



Saudi Arabia-Japan Biotech Seminar Held

October 23, 2024

Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East (JCCME)

JCCME, in collaboration with the Ministry of Investment for Saudi Arabia (MISA), held the Saudi Arabia-Japan Biotech Seminar at Pacifico Yokohama (Kanagawa, Japan) on October 9, 2024, attracting 175 participants from both Japan and abroad. This event was part of “BioJapan 2024,” one of the largest biotech exhibitions in Japan, and held on October 9 to 11.

At the beginning of the seminar, Mr. Ammar Altaf, Assistant Deputy Minister for Investment Development at MISA, delivered the opening speech. Expressing his gratitude for the event, he emphasized that Saudi Arabia is advancing its biotech strategy as a key pillar of Saudi Vision 2030, and highlighted the country’s expectations for Japanese companies to invest in biotech sectors.



(H.E. Dr. Bandar Alknawy)

Following this, H.E. Dr. Bandar Alknawy, CEO of the Ministry of National Guard Health Affairs (MNG-HA) and President of King Abdullah International Research Center (KAIMRC), underscored the country’s expectations for collaboration and partnership between the industrial, governmental, and academic sectors in both Saudi Arabia and Japan. He also introduced the upcoming Riyadh Global Medical Biotechnology Summit, which will be held in Riyadh in November.

Mr. Mohammed Alfahaid, Director of Industrial Biotech at MISA, explained Saudi Arabia’s target achievement indices for 2030 and 2040, the key sectors of focus—red bio (medical and healthcare), white bio (industry and energy), and green bio (food and plant) - as well as joint initiatives between the industrial, governmental, and academic sectors, and MISA’s investment programs.



(Mr. Komatsu Keita
from METI)

Following the previous presentations, Mr. Komatsu Keita, Principal Deputy Director of the Bio-Industry Division, Commerce and Service Industry Policy Group at the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI), introduced the process of close cooperation between the two countries under “Saudi-Japan Vision 2030,” outlined the “Bioeconomy Strategy,” established by the Japanese government in June, and discussed various initiatives in Japan, as well as METI’s support for the biotech sector.

Omote Takashi, Executive Director of JCCME, spoke about the background of JCCME's establishment, its current activities, and its support scheme for Japanese companies interested in starting business in Saudi Arabia.

During the networking session following the seminar, representatives from Saudi Arabian and Japanese companies, MISA, and JCCME engaged in vibrant discussions, despite the limited time available.

JCCME will collaborate with MISA and METI to support cooperative efforts between Saudi Arabia and Japan in biotech and bio-industry sectors.



(Omote Takashi from JCCME)