

New Partnership Brings Deep Intellectual Networks for UAE–Japan

Strengthening knowledge sharing and collaborative ties between UAE and Japan

18 December 2025 – Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. partnered with TRENDS Research & Advisory to promote policy research and intellectual exchange in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Japan. The pair plan to explore ways to collaborate combining Japan’s expertise and technological strengths with the UAE’s strategic focus on AI, space, and other advanced technology fields.



Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. and TRENDS Research & Advisory sign off on new partnership. (From the left: Mr. Akihiro Hirose, General Manager, Middle East Regional Office, Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc.; His Excellency Ken Okaniwa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan in UAE; and Dr. Mohammed Al Ali, CEO, TRENDS)

As their first collaborative activity, the firms held the *Japan–UAE Symposium on AI and Space* on 16 December 2025 at the TRENDS headquarters in Abu Dhabi. A global,





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private, and independent think tank, TRENDS specializes in research on international politics, security, and advanced technologies while maintaining strong networks with UAE government officials and private-sector leaders.

“We hope to strengthen the strategic partnership between the UAE and Japan through joint research and collaborative initiatives,” said Akihiro Hirose, General Manager at Mitsubishi Research Institute’s Middle East Regional Office. “As a Japanese think tank and consulting firm, we partnered with TRENDS, one of the UAE’s foremost research institutions, to empower our respective regions through intellectual networks and collaboration in the policy and technology fields.”

Moving forward, the pair plan to conduct joint research and collaborative projects related to society, politics, economics, and future studies. They will also hold more events like their most recent one, planning and organizing joint research activities including conferences, seminars, lectures, and workshops. Through these activities they will strengthen networks supporting policy research with local and international partners.

 Mitsubishi Research Institute	 تريندز للبحوث والاستشارات TRENDS RESEARCH & ADVISORY
Mitsubishi Research Institute’s Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ A comprehensive think tank with deep expertise in public policy and social sciences in Japan■ Broad cross-sector network spanning government, industry, and academia■ Advanced analytical capabilities in AI, space, emerging technologies, and energy transition■ Extensive experience running international projects across Asia and the Middle East	TRENDS’ Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ A leading UAE policy research institute with high-level expertise■ Strong networks with UAE government agencies and policy decision-makers■ Proven ability to provide international research and platforms for dialogue centered in the Middle East■ Strong capabilities in regional analysis and strategic communication

Strengths of Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. and TRENDS Research & Advisory

During the event, University of Tokyo Professor Satoshi Ikeuchi remarked, “Japan holds untapped resources for the UAE and Gulf oil-producing nations. Overcoming differences in organizational culture is key to creating a mutually complementary relationship and achieving mutual benefits.”

The symposium featured insights from leading figures of both countries: His Excellency Omran Sharaf (UAE Assistant Minister of Advanced Science and Technology), His Excellency Ken Okaniwa (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan in UAE), Mr. Hirofumi Miyake (Deputy Assistant Minister



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for Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan), Mr. Kenji Otsuka (Chairman of the Japanese Business Council), Dr. Mohammed Al Ali (CEO, TRENDS), Dr. Masami Onoda, (Director, International Relations and Research Department of JAXA), Professor Satoshi Ikeuchi (RACST), and Mr. Masanori Muto, Senior Researcher (Mitsubishi Research Institute). Discussion explored opportunities for deepening UAE-Japan collaboration in AI and space.

In the UAE, national-level initiatives in fields such as AI, space, and advanced technologies have rapidly accelerated in recent years. As these domains evolve, the need to integrate expertise across government, industry, and academia has grown, increasing the importance of Track 1.5 dialogues, in which government officials and experts from think tanks and other private-sector institutions jointly participate in discussions.

About TRENDS Research & Advisory

Headquartered in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, TRENDS has operated as a global, private, and independent think tank since its start in 2014. Specializing in international politics, security, and advanced technologies, TRENDS conducts research combining regional analysis with global insights and maintains strong networks with UAE government officials and private-sector leaders. For more information, please visit: <https://trendsresearch.org/>

About Mitsubishi Research Institute

Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. is one of Japan's foremost think tanks. For over 50 years, it has provided the public and private sectors with research and consulting services in fields spanning AI, space, the environment, energy, healthcare, and human resources. This is accompanied by policy recommendations and the real-world application of solutions. Mitsubishi Research Institute will continue to envision the future, resolve societal issues, and lead change to build a sustainable and prosperous world. For more information, please visit: www.mri.co.jp/en/

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