Emirates Falconers' Club and INPEX JODCO Foundation Hold Emirati – Japanese Falconry Program (FY2025) in the United Arab Emirates

The INPEX JODCO Foundation (the Foundation), in collaboration with the Emirates Falconers' Club (EFC), a non-profit organization in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), held the Emirati – Japanese Falconry Program (FY2025) in the UAE pursuant to the Falconry Collaboration Agreement*.

* The Falconry Collaboration Agreement was announced on the INPEX JODCO Foundation website on March 21, 2024.
(https://www.inpex-jodco-foundation.com/pdf/202403-1.pdf)

As part of the program, 13 Japanese falconers active in Japan visited the UAE for four days from January 5 to 8, 2026. Participants attended lectures on Emirati falconry culture, falcon healthcare, and conservation activities; experienced traditional Emirati falconry; and interacted with Emirati falconers at the Mohamed Bin Zayed Falconry and Desert Physiognomy School in Abu Dhabi and at a protected hunting area nearby. At the closing ceremony, H.E. Majed Ali Al Mansouri, Secretary General of the EFC, presented the participants with certificates of appreciation and commemorative items.

Note: "FY2025" refers to the Foundation's fiscal year; the program activities described above took place in January 2026.

<Campsite where participants stayed during the program
(the surrounding area is a protected hunting zone)>

<Experiencing traditional Emirati falconry>

<Closing ceremony>

<Learning how to make Arabic coffee at the campsite
and exchanging with participants from both countries>

This program was held for the third time, following the Emirati – Japanese Falconry Programs conducted in the UAE and Japan in FY2023 and FY2024, respectively. Falconry is an important cultural heritage in the UAE and is inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. In Japan, falconry has been practiced since ancient times under the patronage of the Emperor, nobility, and the *shogun* families, and today it continues as a traditional culture maintained largely in the private sector. By bringing together falconers who share this cultural tradition, the program provided an opportunity to deepen mutual understanding of both traditional and contemporary cultures and to reaffirm the enduring cooperative ties between the UAE and Japan.

The Foundation will continue to promote mutual understanding and friendship between the UAE and Japan through cultural exchange initiatives.