Waseda University can be traced back to 1994 when the University accepted Dr. Mohmmed Hamed Saif Al-Rumhi, Minister of Oil and Gas, as its first foreign researcher from Oman. In 2002, which marked the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Oman, the University entered an interuniversity agreement with Sultan Qaboos University. From then until now, it has cultivated multilevel exchanges between the two countries, including on the scholarly front beginning with then-Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan Mohammed bin Yusuf Al Zarafi, as well as the Oman Ministry of Higher Education, representatives of Sultan Qaboos University and former Ambassador of Japan to the Sultanate of Oman, Seiji Morimoto.

The University's student exchange initiatives that I outline below could be said to be formulated on the sound diplomatic infrastructure that exists between the two countries. The University launched a program enabling students to study abroad in Oman for short periods in 2007. Twenty three of the University's students were able to experience a different culture in Oman, beginning with interacting with students at Sultan Qaboos University which Waseda has an agreement with, as well as experiencing Middle Eastern culture, learning Arabic and visiting Omani companies in Oman. Not long after that students from Sultan Qaboos University visited Waseda, and along with experiencing Japanese culture such as the shamisen, the Bon Festival dance and the Tanabata Festival, they performed Omani songs and dances, which resulted in a magnificent exchange. Via exchanges such as this, students who will form the bridge between the two countries and be responsible for coming generations are able to interact enthusiastically and mutually deepen their cross-cultural understanding. And this is in line with one of the principles on which this University was founded: "Harmony between Eastern and Western Civilizations."

This year is the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, and it is a great honor to be given the privilege of contributing to the publication of this book. In addition to wishing the very best to Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan Khalid Hashil Al-Muslahi and the book's readers, I also hope that this publication contributes to preserving and promoting friendship between the two countries through research and education.

Sultan Qaboos Chair at the University of Tokyo

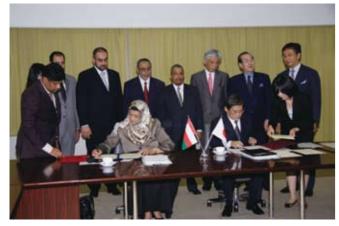
The Sultan Qaboos Chair for Middle Eastern Studies was established as a permanent chair at the Tokyo University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in April 2011. Made possible through a generous permanent endowment from H.M. Sultan Qaboos bin Said, the Chair is expected to enhance the understanding and appreciation of the contribution of Arabic

> and Islamic cultures in many spheres such as science, mathematics, arts, visual arts, law, sociology, history, science, politics, economy, languages, archeology and philosophy. The Chair is also expected to contribute to the strengthening of bonds between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan through the establishment of links between institutions of higher education, and with other academic chairs founded throughout the world by H.M. Sultan Qaboos bin Said.

It is the hope of all involved that the establishment of the Sultan Qaboos Chair for Middle Eastern Studies will help engender deeper understanding among cultures, and will contribute to the promotion of peace and the encouragement of cooperation among nations.



University of Tokyo students attending Middle Eastern studies classes



Signing Ceremony of the establishment of Sultan Qaboos Chair by H.E. Dr. Rawya Al Busaidi, Minister of Higher Education, and Professor Junichi Hamada, President of the University, October 2010



Mitsubishi Corporation Scholarship

"The Mitsubishi Corporation has established a scholarship program that provides assistance to Omani students selected by Oman's Ministry of Higher Education"

Mitsubishi Corporation has been involved in liquefied natural gas projects in Oman since the 1990s. Since then, the company has sought to contribute to the Sultanate's development goals and to promote closer ties between the people of Oman and Japan.

In line with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said's vision for the future of Oman and, in particular, His Majesty's views on education and human resource cultivation being essential for the further development of the country, Mitsubishi Corporation has established

a scholarship program that provides financial assistance to Omani students that have been selected by Oman's Ministry of Higher Education to pursue undergraduate or graduate studies

In February 2009, the agreement for the scholarship program, dubbed the "Mitsubishi Corporation Scholarship Program", was signed by the then President of Mitsubishi Corporation, Mr. Yorihiko Kojima, and the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, H.E. Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Sarmi. Through this program, Mitsubishi Corporation provides scholarships for up to four new students every year from 2009 to 2014, and until all the selected have completed their chosen field of study.

As of July 2012, eight Omani students under the supervision of the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Tokyo are currently studying in Japan through Mitsubishi Corporation's scholarship program: six at Tokai University, one in a Master's program at Kyushu University, and one in a Master's program at Kumamoto University.





The recipients of the Mitsubishi Corporation Scholarship

National Archives



H.E. Dr. Masaya Takayama President of the National Archives of Japan

"Through this program the firm

global bond between Japan's

and Oman's National Archives

is growing stronger. Even though

people change with the passage

of time, documents stored in a

National Archives do not"

The year 2012 represents an important juncture, since it marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of official diplomatic relations between Japan and Oman. Within the friendly and cooperative relationship between the two countries, the National Archives of Japan's relationship with Oman is relatively new.

Oman is currently an affluent country, and this is the result of the ambitious nation-building that has taken place under the guidance of the current Sultan of Oman, Qaboos bin Said, who assumed the throne in 1970. Under that leadership, the construction of the National Archives of Oman has been an important national goal essential not only in terms of establishing a national identity but also in terms of Oman's history. For this envisaged new Omani national archives to meet expectations and to function worthily, it would not be enough for it to simply be a magnificent archives facility housing a collection of documents recording the glorious history of Oman. It would also be essential for a large number of capable personnel - more specifically, archivists - to be present there. With this in mind, I was considering how Japan, as a friendly nation, could contribute to training capable archivists.

Just at that time, in April 2008 a delegation led by Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq bin Taimur Al Said, Oman's Minister of Heritage and Culture, visited Japan and together with Khalid Hashil Al-Muslahi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan, toured the National Archives of Japan. In October of the same year Hamad bin Mohammed Al Dowayani, Chairman of the National Archives of Oman, also visited Japan, and in addition to introducing the concept for the National Archives of Oman he toured the National Archives of Japan. In 2009, the following year, the National Archives of Japan received a donation of the 19-volume "The Journal of Oman Studies" from Oman, and at the same time this National Archives sent digital images of the Oman-related works in its collection to Oman. In this and other ways, exchanges between the two institutions commenced.

For a long time, the National Archives of Japan has enjoyed an established reputation for the high level of its document preservation and repair techniques, and those techniques

> are now modeled by other countries. I had been pondering whether the National Archives of Japan could make a contribution on this front to the creation of Oman's new National

> Toward that goal, from August 2010 we began accepting trainees from Oman to study restoration techniques, and we continued to accept these restoration technique trainees in 2011 and this year (2012) as well. Through this program the firm global bond between Japan's and Oman's National Archives is growing stronger. Even though people change with the passage of time, documents stored in a National Archives do not. I am convinced that the foundation for an enduring friendship between Japan and Oman will be made even firmer through documents that will exist forever.



Visit of H.H. Sayvid Haitham bin Tariq Al-Said April 2008 Omani trainees at the National Archives of Japan



Omani Cultural Days in Tokyo





"The Omani Cultural Days in Tokyo" was held from December 20th to 26th, 2010, at the prestigious Tokyo International Forum and attended by more than 50,000 visitors.

Inaugurated by Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado, the Guest of Honor on Monday December 20th 2010, the Cultural Days was a unique Omani event and the first of its kind to be held in Tokyo. It focused on bringing a closer understanding of Oman's rich history, culture and heritage, and became a window for promoting cultural understanding between Oman and Japan.

Organised by the Ministry of Heritage and Culture in collaboration with the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman, the venue of the Omani Cultural Days in Tokyo included a variety of exhibition corners and events, among them, a traditional handicrafts exhibition including a number of live craftsmanship demonstrations, a manuscripts exhibition, an exhibition of traditional silver handcrafts, an exhibition of traditional Omani fashion and national dresses, a books publications exhibition, a photographic exhibition, an Arabic calligraphy corner, henna artists corner and an Omani

A symposium titled "Oman - Japan Relations in the 21st Century" was also held on December 21st, 2010 at the United Nations University in Tokyo. The symposium was very successful in

shedding light on the relations between Oman and Japan, and on Oman's history and tradition.

Prof. Mikio Ikuma, from the University of Tokyo moderated the event. Prominent Omani and Japanese speakers presented the fol-

- ▶ "Relations between Oman and Japan, Dimensions for Stronger Strategic Partnership", by H.E. Mr. Khalid bin Hashil Al-Muslahi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan.
- ▶"The Historical Relations between Oman and Japan" by Dr. Mohamed bin Said Al-Muqadam, Sultan Qaboos University.
- "Sultan Qaboos bin Said Chair in Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Tokyo" by Prof. Masayuki Yamauchi, University of
- ▶ "The Leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said" by Prof. Haruo Endo, Middle East Researcher.
- > "The Economic and Industrial Cooperation between Oman and Japan in the Backdrop of the Middle East's Structural Transformation" by Mr. Yuzo Waki, Deputy Chairman of the Editorial Committee of the Nihon Keizai Shimbun.
- >"Culture, Literature and the empowerment of Women in Oman" by Dr. Jokha bint Mohamed Al-Harthi, Sultan Qaboos University.





Japanese Garden and Sakura in Oman



Zenji Kaminaga Former Ambassador To The Sultanate of Oman

The Japanese Garden in Naseem Park, Muscat

The Japanese Garden sits in the Naseem Park in a quiet manner, with an even more dignified atmosphere than that of 11 years ago when it was built.

The solemn atmosphere could have been produced by a long process of time, which is enough to nurture and maturate trees and turfs newly planted and sodded at the outset of the Garden.

It should be very much appreciated that the Garden has been so neatly and beautifully preserved by the Municipality office and Omani gardeners. This is due to the collaboration of the Japanese gardeners, who devoted themselves to the transfer of the skills of maintenance for the Garden for 5 years since its completion in May, 2001.

In sitting at the Japanese tea-house or arbor, one can face toward the west and the calm pond into which water runs down quietly from the waterfall. The pond occupies the center of the green Garden. The whole scenery of the Japanese Garden was designed like an "oasis" in the desert which makes people healed, consoled, and thus peaceful. This is the concept behind the official name where "Peace (Heian in Japanese) Garden" originated from.

Behind the pond there lies a range of green hills running parallel to that of the rocky Jabal Akhudar mountains standing highly and solemnly in the distance. The artificially built green hill range of the Garden is the miniature or the reflection of the natural Jabal Akhudar. In other words, the green hills standing high in the Garden compose a unique universe of its

> own, harmonizing with the true nature behind. This Japanese traditional technical garden method is called "SHAKKEI", or borrowing or reflecting the true nature scenery behind to the currently designed world of the garden.

The design for the 10,000m² size Garden including the arbor was drawn by the world famous Japanese gardener Mr. Ken Nakajima, the late President of the Consolidated Garden Research Inc. and his son Mr. Hirohisa Nakajima, new President, succeeded the construction of the Garden. All stones used in the Garden were obtained and selected in Oman especially from the Jabal Akhudar range. The plants similar to those of the authentic Japanese garden in and surrounding the Garden were all procured and selected in Oman by Mr. Na-

However, the materials such as authentic Japanese stone lanterns, bamboo designed fences, pagoda, stone bridges and wooden gates were brought from Japan.

Yet, it was amazing that although the Garden and arbor were designed by Mr. Nakajima, almost all materials were provided in Oman and its carpentering was done by Omani professionals.







Inauguration ceremony of the Japanese Garden by H.E. Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Albusaidi, May 2001

This Japanese Garden is the true symbol of cooperation between Omani and Japanese people. The construction and maintenance costs were borne evenly half and half by the citizens and companies of both countries, and the second fairly big arbor was donated by the Commemorative Organization for Japan World Exposition '70, while maintenance is kept by Muscat Municipalities.

I returned to Oman after 11 years and 5 months' absence and it was a great joy and honor to witness the very beautifully kept Japanese Garden in the Naseem Park in Muscat. It is truly the biggest, authentic, unique and only well-kept Japanese Garden in the Arab world!

The Sakura Trees in the Jabal Akhudar Mountains

The Japanese cherry trees called "Sakura" blossom their rosy flowers in early spring at the top of the Jabal Akhudar mountains.

The Jabal Akhudar has been blessed with the Sakura flowers since 2000, and they are the first Japanese cherry trees to come out in the Arabian Peninsula or in the Gulf.

The idea of planting Sakura trees in the Jabal Akhudar was initiated by Mr. Zenji Kaminaga, the Japanese Ambassador at that time, and planted at an agricultural experimental firm. It was officially opened by H.E. Khalfan Al Rawahi, Minister for Agriculture at that time, in February

The saplings of the cherry trees were donated by The Cherry Blossom Association of Japan.











Japan-Oman Club



Dr. Kyoko T. Jones

My acquaintance with Oman began in April, 2008, when my husband and I attended a global conference in Muscat. During our short stay there, I became interested in Oman's culture and its people. A few months after our return to Japan, I was invited to a meeting of people with "Oman experience." The group met several times to discuss our interest in Oman, which led to founding of the Japan-Oman Club in May, 2010.

The club aims to promote friendship and understanding between the peoples of the Sultanate of Oman and Japan, so the only membership qualification is a wish to be involved with Oman. We have about 130 members, including politicians, diplomats, academics, businessmen/women, college students, housewives and retirees. We encourage people from all backgrounds to join.

Most Japanese are unfamiliar with Oman. Our goal is to change that situation through programs and activities that provide members and others with opportunities to get to know Omani people, culture, geography and history, and Oman's global role vis-à-vis Japan. We try to engage people with open minds in "the Pearl of the Middle East." So we support activities involving young Japanese, particularly college students interested in the Arab culture, and Omani students who are interested in Japan.

"The club aims to promote friendship and understanding between the peoples of the Sultanate of Oman and Japan"

In the little over two years the Club has been in existence, we have had many activities for our members, including group trips to cultural and sports events, public lectures on Oman and social gatherings, as well as providing unique opportunities such as a special tour to the Imperial Farm in Tochigi to see the Arabian horse which His Majesty Sultan Qaboos gave to the Crown

Prince and Princess of Japan when they visited Oman. The Club also actively engages in social outreach. It has arranged for host families for Omani students in Japan; supported Japanese college students' efforts in organizing exchange meetings between Japanese and Omani students and has had our membership participate in culture activities such as a student organized fashion show "The Secret of Arabian Mode."

The Club helps the Omani Embassy in exchange and outreach activities. The most notable example was in recruiting Japanese students from the tsunami-struck region for a special travel and sports program in Oman and providing an escort to accompany them. More typical examples are the help we have given in organizing a speaker series on Oman, and recruiting applications for the Logo Design Competition for the 40th Anniversary of Japan-Oman Diplomatic

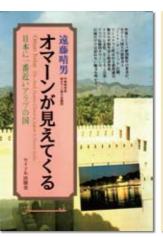
The Club is a place for Japanese who lived in Oman to preserve their links with Oman. Its activities give them opportunities to meet and reminisce about their time there, and a chance to share their experiences with others. Our hope is to continue to enjoy and develop connections in a diverse and valuable network of individuals who would like to see Japan's friendship with Oman flourish.

Oman and I

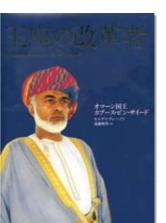


Professor Haruo Endo

Oman Expert



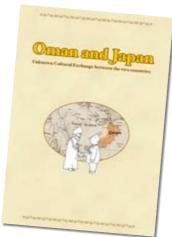
"Oman Today - The Arab Nation Closest to Japan" in 1995



"A Reformer on the Throne - Sultan Oaboos bin Said Al Said'



"Observation of Oman" in 2009



"Oman and Japan" in 2012

I first visited Oman in April 1974. The purpose of my visit was to conduct a feasibility study on the construction of a refinery while I was working for Maruzen Oil, and to Japan, Oman was still an unknown country. In April 1985, having shifted to Abu Dhabi Kosan, which was developing operations in the UAE, I once again visited Oman in order to cultivate business there. At that time Muscat had the look of a construction site, with trucks driving around the city amid clouds of dust. The image of the bare concrete of the Al Bustan Palace Hotel, which was being built to coincide with the opening of the first GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) summit in Oman, is still etched into my mind. As I had worked in Tehran, Beirut and Abu Dhabi since 1973, even after reaching mandatory retirement I still longed to be involved with the Middle East, and after I retired from Abu Dhabi Kosan I began working as I wished at the Omani Ministry of Commerce and Industry as a JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) expert. From January 1992 I lived in Muscat - by then completely modernized - along with my wife. At the Ministry of Commerce and Industry I worked alongside Omani's young elite, who were graduates of universities in the U.S. and Europe, and while in many cases I was the one doing the teaching, it was also a three-year period during which I learned a great deal from them. In 1995 Simul Press published my book, "Oman Today - The Arab Nation Closest to Japan." The following year I worked as an honorary researcher at the Centre for Arab Gulf Studies at Exeter University to study more about Oman, and during this

> time I developed friendships with Omani researchers. I spent the following year as a JICA expert once again at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry according to their request, and upon returning home I became intent on repaying the Omani people somehow for the hospitality they had extended to me, and so I engaged in supporting Omani students studying in Japan, Japanese-Omani student exchanges, and expanding business between the two countries. In addition, in 2001 my book "How to Deal with the Arabian Peninsula" was published by Dai-San Shokan, and in 2004 I was able to give lectures in various locations in Oman in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Oman-Japan Friendship Association. Perhaps as a result, in 2007 I became the first Japanese to be honored with being awarded the Sultan Qaboos Order for Culture, Science and Art of the First Degree. Subsequently also, I published "Observations of Oman" (Tembo Publications) in 2009, and "A Reformer on the Throne: Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said" (translated

edition, Asahi Shimbun Publications) in 2010, and in June this year the English language edition of "Observations of Oman", which is titled "Oman and Japan" was published in Muscat. The grass-roots "Japan-Oman Club" that I set up during this time is contributing to a certain amount of Japan-Oman interaction thanks to the enthusiasm of the club's members, which is something I am overjoyed about. I would like to close here, while recalling the faces of the various Omanis who I will undoubtedly continue to mix with from here on, including high-ranking government officials, my former colleagues at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, my fellow students at Exeter University, and students who studied abroad in Japan, with my strong wish to continue to repay my debt to Omani people.

Hiroshima-Oman Friendship Association



Hon. Kazuhiro Fukushima Chairman, Hiroshima Oman Friendship Association

"It is my earnest wish that the strong bond that has been forged as a result of the Asian Games will continue to serve as a link, and that the Association's activities will continue for the long term"

I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Oman diplomatic relations. I also want to express my gratitude to successive ambassadors, beginning with H.E. Mr. Khalid Hashil Al-Muslahi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman in Japan, and to the many individuals who have extended their support and cooperation to me and the Hiroshima Oman Friendship Association thus far.

At the 12th Asian Games Hiroshima, which were held in 1994, it was decided to instigate a "one community - one country" cheering program in which Hiroshima City citizens would each cheer a specific country or territory according to the community centers located in the areas where they reside. It was decided that the Yasuhigashi Community Center, where we are active, would support Oman. During the Games we held a ceremony welcoming Omani competitors to our community, supported their football and hockey games, held exchanges and so forth, and these served as opportunities for forging partnerships. In addition, two years later in 1996, an Oman goodwill mission was formed and 19 members visited Oman. In order to further deepen this friendship and goodwill, the Hiroshima Oman Friendship Association was established, and thus far we have welcomed children and many government dignitaries

> from Oman, while a total of around 130 of our members have visited Oman from Hiroshima. A total of around 100 members have taken part in National Days, which are held every year at the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Japan, and in this and other ways we continue to hold international exchanges at a grass-roots level. In particular, as a result of a visit to Oman, one member decided to study at the Azzan Bin Qais Private School at his own expense four years later, and is now working for Qatar Airways. Additionally, thanks to the efforts of Sayvid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, two students studied abroad at the Azzan Bin Qais Private School for 10 months from August 2009, and I am confident they will come to serve in a bridging role between Oman and Hiroshima in the near future.

> Lastly, although many community centers have since halted their exchange activities for various reasons or due to differences in ideas with the partner country or territory, the Hiroshima Oman Friend-

ship Association continues to actively pursue exchanges to this day. Where our Association is concerned, teacher Suad Mohammed Al-Mudhaffar is a major presence. Her support and involvement with us has been encouraging in various ways.

The Hiroshima Oman Friendship Association celebrates its 16th anniversary this year. It is my earnest wish that the strong bond that has been forged as a result of the Asian Games will continue to serve as a link, and that the Association's activities will continue for the long term as regional citizens and community centers further deepen their mutual understanding of their respective positions and roles into the future. I am looking forward to once again visiting Oman, which is the Arab nation closest to Japan.







A Record of My Experiences Studying Abroad in Oman



Yuya Saeda Student

I studied abroad in Oman for one year from the summer of my second year in high school. For most people, "studying abroad" probably calls to mind a developed country such as the U.S. or the U.K., but in my own case I had a slightly different reason for going. From an early age I have been studying a traditional Japanese performance art known as "kagura" (ancient Shinto dancing), and in the winter of my fifth year at elementary school I was invited to the Muscat Festival in Oman, where I performed kagura. I then joined the Hiroshima Oman Friendship Association and there continued to interact in a small way with Oman. Just at that point, the Hiroshima Oman Friendship Association received a request from the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs to select two people from Hiroshima to be invited to study abroad and another student and I were chosen.

The lifestyle in Oman was very new to me and constituted a series of surprises. For example, in Muscat City where I was staying, most households have servants and worship every day at a set time. This and other aspects of the lifestyle were completely different to life in Japan. Two things that surprised me in particular were that most of the people around me could speak two or more languages, and as well that there were a large number of foreigners among the Omanis. By nature I was not a very outgoing person, but at schools over there the students are assertive, so in order to keep up with them I soon learned to state my own opinions as well. Thanks to that I gradually made friends, and since I was poor at English they explained my lessons to me, taught me English and Arabic and were always kindly by my side. On days off I went swimming in the ocean with my friends or had barbeques. The sea in Oman is very clean, and the starry sky seen from the beach at night is incomparably more beautiful than in

My experiences in Oman helped me grow mentally and physically. I am currently studying at university in order to study abroad once again, and I believe the impetus for that came from the year I spent in Oman.

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to Sayyid Badr bin Hamed bin Hamoud Al

Busaidi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who granted me the opportunity to study abroad. While I was studying abroad, he also invited me into his home and spoke warmly to me. In the course of those conversations, I will never forget him telling me that I was now part of his family and was welcome to visit at any time. I am also very indebted to the Akef family. Additionally, schoolteacher Suad Al-Mudhaffar taught me to strive to be a responsible, mindful person. It was a year in which I discovered bonds that exceeded national borders and received support from a large number of people. I believe that if I can build bridges between Oman and Japan from here on, that will be the time when I can convey my thanks to everyone. I am looking forward to the day when I will be able to meet everyone again. Thank you very much.

Enhancing Education in Oman



Dr. Suad Mohammed Al-Mudhaffar

In life we may have many privileged experiences which give our life a very different defini-

In this case, my privilege was that I had the opportunity to visit the Sultanate of Oman 34 years ago as a cultural exchange team member from Japan. Through this opportunity I had the privilege of residing and eventually becoming an Omani National and working in the educational field of Oman, which I never thought would be possible for my future when I was in

When I visited the Sultanate of Oman, the country had just opened to the world and I saw the photo of our great leader, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, everywhere I went, including homes. Of course I did not know who he was until I asked and came to know that he is the leader of the Sultanate of Oman. I had never seen the Emperor of Japan's photo like that in Japan especially since I was born after World War 2.

This privileged opportunity changed my life, and I became happier and most importantly I firmly started believing in God and became a follower of Islam. All these facts changed my thinking, with God guiding me to do something good for the society. This led me to think that I should contribute to the educational field, and I am lucky I founded a private school in

"I thought with Japan as a great role model I could follow and create good educational instructions to suit Omani society with a touch of Japanese thinking"



I have study experience in Japan and I have seen the development of education in Japan for good or bad in the school life. I thought with Japan as a great role model I could follow and create good educational instructions to suit Omani society with a touch of Japanese thinking. The aim would be to develop students' moral humanity, personality with critical thinking and creativity on an international educational standard.

Through this opportunity I established a good educational instruction, and I believe I have achieved in Omani society with my identity of as Japanese, the pride of being an Omani

I have been living in Oman for over three decades and I see a spacious country and its development under the guidance and leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said. I am truly privileged to work for His Majesty's beloved country, Oman, in the educational field as principal of a school for over

Once again I would like to offer my congratulations on the 40th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relation between Oman and Japan, and I am glad that in my life I could be a part of such a great and momentous occasion. It would be an honor to continuously work to bridge Oman and Japan in the educational as well as social development of both countries.

Impressions of Life and Work in Japan



Mr. Hafidh Al Busaidy General Manager InterContinental

"My colleagues have been more than kind and have guided me through the differences in working in a Japanese culture"

I arrived in Japan on the 1st of August 2012, tasked with opening the new InterContinental Osaka. My start was to be a taste of the pace that was to come. There was the orientation, media training, photo shoot, briefing on the project, and review of hundreds of documents, travel from Tokyo to Osaka on the wonderful Shinkansen, and a look at the site and then into the press conference to mark my arrival and announce the hotel. Just in my first two days! Three very quick weeks later my family arrived and I met them in Osaka to move to our new home in Kobe.

Looking from the view of the club lounge at the Crowne Plaza Kobe over toward Rokko and Port Islands, one is struck by the density of the urban landscape and the small space it occupies between the lush green mountains and the beautiful blue sea. Japan has stunning blue skies for such an industrialized nation, and it soon became clear that they take their environment very seriously.

Many people will tell you about the politeness of the Japanese people. This is by far the most encompassing impression that one gets, and it extends far beyond the normal sense of politeness that I am used to and impacts almost every aspect of life. Interactions are always polite, the public transport system is kept clean by the commuters and is pleasant to use as

> everyone is so well behaved regardless of how busy or crowded it is, shop attendants offer you discreet and attentive service, taxi drivers are courteous and helpful, everyone appears to be doing all they can to make the environment pleasant and enjoyable for everyone. Everyone appears considerate, and this is wonderful. You find yourself after a short time here enjoying being considerate too. It is self-rewarding and far from the conformist view that everyone takes of Japan. Being here has taken away some of my cynicism, and made me believe that we can do better for each other if we make just a little effort to do so. The results are well worth it, a safe and enjoyable lifestyle free of worry and fear, where we can focus our energies on things

Japan is a beautiful country, and it is a great privilege to work here. My colleagues have been more than kind and have guided me through the differences in working in a Japanese culture. I am constantly amazed at the level of detail we can work towards. The country offers you a culture that is wholly Japanese and not a homogenized variation. It is a country of great natural beauty, which is carefully protected and conserved. A country of shrines and ancient temples, of peaceful forests and clean beaches, a country where no detail is too small. It is different as it should be. It is a nation proud of its culture, it is a nation that loves its country and it shows in everything they do.



Promoting Oman to Japanese Media

Ms. Keiko Okaue

Japan representative, Ministry of Information, Sultanate of Oman

I was appointed as the Japan representative of Oman's Ministry of Information in October 1993. I started the job in a state of ignorance, not knowing where the Arabian Peninsula was, or anything about Arab people or Islam. However, it was the very fact that I knew nothing that sparked my desire to learn about the country. When I first visited Oman it was completely different to the image I had harbored of "the Middle East." The impression I had was that the people were very proud and that they had a much more humane approach to living than Japanese people. I looked at publicizing Oman as a fresh challenge.

My job is to make Oman known broadly in the Japanese media and to lift the country's profile. My principal task was to cultivate contacts, chiefly with journalists in charge of covering the Middle East, and get them to visit Oman, and to try to secure exposure for articles relating to Oman's political, economic and social development. At the time, Oman was an "unknown country," so to speak. With the Middle East tormented with conflict, the media showed almost no interest in gathering news on Oman, a country that might be described as a "peaceful paradise." When I asked journalists to cover Oman in the news, I was often bewildered to have them ask me "Why Oman, and why now?"

Almost 20 years have passed since then. I feel blessed to have been able to maintain ongoing ties with newspaper and magazine journalists and freelance writers over that time, and to have learned so much as a result. In the meantime, HIH Crown Prince and Princess visited Oman in 1994, Deputy Prime Minister of Oman His Highness Sayyid Fahad Mahmood Al-Said visited Japan in 1997, a new embassy premises were opened in 2009, and in 2010 a series of commemorative events were held to celebrate the 40th anniversary of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said's accession to the throne. On each of these occasions I gained fresh insights into Oman, a country with a rich and unique culture, and those insights were the driving force

that sent me "rushing headlong" at the media.

The more you get to know Oman the more charming the country becomes. It is a beautiful nation swept by the winds of the Arabian Sea, and my fervent wish is that more and more Japanese people - and younger people particularly - come to know about it. In recent years Oman's recognition has gradually increased - Japan played against Oman in the qualifying round of the Soccer World Cup, for example. Furthermore, Japan's tourist industry is also focusing on Oman's tourism resources, and in this and other ways I get the feeling Oman's time has come. Fortunately, among students and the younger generation of journalists also, there are individuals coming up who are interested in Oman.

I hope to boost Oman's visibility even higher, and I want to pursue that effort with care and tenacity.



The author visiting Shamsa Al-Khalili School in Muscat in February 2010

Promoting Culture Through Business

Frankincense, Dates and Date Cakes

Tennendo, a long-standing incense company in Kurume City, sells frankincense at department stores nationwide. Arto, a company in Kawagoe City, sells dates grown in Oman and Saitama City's Abies Mikuriya Cake sells cakes made using those dates. Tennendo Director Shinobu Kinoshita and Arto President Tomohito Araya visited Oman at the end of 2001 as members of a mission for small and medium-sized enterprises that was run by the United Nations Industrial Development Organiza-

- Frankincense

Tennendo has been handling frankincense for a long time but began buying it directly from Oman 13 years ago, as a result of meeting Prof. Haruo Endo. At that time there were around 1,500 entries about frankincense on the Internet, but now there are over 300,000. Over that period, every year we have been placing photographs of frankincense in 500,000 to 1,000,000 advertisements from leading department stores nationwide, as well as explaining frankincense directly and marketing it. Thus, it may well be that Tennendo is contributing - in some small way - to cultural exchange with Oman. Even in Japan, where Oriental fragrant woods form the main trend, I believe the number of people showing an interest in frankincense will increase. Being able to watch a sprig of frankincense that I brought back with me grow as a cutting in a university greenhouse for around two years is a special memory for me.

I first saw Omani dates when a friend presented them to me as a souvenir from Oman 14 or 15 years ago. Upon trying them I found they were delicious, with the flavor of dried persimmons. Dates contain the dietary fiber needed to prevent adult-onset diseases and are also rich in minerals, and because their sugar content is glucose and fructose, they are a sweetener alternative for people who have to limit their sugar intake. Other positive factors include the fact they are additive-free, naturallyfertilized and make limited use of pesticides, so we began importing them. Initially we faced many problems, including insect outbreaks, but in those instances we communicated with the Oman side, and thanks to improvements in transportation methods and enhanced quality control, we are now able to import quality produce smoothly. We are also making gradual progress with our sales routes. We want to do our utmost to ensure that flavorsome Omani dates become more popular in Japan.

- Date cakes

About 10 years ago I began searching for safe and delicious dates. I discovered dates grown in Oman, and from there forward I decided I wanted to take a deeper interest in the country although I knew nothing about it. With that in mind, I asked Mr. Araya and Prof. Endo to teach me. Having gained some grasp of the country, I then visited for about 10 days on my own. And now I am conceiving and producing a range of cakes and new confectionary that use Oman-grown dates as an ingredient. As well as recommending that people eat my products, I also promote the noteworthy positive effects dates' fructose and magnesium can bring to diets for diabetics. My job is to let people know about products that are good for their bodies and encourage them to make good use of them, and to introduce the country and people of Oman through cakes and confectionary.



Shinobu Kinoshita



Tomohito Araya



Noriko Mikuriya







Passing Through a Different Culture



Masaki Sugiyama Second Grade, Miyagi Ishinomaki Commercial High School

As a result of the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11 last year, many lives and possessions were lost. We suffered massive damage, to the extent that our normal everyday lifestyles were no longer possible. I myself was one of the victims. My home was partially but substantially destroyed, though fortunately my family were all unharmed. Even now I cannot forget the terror of the tsunami, or the ter-

My encounter with Oman came about thanks to the miraculous evacuation center, Meiyukan, and a meeting with the center's head, Mr. Chiba.

I first went to Meiyukan on the eighth day following the earthquake disaster. The water had receded but the sludge remained, and there were mountains of

debris everywhere. There were around 130 evacuees at Meiyukan, and Mr. Chiba was serving as the center's leader. I can still recall that most of the work was being directed by Mr. Chiba. and people were working based on his instructions. He was a very popular person, and it was thanks to his personality that support was reaching such a large number of people.

In the midst of that Mr. Chiba suddenly called me and I went to the office. It was there that my trip to the country known as Oman was decided. The Summer of Sports is an event that brings together young people from regions around the world with the goal of cultivating friendly relations by participating in sports activities together. Japan has been taking part since 2007, and in my case Oman's Ministry of Sports Affairs had invited six students from areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. I had personally never heard of Oman, so I was a little uneasy. Of the six students who took part I was the youngest, which also made me uneasy, but I was reassured to find that the other five students were easy to get along with and were very kind. The flight took around 10 hours, and as it was my first time on an airplane. It felt like a very long time.

Oman was completely different to Japan in terms of the environment and the culture. The

mountains were devoid of vegetation, and clouds of sand danced through the air. The clothes were also different to Japan: men wore white garments known as dishdasha that covered their whole bodies, and most women did not expose any skin. But Oman has an abundant natural environment, and the sea is so clean it appears transparent. The valleys unfurl a rich blend of vegetation and small streams, and we were constantly mesmerized.

In the sports exchanges, we took part in long-distance races, played beach soccer and woodball on the coastal foreshore with local young people, and shared a large number of experiences with Omani youths.

In the sense that the environment, culture and the language differed from Japan, it was a testing environment to live in, but I gained a great deal from it, including learning to cope with circumstances that differed to those in Japan, and to communicate in a place where the language was different. I was granted an amazing experience that I will cherish my whole life, and I am extremely grateful.

At present the city of Ishinomaki where I live still has some areas where debris from the earthquake disaster remain piled up. As a result of cooperation extended by Kitakyushu City the debris are gradually being cleared away, but the leveling of roads and the restoration of residential and commercial areas is vet to move forward. It will still take a lot of time to build a new city, and volunteers are undertaking a variety of restoration work. It is said that it will be 10 years from now before disaster-affected areas recover.

We were born in this region, and have lived in this area while respecting it. Without fail, the recovery will be achieved, and this is something I want to display to the people who have provided support thus far. Until that day comes, please keep a kind eye on our progress.

"In the sense that the environment, culture and language differed from Japan, it was a testing environment to live in, but I gained a great deal from it"



Studying in Japan



Adil Al-Mahdhori Graduate Student at Tohoku

University

Visiting Japan was one of my childhood dreams because I was interested to know more about Japanese culture, knowledge and technology. Fortunately, before I had finished my master's study in Oman I heard about a postgraduate scholarship provided by the Japanese Government to Omani nationals. It was a good chance to try my fortune. After passing the screening, the Embassy of Japan in Muscat supported and provided me with all relevant information about the Japanese system to fulfill the scholarship requirements. In the end I decided to attend Tohoku University, where Professor Shigenao Maruyama is doing research on radiative heat transfer engineering, which is related to my research interest.

Since the moment I arrived in Japan in October 2010, I was cared for generously. Learning Japanese was the first step to be accomplished. Intensive Japanese courses were provided to the international students for the first four months. In order to complete the enrollment in the doctoral course, I had to complete entrance examinations including mathematics and engineering subjects such as fluid mechanics and thermodynamics. When the results came out on March 8, I was successfully listed in the graduate school of mechanical engineering. This was a moment where I had a clear mind and found extreme confidence to advance my studies.

However, the cheerful moments did not last for long. On March 11, we had an unexpected appointment with the largest earthquakes ever in northeast Japan. It was very frightening and scary. At that moment, I was attending a workshop held on the third floor of one building that belongs to the Institute of Fluid Science. The shaking was very strong and lasted for more than three minutes. After making sure that everyone was safe, the disaster team leader asked us to go home. Everything was well organized and was impressive. Fortunately, I had the chance to be involved in disaster prevention training once I arrived in Japan.

Then, we realized that the earthquake didn't come alone. A disastrous tsunami had stroked the coastal area not located more than 15 kilometers away from the campus. It was a tragedy to hear that many people have lost their lives, homes and jobs.

H.E. Khalid Al-Muslahi, Ambassador of Oman, contacted me to make sure that I was safe. He asked me to move to Tokyo especially given the lack of food supply. At the same time, the broadcast announced the Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster. The Government of Oman asked all Omanis to immediately evacuate Japan until the situation became under control.

All Omani students were provided with flight tickets and returned

"The decision was made to not leave my good friends in Japan. I am back to Sendai now doing my best to help in volunteering work at tsunamiaffected areas"

Radiation was the main obstacle that made me hesitant to return to Japan. However, Prof. Maruyama assured that analysis of radiation in Sendai showed minor rates, which was lower than the health risk limit. So, the decision was made to not leave my good friends in Japan. I am back to Sendai now doing my best to help in volunteering work at tsunami-affected areas. Hopefully, I will return to Oman with pride in being an Omani graduated from Prof. Maruyama laboratory who was honored with Purple Ribbon Medal from H.M. the Emperor of Japan. I would like to give my most sincere congratulations to Oman and Japan for their 40 years of close relationship.





40th Anniversary

The year 2012 was an important occasion for Oman and Japan as it marked the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. To celebrate this memorable occasion, throughout the year various events were held in both countries to commemorate the 40th Anniversary, and to further strengthen their relations.

- ➤ The two countries' governments exchanged congratulatory messages between their Foreign Ministers on May 7
- ➤ Shared a commemorative logo for this happy anniversary, and issued commemorative postal stamps
- ▶ The Omani embassy in Tokyo held a grand ceremony on February 27 2012 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the official establishment of the diplomatic relations between Oman and Japan, and launched the "Oman-Japan 2012" programme of events and activities
 - Events held by the Omani embassy in Tokyo also included:
- ▶ Ms. Alia Al Farsi's "Communique Celestial" Fine Art Exhibition inaugurated by Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado in May

- ➤ Special Exhibition on Oman's Geology held at the Geological Museum from April 17 to July 1, 2012, and a symposium on Oman's geology and geo-tourism on April 22
- Ms. Yoshiko Sato "AL ADYAT" Omani Arab horses photo exhibition in October
- "Oman through the Japanese Eye" photo exhibition inaugurated by Mrs. Takako Shimazu and H.E. Sayyid Badr Al-busaidi in December
- ➤ Conducted 29 lectures, seminars, and cultural events throughout 2012 under the "Discover Oman" programme designed to introduce Oman and its culture to various segments of society
- ➤ Hosted a special ceremony on June 28 to launch the book titled "A Wonderland Oman: An Oasis in the Changing Middle East" written by H.E. Mr. Seiji Morimoto, former Ambassador of Japan to Oman
- ➤ Furthermore, on October 16, a "Special Grand Lecture Meeting" was held at Meiji University, organised by the Japan-Oman Society in co-operation with the Omani Embassy and the Meiji Institute for Global Affairs

In Muscat a number of events were organised in cooperation with the Japanese embassy in commemoration of this special occasion:

- Exhibition on Japan's Advertising Photography (APA Award) and Scenes of Recovery from the Earthquake and Tsunami In
- Ms. Rieko Morita Special Art Exhibition in February
- ▶ Drums concert "TAIKO LEGEND- Heart Beat from Japan" in February
- ➤ "Japan Day" was held at the Scientific College of Design on May 15 which included a live concert featuring May J, a Japanese pop music singer
- ➤ Music concert "Japan Music Project" in October
- ➤ Hideki Togi Special Concert in October
- ▶ The Dolls of Japan Exhibition in November
- ➤ Special Classical Music Concert in November
- ▶ "Oman Century Ride" bicycle event in November

Congratulatory Letter from Japan



H.E. Kouichiro Gemba Minister for Foreign Affairs of

May 7, Heisei 24

Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman His Excellency Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdullah

I would like to express my sincere pleasure that Japan and the Sultanate of Oman mark this year as the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. I deeply thank your Excellency, the Government of Oman and its people for your continuous efforts during this period to promote our bilateral relations.

The diplomatic relations of our two countries that started in 1972 continue developing by the steady efforts of our two countries. Cooperation not only in the energy field of oil and natural gas but also in various fields such as of politics, economy, culture, and science, etc., and the cooperation in guarding the safe passage of the sea lane has progressed as well.

In addition, during the event of unprecedented disaster that our country experienced in March last year, I would like to again express my sincere thanks for the warm words of encouragement from His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, His Highness Sayyid Haitham, Deputy Prime Minister H.H. Fahd and many other people, and for additional supply of the liquefied natural gas and contribution of 10 million dollars.

On this occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, I would like to further deepen the mutual understanding of our two countries, and turn the

> bilateral relationship with Oman into a further fruitful one. I wish for the continued prosperity of the Sultanate of Oman and the good health of your Excellency.

> > Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Gemba Kouichiro

Congratulatory Letter from Oman



H.E.Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdulla

Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs

"Since the establishment of official relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan on May 7th 1972, the two countries maintained throughout the years, under the patronage of their leadership and the vigorous efforts exerted by the two governments, their mutual exchange of support in the international arena"

May 7th, 2012

H.E. Mr. Koichiro Gemba Distinguished Minister

Your Excellency,

It is my pleasure on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan, to express my sincere congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency, the Government, and the friendly people of Japan.

Since the establishment of the official relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan on May 7th, 1972, the two countries maintained throughout the years, under the patronage of their leadership and the vigorous efforts exerted by the two governments, their mutual exchange of support in the international arena, and the enhancement of their cooperation, politically, commercially and economically, as well as the enhancement of their cultural and scientific cooperation, stemming continuous and close cooperation between the two country's relations on the basis of sincere friendship, trust and mutual benefit.

> On this occasion, I would like to assure Your Excellency, of the utmost care of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman to exert all efforts, with the Japanese side, to fruitfully developing the relations to serve the interests of both peoples, and open new horizons for the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two

> As I thank your efforts in promoting the bilateral relations between the two countries, I would like to express my sincere wishes for the continued prosperity and progress to Japan and the speedy recovery from the devastating earthquake that struck in March 11th, 2011.

> With my best wishes for your continued success and good health.

Yours sincerely,

Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdulla Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs

186

two countries"

"The diplomatic relations of our two

countries that started in 1972 continue

developing by the steady efforts of our

The 40th Anniversary Grand Ceremony

The Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman, H.E. Khalid Al-Muslahi held a grand ceremony on Monday February 27 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Oman and Japan, inaugurate the "Oman-Japan 2012" programme of events and activities, and launch the joint commemorative logo for the anniversary.

During the ceremony, which was attended by more than 150 dignitaries from the political, business, academic and media circles, congratulatory speeches were given by the Guest of Honor, H.E. Mr. Seishiro Eto, Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Japan-Oman Parliamentary Friendship League; H.E. Mr. Kazuyuki Hamada, the Parliamentary Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Mr. Issei Koga, Chairman of Special Committee on Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake, Chairman of the DPJ Japan-Oman Parliamentary Friendship League; and by H.E. Mr. Takekazu Kawamura, Grand Master of the Ceremonies of the Imperial Household. In their speeches, the honorable guests praised the strong relations between Japan and Oman going back nearly 400 years, and expressed their heartfelt congratulations for the two countries' 40th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. They also expressed the desire of the government and people of Japan to further promote the relations between Japan and Oman.







Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs



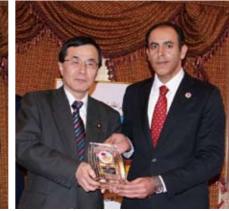
H.E. Mr. Seishiro Eto, Vice-Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Japan-Oman Parliamentary Friendship League



The Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman, H.E. Khalid Al-Muslahi



H.E. Mr. Seishiro Eto, Vice-Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Japan-Oman Parliamentary Friendship League



H.E. Mr. Kazuvuki Hamada, the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs



H.E. Mr. Issei Koga, Chairman of Special Committee on Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake, Chairman of the DPJ Japan-Oman Parliamentary Friendship League



H.E. Mr. Yasutoshi Nishimura, Chairman of the Japan-Oman Society



Hiroshima-Oman Friendship Association, Mr. Tomoyuki Takenaka, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Fukushima, Chairman



Japan Oman Club, Mr. Kazuo Moriya, Chairman



Presentation of special commemorative gifts of appreciation

In his speech, Ambassador Al-Muslahi commended the outstanding relations between Oman and Japan, and confirmed the wishes of the Omani Government and people to enhance the bonds of friendship and cooperation with Japan. He also expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the Japanese official and private sectors and the people of Japan, for the kind cooperation extended to the Embassy for many years, and for their interest in promoting the friendly relations with Oman which had witnessed remarkable advancements in recent years in the various fields of cooperation.

The Ambassador presented gifts of appreciation to the two parliamentary friendship leagues, the Japan-Oman Society, the Oman-Hiroshima Friendship Association, the Japan-Oman Club, and to H.E. the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The 40th Anniversary logo designer, Ms. Sawako Kani was also awarded the grand Prize during the ceremony for winning the commemorative logo design contest held by the Embassy. The Guest of Honor and the Ambassador also preformed a cake cutting ceremony to formally launch the logo of Oman-Japan 2012.

The 40th Anniversary Logo



Designer Ms. Sawako KANI



Ms. Kani receiving her award as Grand Prize winner

The Oman-Japan 40th Anniversary Logo was chosen following an official design competition in 2011 held by the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman. The winning design by Ms. Sawako Kani was adopted by the Embassies of Oman and Japan for use in all its related activities throughout the year to celebrate the 40th Anniversary. The logo was jointly shared and approved by the two governments.

The logo reflects a sense of "unity" and "future aspirations" between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan as they commemorate a flourishing 40 years of official diplomatic relations between them, inspired by their two unique national flowers blooming together from the same root in a wind rippled magnificent desert under a peaceful blue sky.

The "Sultan Oaboos Rose" (Rosa Metixia of the floribunda variety) was named after His Majesty the Sultan in recognition of his role in bringing progress and peace to his people by the World Federation of Rose Societies in 1990. The Rose made its first official appearance in April 1990 at the International Garden and Greenery Exhibition in Osaka, which attracted admiring glances for its blood red colour and gentle fragrance, and more importantly for its ability to thrive in cold and hot climates. The rose symbolises, in addition to beauty and passion, courage and power and express respect and appreciation.

The "Sakura" flower (the Japanese cherry blossom), is the national flower of Japan. The blooming of these delicate pink and white blossoms occurs around the end of March and beginning of April and signifies spring's arrival, triggering a nationwide celebration for the Japanese people. The Sakura flower, also signifies the inauguration of a new beginning and its exuberance bestows hope and good fortune.

The wind-rippled desert reflects the vast expanses of the Arabic heritage and boundless hospitality, and reflects the endowed hydrocarbon resources that became an important factor in their strategic relations. The logo by encompassing the two glorious flowers, under the peaceful blue skies of the Arabian desert indeed expresses the two countries "Individuality" and sense of "Unity "over their 40 years of relations depicted by four flowers that represent four decades of a harmonious relationship. The flowers stem from the same root representing the further reinforcement of the close bonds of friendship and cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan.





Stamps issued both in Oman and Japan commemorating the 40th Anniversary

Special Grand Lecture Meeting









H.E. Dr. Ali bin Saud Al-Bemani



H.E. Shinzo Abe



H.E. Yasutoshi Nishimura



Professor Masayuki Yamauchi



ness, education, and culture.

One of the most significant events held this year to commemorate this momentous occasion was the Special Grand Lecture Meeting at the 40th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and the Sultanate of Oman, which took place at Meiji University on October 16, 2012. Hosted by the Japan-Oman Society and the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan, distinguished Omani and Japanese gave a series of informative lectures and talks in the areas of government, busi-

These exchanges not only bring together Japanese and Omani individuals across a wide range of interests and backgrounds, but provide an opportunity for the Japanese public to increase their awareness of the two nation's fruitful relationship.

Special Art Exhibition: "Communique Celestial"

As part of the celebrations commemorating 40 years of diplomatic ties between Oman and Japan, Alia al Farsi, a contemporary Omani artist with over 20 years of experience, opened her first solo international exhibition in Tokyo. Entitled "Communique Celestial," the exhibition was inaugurated by Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado, and hosted by the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman.

Alia al Farsi is one of Oman's most well known artists, with her work merging local themes with an abstract style giving audiences around the world a unique insight into Oman's heritage. Each of the 40 mixed-media pieces on display were created specifically for the show and the exhibition was a rousing success, receiving rave reviews in Japan. This event not only helped to promote cultural understandings, but exemplifies the strong bond shared between the two nations.







Exhibition: "From Desert to Mantle – Explore the Geology of Oman"

During the period from 17 April to 1 July, 2012 the Japan Geological Museum in Tsukuba near Tokyo hosted an exhibition under the name "From Desert to Mantle - Explore the Geology of Oman." The exhibition was officially inaugurated on Sunday, April 22, 2012 in the presence of his Excellency, Ambassador of Oman to Japan, Khalid bin Hashil Al-Muslahi, a number of Japanese officials, their Excellencies, Ambassadors accredited to Japan, as well as a number of professors and geologists from Japanese universities.

The exhibition was organized by Japan Geological Museum in collaboration with the

Sultanate's embassy in Japan and several bodies in Oman, to mark the 40th Anniversary of establishing the diplomatic relations between the two countries this year.

Over a three month period, the exhibition attracted more than ten thousand visitors ranging from geologists, university students and school students. The exhibition was comprised of the exposition of geological samples, fossils, images, documentaries, books and research that highlighted the geological diversity of the Sultanate, which highlighted several aspects on how Omanis could and promote the Sultanate as a tourist geologist destination for Japanese.

dates millions of years back. The exhibition also make use of their natural and mineral resources, In addition to the exhibition inauguration, the National Institute of Industrial and Techno-

logical Research in the Japanese city of Tsukuba organized an important seminar on the geology of Oman and geological tourism in the Sultanate which took place on Sunday, April 22, 2012. In the seminar, his Excellency Ambassador

of Oman to Japan, Khalid bin Hashil Al-Muslahi and a number of geologists from both Japan and Oman stressed the unique geological features characterizing the Sultanate, and how Oman became an important destination for geologists from around the world to study Earth's history, besides being a distinctive tourist destination.











Photo Exhibition: "Oman through the Japanese Eye"

This special exhibition was held from 17 to 28 December, and inaugurated under the auspices of H.E. Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mrs Takako Shimazu, the guest of honor.

"Oman through the Japanese eye" photo exhibition showcased 100 photographs from various regions of Oman taken by 28 Japanese visitors to Oman over many years. The photographs reflected Oman's rich culture, natural beauty and diversity. They also reflected aspects of the local customs and traditions of Oman and tourist attractions.



















The Discover Oman Program

The Omani embassy conducted 29 lectures, seminars, and other cultural events under a program entitled "Discover Oman," designed to introduce Oman and its culture to various segments of society as part of the 40th Anniversary celebrations.

More than 1,200 participants attended these regular events held throughout 2012. Participants to these specialized events included officials, politicians, businessmen, university and schools students, and members of local communities and women associations.





















Photo Exhibition: "AL ADYAT" Omani Arab Horses

To deepen the understanding of Omani equestrian and Arabian horse breeding culture and practices, the Omani embassy in Tokyo held the "AL ADYAT" Omani Arab horses' photo exhibition by the renowned Japanese photo artist and journalist, Ms. Yoshiko Sato.

The exhibiting was held from October 4 to 11 at the embassy, and featured 22 unique works from Ms. Sato's collection of photographs taken in various locations throughout Oman.





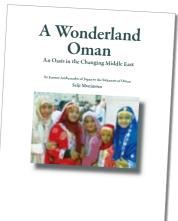




"A Wonderland Oman" Book Launch Ceremony

The Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman, H.E. Khalid Al-Muslahi hosted a special ceremony on June 28 to launch the book titled "A Wonderland Oman: An Oasis in the Changing Middle East," written by H.E. Mr. Seiji Morimoto, former Ambassador of Japan to Oman. The publication details Ambassador Morimoto's enlightened perspective of the unique and dazzling nature and culture of Oman, which further confirms the strong ties between the two













Japan's Advertising Photography (APA Award) and Scenes of Recovery from the Earthquake and Tsunami

In February 2012, an event was held at the Embassy of Japan in Oman showcasing Japanese advertising photography design, printing and marketing techniques. The examples in the free exhibit reflected the lifestyle, consumer and social trends in Japan today. Award winning photographs from the 2010 & 2011 APA Awards were exhibited along with images from the Tohoku Region following the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011.







Rieko Morita Exhibition, February 2012

This exhibition held from February through March 2012 featured renowned Japanese artist Reiko Morita. Her works which depict Maiko (Japanese dancers), a symbol of traditional Kyoto culture, as well as other objects such as seasonal flowers and exotic women has earned her fame and recognition around the world. Her exhibition held in Muscat featured many of her Japanese style painting works, and was a major success.









The Dolls of Japan, November 27, 2012

This special exhibition held between November 27 and December 2 featured some 70 items exemplifying Japan's rich culture of dolls. Each figure displayed was characterized by its own distinct purpose, meaning and design, and audiences had a chance to marvel at the expert craftsmanship of the dolls.







TAIKO LEGEND- Heart Beat from Japan, February 2012

In March of 2012, audiences in Oman had the unique opportunity to witness the Taiko Legend - Heart Beat from Japan performance at the Sultan Qaboos University. Accompanied by his accomplished taiko ensemble EITETSU FU-UN no KAI and shakuhachi (bamboo flute) master Makoto Takei, legendary Taiko drumming sensation Eitetsu Hayashi presented Omani audiences with a once-in-a-lifetime explosive drumming performance, as well as a lecture and demonstration session for the young students.









Japan Music Project, October 2012

As part of the commemorative events celebrating 40 years of close diplomatic ties between Oman and Japan, in October 2012, the "Japan Music Project" event was held in Wattayah. World famous percussionist YAS-KAZ played unique melodies along with traditional Japanese instruments such as the shakuhaci (bamboo flute), otsuzumi (large hand drum), and the shinobue (bamboo flute).





Hideki Togi Special Concert, October 23, 2012

For this special event held in October 2012, Hideki Togi, internationally renowned Gagaku (ancient imperial court music) musician, played a concert for audiences in Oman at the Al Bustan Palace. Combining both traditional Gagaku pieces along with original pieces blending both traditional sounds with something more contemporary, spectators were able to witness exotic melodies from times bygone.





Japan Day, May 15, 2012

On May 15 2012, "Japan Day" was held at the Scientific College of Design with the hopes that the event would help introduce contemporary Japanese culture in Oman. During the event, entries from a Manga competition were exhibited along with APA Award winning advertising photos. The event culminated in the special live concert featuring May J, a J-Pop (Japanese Pop Music) singer.













Special Classical Music Concert, November 2012

In November 2012, a "Special Classical Music Concert" was held to showcase several talented Japanese musicians play both western, and specially arranged Japanese music





Oman Century Ride, November 23, 2012

This bicycle event commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Oman-Japan Relations included approximately 500 Japanese cyclists who visited Oman for the purpose of riding in this race. The riders were able to enjoy the natural picturesque beauty of Oman during their time in the country.







Acknowledgements



Khalid bin Hashil Al-Muslahi

This publication commemorates four decades of friendship and cooperation between Oman and Japan since the official establishment of diplomatic relations. The peoples of Oman and Japan celebrated this significant milestone symbolizing the immense transformation witnessed in every sphere of our bilateral relations, with a great deal of pride and joy.

The book wouldn't have been possible without the contributions and assistance extended by many individuals and organizations in both countries, and I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation and sincere thanks and gratitude to everyone that supported realizing it.

I am also indebted to our sponsors, whose generosity has made this publication possible, and highly appreciate their support and assistance in promoting the good relations between our two friendly peoples.

I am confident that the Oman-Japan relations in the coming years will see the further enhancement of close bonds of friendship.

Special Thanks

In Oman

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Heritage and Culture Ministry of Information Oman News Agency Embassy of Japan in Muscat Oman-Japan Friendship Association H.E. Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi Mr. Abdulaziz bin Musa Al Kharusi Mr. Katsuya Tamaki Mr. Sameh bin Mubarak Al Amri Mr. Ali bin Saud Al Rasbi Mr. Talib bin Mohammed Al-Farsi Mr. Omar bin Mohammed Al Zadjali

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