

**Speech by Ambassador Kaoru Ishikawa,
Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt,
on the occasion of the Opening Ceremony of the SESAME/JSPS School**

His Excellency Dr.Hany Helal, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Prof. Dr. Tarek Hussein, President of Academy of Scientific Research & Technology,

Prof. Dr. Hossam Kamel, President of Cairo University,

Prof. Dr. Ahmed Galal, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Cairo University,

Mr.Yuji Oishi, Resident Representative of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Cairo Research Station,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great honour and pleasure for me to attend this opening ceremony of the SESAME/JSPS School, held under the auspices of His Excellency Dr.Hany Helal, Minister of Higher Education and Science. I also would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the people and the Government of Egypt for the warm support they extend to scientific and cultural exchange between Japan and Egypt and also to Cairo University for its leadership to enhance further our mutual understanding and to deepen our solidarity in culture, education and research fields.

SESAME/JSPS School is a formidable result of joining together

Japanese discipline and brilliance, Oriental wisdom and patience and Western philosophy and science. I, thus, am quite happy to welcome researchers from Japan, Middle East and Europe gathered in this Grand Hall crowned with hundred years of academic achievements since the establishment of Cairo University in 1908.

In this context, if I may, I would say that it is not by a mere coincidence that quite a number of Japanese researchers join this endeavor held this year here in Cairo University.

Firstly, Year 2008 is Japan-Egypt Year of Science, led by His Excellency Dr. Hany Helal and promoted by Dr. Hossam Kamel. Cairo University together with other eminent Egyptian universities have been pursuing with many Japanese Universities some thirty academic exchanges through seminars, joint research, human resource development and so on. Needless to say, several other countries in the region also participated in these exchanges.

Secondly, Egyptian and Japanese joint actions in human resources development especially in science and technology sector are bringing fruit. In fact, we will celebrate start of Egyptian - Japanese Cooperation to establish Egypt – Japan University of Science and Technology next week in Borg El Arab, near Alexandria.

Thirdly, I may add with humbleness that it so happened that four Japanese have received Nobel Prizes this year, three in physics

and one in chemistry. As you may know far better than me, Japanese High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, or KEK, gave birth to a Nobel Prize Laureat among the four, and I am happy to see many researchers from KEK participating to the SESAME/JSPS School.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

If Alfred Nobel dreamed of peace, I would like to say that SESAME will promote human resources development in the region and it will have positive impact at each country's level as well and, it will contribute to confidence building in the region. History tells us that human resources development enhances sound competition and the spirit of cooperation, which in turn give birth to science. I may add that science would stagnate with exclusiveness, enclosure and monopoly. Peace as well.

I thank you for your kind attention.