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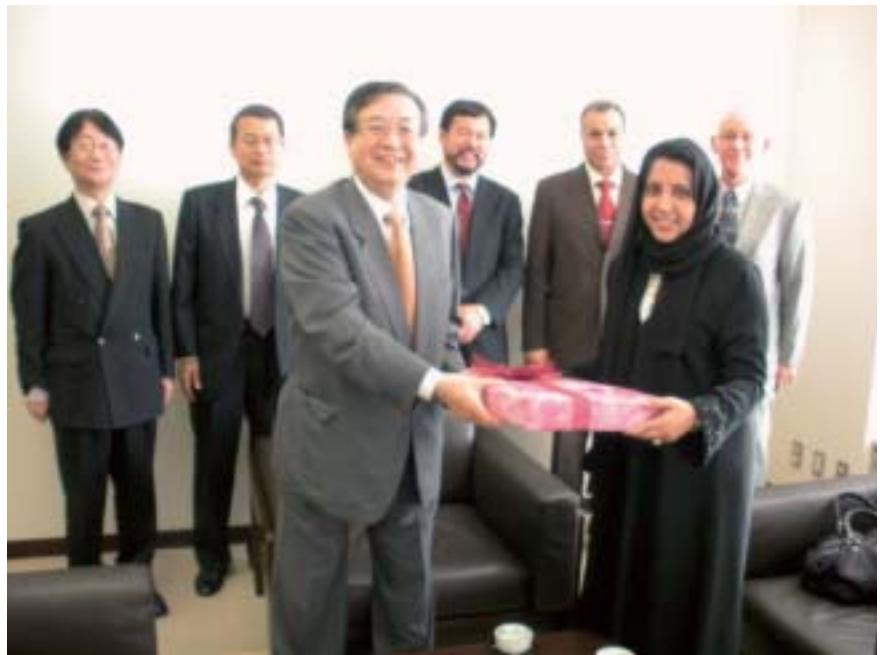
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Topics

H.E. Dr. Maitha Al-Shamsi, UAE Minister of State, Visits Japan



Dr. Al-Shamsi at JCCP, with Mr. Masataka Sase, Executive Director of JCCP

As part of the FY2008 JCCP VIP Invitation Program, JCCP has invited H.E. Dr. Maitha Al-Shamsi, UAE Minister of State, to Japan, from November 15 to 21, 2008.

Before being appointed to Minister of State and Research Advisor at UAE University in February 2008, Dr. Al-Shamsi has held prominent positions at the university. She assumed the positions of Deputy Vice Chancellor in 1990, Vice Chancellor in 2000, and Assistant Provost for Research in 2004. In these capacities, she actively promoted the development of higher education in UAE and has made a significant number of achievements in that area. In addition to her current position as Minister of State, Dr. Al-Shamsi holds various other important posts,

including Managing Director of the Dubai Women's Establishment and President of the Marriage Fund, and plays a central role in the development of science, technology and education, and women's issues, in particular, in UAE.

UAE and Japan enjoy a close relationship based on crude oil and natural gas, as well as engage in active cooperation issues. The two countries began implementing technical cooperation projects in FY2001, and UAE University, in particular, has been, and continues to be, an active participant in these joint research projects. To discuss the progress of ongoing activities, JCCP and UAE University hold a scientific council meeting biannually, with Dr. Al-Shamsi heading the UAE University side.

In addition to attending the 7th Scientific Council Meeting in Japan, Dr. Al-Shamsi also used the opportunity of her visit to Japan to call on oil-related research institutes and governmental institutions in Japan.

1. At JCCP Headquarters (November 17)

Upon receiving Dr. Al-Shamsi at JCCP Headquarters, Mr. Masataka Sase, Executive Director of JCCP, congratulated Dr. Al-Shamsi on her appointment as Minister of State. He and Mr. Katsuo Yokoyama, Managing Director of JCCP, then exchanged views with Dr. Al-Shamsi on oil-related issues and JCCP activities in general.

2. Scientific Council Meeting (November 17)

Members from UAE University, the JCCP Technical Cooperation Department, Nippon Oil Research Institute, a corporate participant in the joint research projects with UAE University, and Dr. Masaaki Teramoto of Kyoto Institute of Technology gathered at JCCP Headquarters to take part in the 7th Scientific Council Meeting. The members held active discussions on the progress of activities in the study on wastewater treatment in UAE refineries and the study on acid gas treatment in UAE's natural

gas industry, that are being implemented as part of the FY2008 program.



Scientific Council Meeting in session

3. Visit to Nippon Oil Corporation (November 18)

At the Central Technical Research Laboratory, Dr. Al-Shamsi was warmly welcomed by Mr. Hajime Okazaki, General Manager, senior researchers of the laboratory, and Mr. Takahiko Yamaji, President of Nippon Oil Research Institute. After receiving warm words of welcome from Mr. Okazaki and a general overview of the laboratory, Dr. Al-Shamsi toured the facilities where research is being conducted on RECOSUL, a type of modified-sulfur concrete developed to make effective use of sulfur, which is currently being applied to a demonstration study in UAE. She toured other parts



Dr. Al-Shamsi touring the research facilities

of the laboratory as well, while listening avidly to technical explanations of various studies, including those relating to catalyst assessment bench plants and new developments in fuel cells, and at one point, appeared particularly impressed with the knowledge and eloquent explanations given by young female researchers. Dr. Al-Shamsi was also invited to test ride a fuel-cell vehicle, and showed strong interest in its development.

A lively discussion session with all members concerned concluded Dr. Al-Shamsi's visit to the laboratory.



Dr. Al-Shamsi receiving an explanation from female researchers of the laboratory

4. Courtesy Call on the Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (November 19)

Vice Minister Takaichi warmly welcomed Dr. Al-Shamsi on her first visit to Japan after being appointed Minister of State, expressing her appreciation of Dr. Al-Shamsi's role in promoting friendly relations between UAE and Japan over many years, as well as her pleasure in meeting Dr. Al-Shamsi in person.

Ms. Takaichi emphasized the two country's relationship of mutual trust and cooperation, mentioning that UAE and Japan have formed strong bonds of cooperation through development projects in the oil upstream sector, as well as in a wide range of other sectors, including personal exchanges and



Meeting with Ms. Sanae Takaichi, Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

development not only in relation to crude oil trade, but also through educational and inter-university exchange programs.

Dr. Al-Shamsi noted that JCCP and UAE have been implementing technical cooperation projects for 7 years now, and a number of university-based cooperation programs have emerged from them. As many of these programs have largely benefited from knowledge obtained from Japan, Dr. Al-Shamsi expressed her strong wish that the two countries continue to cooperate in performing joint technical projects in the future.

The two women also shared their views on the importance of family and home, and agreed that this meeting presented a good opportunity to further strengthen the friendly relationship between UAE and Japan.

5. Visit to the Japan Institute of Workers' Evolution (November 19)

The Japan Institute of Workers' Evolution aims to improve the welfare of female workers by initiating activities for promoting child-rearing education among female workers and improving employment management practices. As it is one of the areas in which Dr. Al-Shamsi has particularly strong interest, she had been looking forward to this meeting with

Ms. Nobuko Matsubara.

The meeting began with Ms. Matsubara expressing her immense pleasure in meeting Dr. Al-Shamsi. As key figures in women's issues in UAE and Japan, Dr. Al-Shamsi and Ms. Matsubara exchanged in-depth views on women's education and marriage issues in both countries.



*Meeting with Ms. Nobuko Matsubara,
Chairperson of Japan Institute of Workers' Evolution*

6. Visit to the Embassy of UAE in Japan (November 19)

On the final day of Dr. Al-Shamsi's stay in Japan, H.E. Ambassador Saeed Alnouais kindly hosted a banquet for Dr. Al-Shamsi at the Embassy of UAE in Japan, inviting Ms. Yuriko Koike, member of the House of Representatives, executives from the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry,



With the ambassadors of Middle East countries in Japan

the presidents of JCCP member companies, ambassadors of eight Middle East countries, and JCCP board members.

We believe that this invitation program has offered Dr. Al-Shamsi a good opportunity to gain first-hand experience in Japan's latest technologies while deepening her understanding of oil and energy trends in Japan. Furthermore, we feel there was significant meaning in having such an important person as Dr. Al-Shamsi, who plays a central role in promoting science and technology in UAE, gain a better understanding and appreciation of Japan by establishing close ties with Japanese leaders in various fields.

JCCP extends its profound appreciation to everyone at the Embassy of UAE in Japan, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Japan Institute of Workers' Evolution, Nippon Oil Corporation, and Nippon Oil Research Institute, for their generous support and cooperation in the invitation program.

<by Kenji Ikushima, Technical Cooperation Dept.>